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# WINDY CITY TIMES

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

AUG. 17, 2011  
VOL 26, NO. 45

[www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com](http://www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com)



## Lesbian activist killed in accident

BY KATE SOSIN AND TRACY BAIM

Christina Santiago, a well-known LGBT advocate and the manager of programming for Howard Brown Health Center's Lesbian Community Care Project (LCCP), died Aug. 13 when strong winds toppled a concert stage at the Indiana State Fair, killing five.

Santiago's partner, Alisha Marie Brennon, was among 45 injured. Brennon was expected to survive, a friend said. She had surgery Sunday night, and on Monday, Aug. 15, she was moved from the intensive care unit and her neck brace was removed.

Concertgoers in Indianapolis, Ind., were waiting for country music duo Sugarland to take the stage when strong winds collapsed the stage Saturday night. Weather.com reported that winds were between 50-70 mph at the fair.

Santiago, 29, was among those killed.



Christina Santiago. Photo by Hal Baim

Santiago, a self-identified Puerto Rican lesbian and feminist activist, grew up in the Bronx in New York City and received a degree in women's studies and sociology from the University of New York at Albany.

Just a year after starting her work at Howard Brown Health Center, Santiago was honored with a Windy City Times "30 under 30" award for her work as women's healthcare advocate in 2007.

In addition to her position at Howard Brown Health Center, Santiago was active in Amigas Latinas as board programming chair, and helped organize Dyke March Chicago. In May, Planned Parenthood of Illinois gave Santiago their Bright Horizons Award.

"It is with the heaviest of hearts that Amigas Latinas reports that the LGBTQ community lost one of our fier-

Turn to page 16

## Marketing 101

Rain couldn't dampen the spirits of thousands of Northalsted Market Days attendees who came to hear singers such as Darren Criss, Lisa Lisa and Gloria Gaynor; enjoy the food; and, of course, people-watch. Photo by Dave Uano. See many photos on pages 35-37, 42 and online at <http://www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com>.



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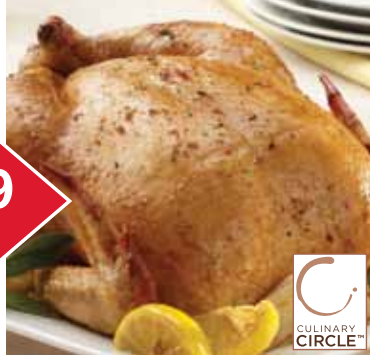
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Photos on cover (left, from top): Roseanne Barr photo by Mario Perez; photo of model at Macy's Glamorama, picture from the Pat Ewert-Vernita civil-union ceremony and photo of Mike Quigley by Kat Fitzgerald; photo of Viktor Luna courtesy of LifETIME



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**SCI ANXIETY**

The graphic novel/sci-fi extravaganza Wizard World Chicago Comic-Con took place this past weekend. See photos online.

Photo of Torchwood's Gareth David-Lloyd by Andrew Davis



See photos from Debbie Gibson and Tiffany's recent joint concert.

Photo by Jerry Nunn



Bent Nights looks at shows by Big Bad Voodoo Daddy, Johnny Winter and Dave Koz (above).

Photo by Vern Hester

**'STORY' TIME**

Read about Invisible to Invincible: Asian Pacific Islander Pride of Chicago's "Story of My Pride" event.

**NEWS YOU CAN USE**

Get breaking news and the latest buzz online, include mourners attending the vigil of slain transgender woman Camila Guzman.

**THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT**

This week's entertainment round-up includes items on Dolly Parton, Simon Cowell and 'Bridget Jones.'

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# Activists call for pro-LGBT military order

BY CHUCK COLBERT

A leading advocacy group that provides legal assistance to LGBT members of the armed forces has renewed a call for President Barack Obama to issue an executive order banning discrimination and harassment based on sexual orientation and gender identity in the military.

"The purpose of the executive order is to create a new mechanism that gay and lesbian service members can use when they feel they have a legitimate complaint about harassment or discrimination," said Aubrey Sarvis, executive director of Servicemembers Legal Defense Network.

The "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" (DADT) Repeal Act of 2010, set to take effect Sept. 20, does not include provisions for recourse outside of the chain of command in registering complaints.

Unlike women and minorities—both protected classes—gay, lesbian, and bisexual service members cannot lodge complaints through the Military Equal Opportunity system.

Without the option of an independent investigatory channel, like MEO, service members may well be appealing "through a chain of command, where the harassment comes from in the first place," explained retired Navy commander Zoe Dunning, who co-chairs SLDN's board of directors.

The reason in pushing for an executive order, explained Sarvis, is because "so far" Marine General Clifford L. Stanley, undersecretary of defense for personnel readiness, and Marine Major General Steven A. Hummer, head of the repeal implementation team, "have indicated that MEO would not be available to gay and lesbian service members post-repeal."

Under DADT repeal, besides going through the chain of command, service members would have the option of seeking redress through military's inspector general's office.

However, while the inspector general avenue is supposed to be independent of the chain of command, it is not entirely so because of a dual reporting structure.

In addition, registering complaints through the inspector general may be "intimidating" to some service members while others may not know how to access the office, explained Dunning.

Initial congressional repeal legislation, the Military Readiness Enhancement Act, which SLDN and other LGBT groups had backed for years, included provisions for a "policy of non-discrimination based on sexual orientation" and would have required the Department of Defense to include sexual orientation as a protected class for the purposes of equal opportunity and access to service-member advocacy programs.

However, those provisions were stripped from

final repeal legislation "because of Defense Department opposition," said Sarvis.

Back in February, SLDN first wrote to the president urging him to issue an inclusive executive order with hopes it would take effect on same day as DADT's repeal.

On July 26, four days after Obama, Defense Secretary Leon Panetta, and Joint Chiefs Chairman Admiral Mike Mullen certified the military as ready to implement repeal, SLDN renewed its call for an executive order and launched an online petition drive.

Besides a presidential order, Sarvis said another option is for Panetta to issue a directive specifying that MEO is the appropriate place for service members to appeal if they believe they are being discriminated or harassed because of sexual orientation.

Yet an executive order inclusive of both sexual orientation and gender identity would not permit open transgender military service. Current medical and military regulations prohibit it.

Meanwhile, "What would be the impact of an anti-discrimination order be for people are not allowed to be there?" said Mara Keisling, executive director of the National Center for Transgender Equality.

"What does it mean that you cannot be harassed if you can be thrown out just for being yourself?" she added. "I don't think we know the answer to that question. But sure we are supportive [of SLDN's effort]. We just don't know if it really matters."

Fred Sainz, vice president of the Human Rights Campaign, said the organization is supportive of an executive order. He also said that HRC would be working with SLDN and other "coalition partners, jointly, to assemble the most impactful plan" to achieve transgender service.

Still, not everyone agrees on the need for an executive order.

"SLDN's strategy is unwise," said Aaron Belkin, director of the Palm Center at UCLA. "Demanding one is not cost-free, and we have much higher priorities like the rights of transgender troops. The bottom line is we don't need one," he explained, "because even a mean-spirited administration will be unable to reverse the repeal of 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell.'"

Nonetheless, everyone is in accord on one point—the need for "more education and advocacy to bring the Pentagon along on transgender service," as Alexander Nicholson, executive director of Servicemembers United, explained.

"Education, education, and more education," said Sarvis. "Frankly, this has to happen to a greater extent in the civilian sector first. The military is not going to get ahead of civilian society on this."

Two major obstacles stand in the way of transgender service. One is the American Psychiatric Association's Diagnostic and Statistical Manual, which defines "sexual and gender identity disorders." Another barrier is Department of Defense regulations, medical and mental health standards, which bar from military service anyone with "a history of major abnormalities or defects of the genitalia, such as sex change [and] hermaphroditism" and "current or history of psychosexual conditions, including but not limited to transsexualism [and] transvestism."

The "reality on the ground," said Sarvis, is "there are very few transgender service members who have made the transition physically." Some may have made the "psychological or social transition," he added.

However, physical transi-

tion is related to "a short arms inspection," the military requirement for an annual physical exam, stripped naked. In that case, "any physical transition would be obvious," explained Sarvis, and "reporting that in all likelihood would result in a service member's discharge within a matter of months."

Still, undeterred in her advocacy, transgender activist Eva Kraus of Marlboro, Massachusetts, a former naval tactical intelligence officer, argues for "a medical and psychological understanding that we are not at diminished capacity," she said. "We need medical verification of who we are—essentially gender variant but normally functioning individuals."

Currently, at least 10 countries allow transgender service in varying degrees, including Australia, Belgium, Canada, the Czech Republic, Israel, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, Thailand and the United Kingdom, according to SLDN.

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ONLINE AT  
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NATIONAL NEWS




—U.S. Rep. Allen West (left):  
'Being gay is like choosing ice cream'

—Michele Bachmann:  
'I don't judge gays.'

—N.C. man destroys anti-gay church sign

## SLDN appeals to Panetta

BY CHUCK COLBERT

The Servicemembers Legal Defense Network (SLDN) has asked Defense Secretary Leon Panetta to adopt a policy of nondiscrimination based on sexual orientation and to do more to bring about changes in benefits for gay men and lesbians serving in armed forces.

The request came in an Aug. 11 letter to the defense secretary. While thanking Panetta for his role in certifying military readiness for implementation of "don't ask, don't tell" repeal, SLDN's executive director and Army veteran Aubrey Sarvis wrote, "There is more that you can do to bring about a military that both open and equitable."

Specifically, SLDN wants "sexual orientation" added to the Department of Defense Human Goals Charter, which would bring DOD in line with civilian employment that enumerates its equal opportunity policy to include race, color, sex, religion, national origin or sexual orientation.

"It should be a simple matter to add the words 'sexual orientation,'" Sarvis wrote.

SLDN is seeking explicit mention of sexual orientation so that service members have access to the Military Equal Opportunity program. When repeal of "don't ask, don't tell" takes effect on September 20, gay, lesbian, and bisexual service members will not have recourse to an independent investigatory channel—available to women, minorities through MEO—in seeking redress for harassment on discrimination.

Already SLDN has called on the president to issue an executive order to ban discrimination and harassment based on sexual orientation.

Besides presidential action, said Sarvis, "Secretary Panetta could issue a directive that MEO is the appropriate place for gay and lesbian service members who feel they are being discriminated or harassed because of sexual orientation."

In addition, Sarvis has asked Panetta to do all in his authority to address inequalities in family support, pay, and benefits that will exist for gay service members post "don't ask, don't tell."

"With the repeal of 'don't ask, don't tell,' there will be two classes of service members in the military—those who receive the full range of benefits and support and those who don't," wrote Sarvis to Panetta.

Sarvis continued, "At SLDN, we fully understand that the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) prevents the Department from extending the same support and benefits to all service members. However, you have the ability, within the confines of the law, to make same-sex married couples and their families eligible to take part

in some of the programs that are available to their straight married counterparts."

That would include making same-sex couples eligible for joint duty assignments, family center programs, and military housing, access to commissaries and exchanges, among others.

DOMA restricts, for example, payment of housing benefits for same-sex couples, SLDN acknowledges. But determining who is eligible to live in military family housing—governed by DOD regulations—could include same-sex couples without violating DOMA, according to SLDN.

Already, military officials have said gay service members with children can live on base with their same-sex partner, if he or she is the designated caregiver. The reason is because military regulations allow that caregiver to be someone other than a spouse, for example, a sibling or grandparent, according to reporting by "Stars and Stripes," a DOD-authorized daily newspaper.

In other news, SLDN has just released a post "don't ask, don't tell" repeal publication, "Freedom to Serve: The Definitive Guide to LGBT Service." Written for current service members, veterans, future recruits and their families, the publication is a comprehensive legal guide to laws and policies related to open military service. It is available at <http://www.sldn.org>.

Once repeal takes effect, service members "are free to come out without fear of being fired," said Sarvis. "That's what is important. Whether they elect to come out is their call."

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Defense Secretary Leon Panetta.

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# TSA police concern for transgender travelers

BY KATE SOSIN

Allyson Robinson is a veteran traveler. For her position as associate director of diversity for the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), she has flown about twice a month for the last three years.

Last year, she logged 65,000 miles. However, Robinson has said that nothing makes her more nervous than checking into an airport.

Robinson is like many transgender people, who say that pre-flight screening rules and security scans present a unique set of challenges for transgender travelers.

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) came under fire last week when it was widely reported that TSA allegedly dismissed a transgender employee over her gender identity. Ashley Yang sued TSA after being fired from her job at Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) in July 2010.

In a settlement from that case, TSA has mandated transgender sensitivity training for its managers at LAX.

However, TSA has been increasingly under fire from transgender groups for years now over passenger concerns.

"There is a violation of privacy that's taking place there that is absolutely unnecessary," said Robinson.

New security measures like full body scans and gender marker requirements in recent years have heightened fears among many transgender customers, who say that such procedures put them at risk for being publicly outed.

Being publicly outed, they say, puts transgender people at risk of humiliation, discrimination and violence.

The National Center for Transgender Equality (NCTE) tackles some of those worries in a set of recommendations for transgender travelers on its website. At the top of that list are ID issues.

TSA requires that passengers booking flights provide their gender, which must match the gender on the ID they use at the airport. Further, TSA recommends that travelers present as the gender on their ID.

"TSA respectfully suggests that passengers who have transitioned to another gender update their government issued ID accordingly if possible if they have concerns about misidentification when they travel," said Ann Davis, a TSA spokesperson.

Last year, the federal government changed guidelines to make it easier for transgender people to update the gender markers on their passports. Under old rules, transgender people had to provide proof having undergone certain gender-changing surgeries. Today, a note from a medical provider that a person has changed genders in some way is sufficient to change gender markers on a passport.

Still, not every transgender person wants or is able to update identification.

Robinson still has an "M" for male on her ID and can't update it for personal reasons. She said she has been stopped more than a dozen times at the airport because of it.

On Aug. 8, Robinson was returning home the Gender Odyssey Conference in Seattle. When she tried to check in at the airline desk, an employee pulled up her information on a computer and then called over two co-workers. The employee pointed out Robinson's information on the screen, and the three laughed, Robinson said. Robinson thought the incident could only be about the "M" on her flight information.

"There are all kinds of reasons why people have [an old] gender marker on their ID," she said.

Some transgender people opt not to change the gender marker on their ID for medical insurance reasons. Insurance companies can refuse to cover medical expenses on the basis of gender markers. A transgender man with an "M" on his

ID, for example, might still need to get mammograms and pap smears, which insurance might refuse to cover.

Robinson questions why gender markers are necessary at all in airports.

Davis said that gender markers "allow TSA to better identify those who pose a threat to aviation while making travel easier for people who are often misidentified due to having a name similar to one on a watch list."

Gender markers may also determine whether travelers are searched by female or male transportation security officers when there is confusion. TSA policy mandates that a person must be searched and screened by someone of the same gender. If a person has concerns about being perceived as the wrong gender, Davis said, TSA recommends updating identification documents.

Candice Hart, president of Chicago-based organization Illinois Gender Advocates, said she understands the TSA policies. As someone who travels, she said the security measures make her feel safer, even though her own IDs have not been updated since transition.



Allyson Robinson.

"Being outed is a big concern in the [transgender] community," Hart said. But she added, "you can argue both sides of it. One point is from a security standpoint."

Davis stated that TSA's Office of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties has not recorded significant problems with the ID policy.

Another concern among transgender travelers are the new full body scans, also known as advanced imaging technology (AIT).

TSA started using the scans in 2007, but wide implementation of them over the last year raised eyebrows all over the country because the images show travelers bodies beneath their clothes, creating an almost nude image.

According to Davis, TSA agents review AIT images in a separate room without seeing the person whose scan they are viewing. Davis said that a screener might not even know a person

was transgender based on the scan.

Robinson said that fact does not comfort her. Since TSA screeners communicate about the scans over the radio, Robinson argues that TSA officers still have access to information about travelers' bodies. Transgender people might also be asked to explain "anomalies" like breast prosthetics to TSA.

In July, TSA announced new generic AIT images, increasing privacy for travelers. The images look more like cartoon sketches than their actual bodies. Essentially, TSA says, all bodies will now look alike on the scan.

NCTE said questions remain, however. The organization worries the new scan won't prevent transgender people from being outed because the scanning process still differentiates genders and might show body "anomalies" on transgender people.

"We are concerned that AIT does not sufficiently identify security threats which may put transgender people under increased scrutiny leading to invasive pat-downs, potentially embarrassing questions and discrimination," NCTE said in a statement to Windy City Times.

However, TSA is making progress on transgender issues, said Vincent Paolo Villano of NCTE. Despite concerns, NCTE sits on the TSA coalition.

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# Third debate: GOPs pushed to move even further right

BY LISA KEEN  
KEEN NEWS SERVICE

Former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum almost certainly prompted many LGBT people watching the Aug. 11 Republican presidential debate to hit the rewind button when he criticized Iran because it “tramples the rights of gays.” However, the large and very vocal audience inside the Iowa State University auditorium in Ames, Iowa, met former Utah Gov. Jon Huntsman’s statement in defense of civil unions with stony silence.

It was a highly contentious debate—the third nationally televised debate for Republicans seeking the party’s nomination for president in 2012. There were several head-turning zingers and combative attacks on fellow candidates (and reporters asking the questions). None of the eight candidates on the stage strayed from their already stated positions on marriage for same-sex couples, but there was some pushing and prodding for several of the candidates to move even further to the right.

Santorum staked out his more-right-than-anybody-else position on marriage licenses for same-sex couples by taking stabs at other candidates.

He went after U.S. Rep. Michele Bachmann of Minnesota for saying—in a New Hampshire debate in June—that she would not, as president, try to change an individual state’s marriage-equality law. He pointed out the incongruity between her position on that while saying she would try to change an individual state’s laws requiring citizens to buy health insurance.

Santorum, who repeatedly portrayed himself as a defender of “morals,” also attacked U.S. Rep. Ron Paul for supporting the right of states to decide their own marriage laws.

A reporter on the panel of journalists posing questions to the candidates asked Paul about Santorum’s criticism of his position on marriage between same-sex partners, noting that Santorum had said publicly that Paul’s logic would provide support for states allowing polygamy.

“What’s your response to that?” asked the reporter.

“That’s sort of like asking the question, ‘If the states wanted to legalize slavery’ or something like that—that is so past reality that no state is going to do that.”

“On the issue of marriage,” said Paul, “I think marriage should be between a single man and a single woman and that the federal government shouldn’t be involved. I want less government involvement. I don’t want to have the federal government having a marriage police. I want the states to deal with it if they have to, if they need to....Really, why do we have to have a license just to get married? Why don’t we just go to the church? And what other individuals do—why can’t we permit them to do it? Whatever they call it. That’s their problem not mine. Just so nobody else forces their definition of marriage on you—that’s what we have to prevent. ... If you have to have regulations, let the state governments do it.”

The audience gave Paul a strong round of applause. However, the panel of journalists, led by Fox News moderator Bret Baier, frequently prodded the candidates to take jabs at each other, as it did this time.

“You’re looking incredulous,” said the reporter to Santorum.

“Well, it sounds to me like Rep. Paul would actually say polygamous marriages are OK,” said Santorum. “If the state has the right to do it, they have the right to do it. And it is not beyond



From left:  
Michele  
Bachmann,  
Mitt Romney.

reality, Ron, it is exactly what’s being offered in other states right now and it’s being litigated in our courts right now.”

Santorum said that allowing states to decide their own marriage laws was “exactly how gay marriage came about.” He said Iowa was an example, saying seven justices in the Iowa Supreme Court “forced gay marriage on the people of Iowa.” That was a reference to a unanimous decision of the state high court in 2009 that the state constitution’s guarantee of equal protection meant same-sex couples should receive the same treatment as straight couples under the state’s marriage laws.

“I was the only one on this panel who came to Iowa last year and made sure those three justices were defeated,” said Santorum, referring to a recall campaign that ousted three of the justices who were up for re-confirmation in 2010.

“I campaigned and worked to make sure those justices were defeated, because we can’t have 50 marriage laws,” said Santorum. “This was the approach the left took on abortion, which is to pick a few states, pick a few courts, and then go to the Supreme Court and say equal protection—you can’t have different state laws, and then you’ll have nine people up at the Supreme Court deciding what marriage is in this country.”

“You have to fight in each state,” said Santorum, “....I will come to the states and fight to make sure this strategy of picking off a state here and there will be successful in transforming marriage.”

When Bachmann was given a chance to comment on the issue, she said she supports the federal marriage amendment to the Constitution “because I do believe we’ll see this issue at the Supreme Court someday.” She said that, as president, she would not nominate “activist judges who legislate from the bench.” She also boasted that, as a state senator in Minnesota, she was the chief author of a constitutional amendment to define marriage as being between one man and one woman only.

A reporter noted that Romney had been critical of the Massachusetts’ Supreme Judicial Court justices in 2003 when it issued a decision, similar to Iowa’s, concerning the state constitution’s guarantee of equal protection. He asked whether Romney thought the New York legislature had the right to make the decision it did last month, in voting to recognize marriage between same-sex partners.

“I’d far prefer having the representatives of people make that decision than justices,” said Romney, “but I believe that the issue of marriage should be decided at the federal level. You might wonder why is that? Why not just let each state make its own decision? And the reason is because people move from state to state, of course, in a society like ours. They have children, as they go to different states, if one state recognizes a marriage and the other does not, what’s the right of the child? What kind of divorce proceeding potential would be in a state that didn’t recognize the marriage in the first place? Marriage is a status, not an activity that goes on within the walls of a state. And as a result, our marriage status relationships should be constant across the country. I believe we should have a federal amendment to the constitution that defines marriage as a relationship

between a man and a woman because I believe the ideal place to raise a child is in a home with a mom and a dad.”

Huntsman was taken to task for supporting civil unions when he was governor of Utah. A reporter on the panel noted that 58 percent of likely Republican caucus goers in Iowa recently told a Des Moines Register poll that they consider support for civil unions a “deal killer.”

“Why are you right and most of these other candidates, along with most caucusgoers, wrong?” asked the reporter.

Huntsman said he believes in “traditional marriage, first and foremost” but that he also believes in civil unions “because I think this nation can do a better job when it comes to equality.”

“And I think this nation can do a better job when it comes to reciprocal beneficiary rights,” said Huntsman.

There was a quiet smattering of applause; then, Baier noted that the question to Huntsman had been “why are others wrong” for opposing civil unions.

“They’re not wrong,” said Huntsman. “All I’m saying is this ought to be an issue that takes place at the local level of government. That’s where these decisions ought to be made. As for those who are polled, everybody can come at this with their own point of view. I believe in traditional marriage,” said Huntsman, “but I also believe that, subordinate to that, we haven’t done an adequate job when it comes to equality. That’s just my personal belief. Everyone’s entitled to their personal belief, too.”

The auditorium audience was silent. Most of the two-hour debate focused, as might be expected, on the economy, health care insurance, and the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Because the debate was sponsored and broadcast exclusively by Fox News, did not have the sort of multi-channel saturation of other debates and, only Fox broadcast the immediate reactions of political commentators.

Not surprisingly, then, there was no immediate reaction to the discord between Santorum’s vigorous opposition to allowing same-sex couples to marry and his complaint, early in the debate, that the current “mullahcracy” of Iran “tramples on the rights of gays.”

There was considerable mainstream media attention given to a question from a reporter on the panel who asked Bachmann whether, given her support for the Bible’s directive for wives to be “submissive” to their husbands, she would be submissive to her husband if she became president. The audience in the Iowa State auditorium delivered a prolonged “boo” at the question. Interestingly, Bachmann, who said she would not appoint “activist” judges, responded that she interprets the word “submissive” to mean “respect” and that she and her husband respect each other.

There was also no discussion of Fox News’ decision to omit openly gay presidential candidate Fred Karger and at least two other announced candidates from the debate. According to Fox News, candidates were omitted if they failed to poll an average of at least one percent on the five most recent national polls.

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# NCLR joins Chicago marriage-equality case

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

With the outcome of the interpleader action filed by Cozen O'Connor (*Cozen O'Connor, P.C. v. Tobits et al.*) still undecided, Jennifer Tobits has hired the National Center for Lesbian Rights to represent her in her case against the parents of her deceased wife, Sarah Ellyn Farley.

Tobits, who lives in Chicago, seeks to be recognized as the legal surviving spouse (the couple married in 2006 in Toronto, Ontario, Canada) and named as executor of her late wife's estate.

Farley's parents, David and Joan, are challenging the legality of the couple's marriage and have hired the Thomas More Society, an anti-gay legal organization, to represent them.

Farley died last September at 37 after a four-year battle with a rare and aggressive form of cancer. She was diagnosed with the disease just two weeks after their wedding and the couple fought for Farley's survival for four years. In the weeks before her death, Farley told Tobits that she feared her parents would fight Tobits to gain access to Farley's assets.

"Ellyn was the love of my life," said Tobits. "No one should have to experience the pain of losing the person who means the most to you, only to face a shocking and hostile challenge to your marriage—your commitment, your life together, and everything you built as a couple."

Both parties are fighting for access to Tobits death benefits under her former employers profit-sharing plan. Tobits claims that Farley's parents pressured their dying daughter to designate them as beneficiaries just before she died. However, the law firm that Farley worked for, Cozen O'Connor, stated that the beneficiary form lacks Tobits signature which is required when a legal spouse wishes to release his or her claim to their money. According to NCLR, the designation is invalid both because it was signed under duress and because Tobits did not sign the form, which is required by the plan in order for the designation of a beneficiary other than a spouse to be valid.

Court documents provided by NCLR state that "upon information and belief, Ms. Farley suffered severe physical and emotional abuse by Cross-Defendants David M. Farley and Joan F. Farley in her childhood and adolescence. As an adult, Ms. Farley bore raised scars on her back that were noticeable to others, and which were a result of beatings by David M. Farley in Ms. Farley's adolescence." Farley's parents did not attend their wedding and have never recognized the validity of their daughter's relationship with Tobits.

"When Ellyn was alive, her parents refused to respect her identity or to acknowledge her marriage," said NCLR Legal Director Shannon Minter. "Now they are continuing to try to erase who she



Shannon Minter. Photo by Rex Wockner

was and to pretend her relationship with Jennifer never existed. We are confident the courts will not let that happen."

"This is one of the most disturbing cases I have worked on in my 20 years of advocacy. Despite the enormous progress LGBT people have made, we are still not treated equally under the law. We have to keep fighting and in the meantime we have to do everything possible to protect our families because we cannot always count on the law to do that," Minter added.

The Thomas More Society, in its countersuit, contends that since Tobits and Farley got married in Canada, Tobits is not entitled to the money because their marriage is not legitimate in the United States under the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA). They further state that under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act a beneficiary form is not needed since the couple's marriage in Canada is not legal and the parents are rightful heirs of their daughter's estate.

"The deceased had the facts right when she completed her beneficiary form, stating that she was single, and had the right to designate her parents as the legal beneficiaries of the profit-sharing plan from her employer. What Ms. Tobits is trying to do is circumvent federal and state law for her own greedy financial gain. They Farley's lost a daughter and they gained a leech," said Peter Breen, executive director and legal counsel of the Thomas More Society in a press release. In speaking to Breen he added, "It's an odd case for NCLR to take on since what Ms. Tobits is trying to do is overturn the plans of her deceased partner regarding designation of assets."

NCLR is working with co-counsel Benjamin L. Jerner and Tiffany Palmer of Jerner & Palmer, P.C., Teresa Renaker and Julie Wilensky of Lewis, Feinberg, Lee, Renaker and Jackson, P.C., and Dan Ebner and Ray Prather of Prather Ebner LLP to defend Tobits's right to be recognized as Farley's spouse.

# Rick Perry enters race; Bachmann wins straw poll

BY LISA KEEN  
KEEN NEWS SERVICE

The Republican presidential campaign field took another big lurch to the right over the weekend, welcoming its newest and most dogmatic competitor, weeding out an early entry, and giving a boost to its most anti-gay voices.

Texas Gov. Rick Perry announced his campaign for the Republican nomination for president Aug. 13, telling a gathering in South Carolina that the nation needs "civil justice reform." Perry did not explain what he meant by "civil justice reform" and it was probably a reference to the kind of legislation he supported as governor, aimed at cutting down on the number of lawsuits. However, Perry's record on LGBT issues suggests he could just as easily have been echoing a Republican staple—an opposition to judges who rule that equal protection guarantees should apply to same-sex couples.

Meanwhile, former Gov. Tim Pawlenty of Minnesota dropped out of the Republican field Aug. 14, after placing third in the Iowa Republican Party straw poll Saturday.



Gov. Rick Perry.

According to the Iowa Republican Party, 29 percent of the almost 17,000 votes cast Saturday were for U.S. Rep. Michele Bachmann of Minnesota; 28 percent for U.S. Rep. Ron Paul of Texas; 14 percent for Pawlenty; 10 percent for former U.S. Senator Rick Santorum of Pennsylvania; and nine percent for businessman Herman Cain.

The remaining 10 percent of votes when to candidates who did not participate officially in the straw poll. Perry received 4 percent of the votes via write-ins and former Governor Mitt Romney of Massachusetts received three percent.

Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich won about two percent of the vote. And the field's most progressive candidate, former Governor Jon Huntsman of Utah, earned less than half of one percent, as did U.S. Rep. Thad McCotter of Michigan.

The party did not indicate who received the remaining one percent of votes, and a spokesperson for openly gay candidate Fred Karger, who also chose not to participate in the straw poll, said they had not been able to determine how many write-ins Karger may have garnered.

The straw poll is not binding on Republicans who eventually attend in Iowa's first-in-the-nation caucuses next year and is, to a large extent, a measure of each candidates coffers and willingness to pay \$30 each for supporters to participate in the straw poll event. Candidates are also required to contribute \$15,000 to the Iowa party in order to set up a tent for their supporters and, in order to attract and retain supporters during the voting, they typically provide food and entertainment. Bachmann's tent, for instance,

provided entertainment by country singer Randy Travis.

Bachmann appeared on numerous political talk shows Aug. 14, including ABC's *This Week* with Christiane Amanpour. Guest host Jake Tapper asked Bachmann about her now well-publicized speech as state senator in 2004 in which she said that homosexuality leads to "personal bondage, personal despair, and personal enslavement."

"Do you believe that?" asked Tapper.

Bachmann did not answer the question but said, instead, "Well, I'm running to be the president of the United States. I am not running to be any person's judge. And I ascribe dignity and honor to all people no matter who they are, and that's how I view people."

"So, you would appoint an openly gay or lesbian person to your administration?" asked Tapper.

"I would look first of all: would they uphold the Constitution of the United States. And Number Two: are the competent to do what they need to do and are they the best at who they are. That's my criteria. Nothing more."

Bachmann's positions and remarks against LGBT people have marked her, along with Santorum, as two of the most anti-gay candidates in the Republican field. Both have also signed two political pledges to oppose equal rights for same-sex couples in marriage licensing.

Perry is in roughly the same boat. He's spoken out against same-sex marriage and, in 2005, signed into law a ban on same-sex marriage in Texas.

In the weeks leading up to announcing his bid for the White House, Perry engaged in high profile collaborations with such anti-gay organizations as the American Family Association (AFA). Equally disturbing to many was Perry's behavior onstage—drifting seamlessly from political speech to prayer and back again.

The Houston Gay Political Caucus posted a message on its website recently, calling Perry's partnership with AFA "an assault on the GLBT community."

The Human Rights Campaign said Perry's most recent collaboration—a day of prayer—included "the most virulent anti-gay leaders and organizations in the country."

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## Organizations can apply for anti-crime initiative

Mayor Rahm Emanuel and Chicago Police Department (CPD) Superintendent Garry McCarthy announced the launch of A Force For Good, a new initiative that aims to strengthen community- and faith-based organizations' ability to enhance safety and reduce violent crime in communities across Chicago.

A Force For Good is a two-year program that will provide 25 community- and faith-based organizations with skill development classes, technical assistance and mentorship to increase their capacity to identify, obtain and manage grants and resources.

To be eligible for the program, a community-based organization must be Chicago-based and serve areas with higher-than-average rates of violent crime; must have existed for at least three years; provide services that address violent crime; have an annual budget of \$500K or less; and have the capacity to commit to a two-year period.

Applications for participation in this initiative will be accepted through Sept. 15; see <http://www.chicagopolice.org>.

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Riverdale Trustee Larry Jackson. Photo from Jackson

## Trustee denies anti-gay remarks

BY KATE SOSIN

Riverdale Trustee Larry Jackson is speaking out against recent allegations that he made anti-gay remarks to another trustee.

"I find it offensive," Jackson said. "I believe in equality for everybody."

Jackson came under fire when Tiasha Echols, another Riverdale trustee, publicly accused him of using anti-gay slurs against women who disagreed with him.

Echols told Windy City Times the comments were so strong that she felt uncomfortable repeating them to the paper.

"He called her a lesbian term," Echols said of another female colleague. Echols said she heard Jackson use anti-gay epithets on two different occasions.

Echols sent a letter to Mayor Deyon Dean asking him to look into the matter.

A complaint was also filed with Jackson's employer, the Cook County Sheriff's Office. That complaint, however, was not formally investigated, Jackson said.

Jackson said that he never made such comments and accused Echols of trying to destroy his public image because the two disagree about much-debated building contract negotiations pending in the village.

He added that he has long been a supporter of LGBT issues, adding that in graduate school, he wrote a paper critical of the Defense of Marriage Act, which denies same-sex couples federal relationship recognition.

Jackson, a social worker in the Cook County Sheriff's Office, said he regularly works with transgender and gay people and that he considers himself an advocate for LGBT issues at his job.

## Starbucks CEO backs out of megachurch summit

BY KATE SOSIN

Starbucks CEO Howard Schultz has canceled a speaking engagement at Willow Creek Community Church in South Barrington, a move rumored to have been motivated by pressure from LGBT rights activists.

Schultz was scheduled to speak at the church's Global Leadership Summer on Aug. 12. A spokes-

person for Starbucks confirmed that Schultz would not be speaking at the event but declined to explain why.

The news came a week after the circulation of a petition on Change.org called on Schultz to drop the engagement, alleging that Willow Creek Church is anti-gay. The petition drew 799 signatures in just seven days.

The news also comes on the heels of widespread reporting that in 2009, Willow Creek split with Exodus International, one of the country's largest ministries promoting ex-gay counseling.

However, Asher Huey, who started the petition, said that Willow Creek's track record pointed to a history of anti-gay practice.

"The church split ways with [Exodus], but in doing so stated that it wasn't a change in belief but a change in focus," Huey stated in the petition. "The church also has their own 'outreach' programs to the LGBT community to spread their anti-lgbt message."

Bill Hybels, senior pastor of the church, has publicly insisted that the church is not anti-gay. In 2008, Windy City Times reported that Hybels told LGBT activists that he did not believe that homosexuality was a choice, but that gay people should be celibate."

Hybels appeared to take a similar stance in speaking to multiple news sources after Schultz's

cancellation.

It remains unclear how or if Willow Creek's public stance on homosexuality differs from that of Exodus International. Willow Creek lists "sexual integrity issues" under its page on addiction, but does not define the term.

Exodus International likewise says that it supports gay people. In an interview with Windy City Times, Alan Chambers, president of Exodus and an ex-gay himself, said that he does not believe that people choose to be gay.

"We don't see homosexuality as any different than other things that people struggle with that the bible categorizes as sinful," Chambers said. "Our message is the same as anyone's message who is dealing with conflict with how they want to live."

A spokesperson for the church was not available to speak in time for deadline, a church receptionist said, due to the ongoing leadership conference.

"[The allegations] put me in a very uncomfortable situation because I have gay co-workers," Jackson said. "I have gay neighbors. I have gay friends."

## ALCC hosts 'Orient Express' Aug. 24

AIDS Legal Council of Chicago's annual summer party and largest fundraising event of the year—"Orient Express"—will be held Wed., Aug. 24, 6-9 p.m., at Sidetrack, 3349 N. Halsted St.

There will be more than 100 silent auction items, door prizes, a grand raffle, traditional French and Turkish cuisine and Turkish dancing by renowned dancer Kerensa DeMars.

Tickets to Orient Express start at \$50 each; see <http://www.aidslegal.com>.



ALCC Bollywood fundraiser in 2009.

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# HBHC honors Quigley, remains optimistic

BY YASMIN NAIR

Howard Brown Health Center (HBHC) recently hosted an award presentation in honor of Congressman Mike Quigley (5th District) and a panel discussion of LGBTQ health issues. The event took place Aug. 9, during National Health Centers Week.

Howard Brown CEO Jamal Edwards made introductory remarks, including praise for Quigley, whom he commended for having supported the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," opposing the Defense of Marriage Act and supporting the Respect for Marriage Act. He said that Quigley also has shown an interest in health care, with his support for removing the blood ban on LGBT participants (who are not allowed to donate blood) and his support for health care reform.

HBHC applied to be a Federally Qualified Health Center (it is currently an FQHC look-alike) and Quigley supported the application. Edwards said that the congressman has been generally supportive of community health centers, which was why the National Association of Community Health Centers awarded him the 2011 distinguished community health advocate award, asking HBHC to present it to him.

In his acceptance speech, Quigley praised HBHC and remarked upon the state of health care reform, emphasizing that recent gains were under threat: "This is our trench warfare, a battle for what kind of people and country we are. ... This is an ideological war and will affect our lives for generations to come. You don't zero in on NPR and Planned Parenthood to balance the budget."

After Quigley's speech, but was followed by a panel of six HBHC administrators and health

care providers: Joe Hollendonner, vice president and chief program officer, who also facilitated the panel; Dr. Magda Houlberg, vice president and chief medical officer; Kelly Ducheny, director of behavioral health services; Christina Santiago, manager of programming at Lesbian Community Care Project; Mark Pineda, direct interventions specialist and Lois Bates, manager of transgender services. [Editor's note: A piece on Santiago's untimely passing starts on the cover.]

Hollendonner began by asking what the panelists thought of the recent news that HIV rates were on the increase, especially amongst young African-American men who have sex with men. Bates said that the news was "not surprising" for a generation of men who have grown up "always knowing HIV" and for whom HIV/AIDS had become "normalized." She said that the task for health care providers was to change how people think about the epidemic. Houlberg added that part of the problem lay in a lack of intergenerational communication and mentorship within the community.

Recent events in Boystown, where clashes between largely African-American youth and residents and business owners have resulted in tensions, came up often during the discussion. Ducheny explained it as a matter of a "clash between generations," much of it stemming from the tensions of the times and a general feeling of hopelessness and anxiety: "People don't know where to direct fear and energy; there's so much uncertainty that people are breathing fatigue and fear." Santiago said that one way to address the current issue would be to provide more spaces for young people in the city.

The topic of women's health came up in light of recent guidelines from the department of health



Howard Brown Health Center President/CEO Jamal Edwards (left) with Congressman Mike Quigley. Photo by Kat Fitzgerald

and human services. Insurance companies must now provide for birth control, amongst other mandates. Santiago said the new guidelines were long overdue but cautioned that communities were not completely prepared to follow them: "Do we assume that women will flock to community centers and know to ask for [what they're now supposed to receive]? Or that providers will be saying, 'It will be covered, trust me, it will be covered?'" She also wondered how the new guidelines will affect the trans and genderqueer communities: "Will insurers be more inclusive in who gets to be more included?"

Speaking of men's issues, Pineda said that gay and bisexual men were often undeserved by the emphasis on HIV and STD/STIs, and Hollendonner added that this resulted in a hypersexualization of the community.

Hollendonner brought up a recent report that clinical research should address the needs of the LGBTQ community, and panelists were enthusiastic about it. Houlberg said the report would have significant impact in the long term, and that it "identifies the LGBT community as a community at risk. For that to happen on a federal level means that government agencies have a way to see what we see every day." She pointed out that the report would also enable identifying some areas of vulnerability, as in the increased rates of smoking in the community, a fact that is used by tobacco companies "in a way that's destructive," to target a population that is happy to be recognized at all by commercial entities.

The recent passage of civil-unions legislation prompted Hollendonner to ask panelists what the negative and positive consequences might be. Bates said that it would allow people to benefit from their partners' insurance and to be acknowledged financially as taxpayers. Ducheny said that it would lead to some relationships "turning upside down" because people would have to respond to the new question of "Have you done it yet?" and "negotiate the whole foundation of their relationship" if they had not thought too much of civil unions or marriage. Houlberg said she felt there was now an emphasis on the idea that "you are nobody unless you are a couple; it reinforces that people come in couples and not as individuals." Pineda added that a plus side of all this was that "we get to define relationships however we want, and we can set an example of normalizing" the kinds of relationships not seen before.

Asked about what their biggest concerns around LGBTQ health might be, panelists spoke of issues most affecting the people they worked with. Houlberg, who is a geriatric specialist, ad-

ressed the relative invisibility of caregivers, particularly those lesbians and gays who were left to look after their partners in old age, often with little structural support. She said there needs to be more resources for them: "Caregiving cuts across financial justice and gender justice lines." Bates said she was concerned about the criminalization of trans people by Chicago Police Department, saying that the Daley administration had been working to make changes to processes but those were stalled somewhat in the new administration. She stressed that Emanuel's administration was not hostile to changes, but that trans activists felt the process "went back a little." Bates felt that changes would definitely happen, especially since other cities like San Francisco and New York had already instituted new processes.

On Aug. 9, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services announced the names of the health centers that had received funds to expand access to health care and become FQHCs; HBHC was not amongst them. The HHS awarded a total of \$28,816,384 to 67 organizations. In Illinois, the Macoupin County Public Health Department in Carlinville received \$566,667 while the Community Health Partnership of Illinois, based in Chicago, received \$400,000.

In an email statement relayed through spokesperson Aviva Gibbs, Congressman Quigley said, "Unfortunately at a time when we should be investing in our community health centers, last year's budget cuts meant HHS was only able to award a fifth of their health center grants. While we have to [rein] in our debt, we must do so in a responsible way that still allows us to invest in the life-saving and cost-effective health services provided by Howard Brown and other essential community health centers."

Amy Simmons, director of communications for the National Association for Community Health Centers responded, via email, to a question about the future of funding for health centers: "The good news is that we've received enough federal funding to maintain our existing operations, but obviously we're concerned about expanding our reach to the 60 million Americans who currently have no access to basic health care...Our vision to expand health centers has not changed, but now the speed with which we will make it a reality has been significantly slowed by [sic] because of the reductions in the 2011 budget and the expectation that more are to come in 2012."

In a press release, Jamal Edwards congratulated the recipients of the HHS grants, adding that "HBHC remains optimistic about a second opportunity to achieve full FQHC status."

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# Experts say LGBT people should expunge arrests

BY KATE SOSIN

Fifty years ago, the largest reason why gay people were getting arrested was likely for breaking sodomy laws.

Over the years, the reasons why LGBT people have been arrested has changed, but the utility of arrest expungement has not, say experts.

Expungement, or the process by which a person can wipe away arrests from their records, has been used for years by LGBT activists and advocates alike to battle discriminatory arrest histories and give marginalized queer people a fresh start.

"It's one of my favorite things as a lawyer," said Owen Daniel-McCarter, project attorney for the Transformative Justice Law Project of Illinois.

Experts agree that arrest history, even without convictions, can create significant barriers for people trying to start school, find housing or get a job.

Expungement offers erasure of those arrests, but not necessarily convictions. For LGBT communities who have historically faced higher arrest rates than straight peers, such records can present serious problems.

Before the early '60s, sodomy laws made it illegal for two men to have sex. William B. Kelley, a longtime LGBT Chicago activist, said that arrests for sodomy were frequent during those years, but convictions were rarely made.

"They could be used as blackmail levers," said Kelley, adding that they often prevented gays from getting business licenses.

Today, few who were arrested under sodomy law are still alive. Illinois was the first state to repeal such laws in 1962, but their legacy lived on.



Owen Daniel-McCarter. Photo by Carrie Maxwell

For years, said Kelley, gay people were targeted and arrested for public indecency, prostitution and disorderly conduct. Numerous community activists have also racked up arrests for protest actions over the years.

Even if the arrests had no basis, such information followed people.

Regardless of whether or not charges are dismissed later, arrest records remain unless they

are expunged. Such records have meant considerable challenges for LGBT people who already faced discrimination in areas of housing and employment.

Daniel-McCarter said that in his line of work, more queer people ask for help expunging arrests than any other service.

"It creates so much of a barrier that sometimes people don't even realize," Daniel-McCarter said.

Today it is queer youth, often kicked out of their homes for coming out, who face high rates of arrest.

That National Gay and Lesbian Task Force estimated in 2007 that between 5,000-10,000 LGBT youth in Illinois are homeless. According to Lakeview Action Coalition, Chicago has just 120 shelter beds for youth.

Lynnea Karlic, youth program vocational manager at Center on Halsted, said that queer homeless youth in particular face so many obstacles, that a single arrest can derail many people's chances of putting together a life.

"It's just a trickle effect," she said. "It's another reason to discriminate against people."

Landlords and employers are not legally allowed to discriminate against applicants on the basis of arrest records. However, Karlic and Daniel-McCarter agree that such discrimination is commonplace. People with arrest records are regularly denied housing and jobs, making it hard to start fresh.

One of the issues, said Karlic, is that few young people and adults understand they can expunge such records. Further, the process is complicated.

"Just to have the information about how to go about it is really important for people's basic needs," she said. "There are already a lot of barriers for queer individuals."

Every year the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County holds an expungement seminar for the general public.

On Aug. 25, the clerk's office is bringing that seminar to Center on Halsted at the request of Center CEO Modesto "Tico" Valle.

"We all deserve the opportunity to be more productive members of the community," said Valle, in a press release about the seminar. "We're glad to work with the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court to empower individuals to do that."

The seminar comes at a time when Lakeview is buzzing with talk about queer youth and crime, after a series of violent incidents this summer struck up conversations about young people and racism in the neighborhood.

Clerk Dorothy Brown expressed excitement about the seminar in a statement to Windy City Times. "We fervently believe that everyone deserves a second chance to be law-abiding, productive members of society," Brown said.

Daniel-McCarter believes that everyone who is able should attempt to expunge records. However, he added that for those dealing with immigration issues, expungement can create new problems.

Reservations for the Center on Halsted expungement seminar must be made by Aug. 19. For more information on necessary documents and reservations, call 773-472-6469.

## Women's network hosting 'Shine & Dine' Aug. 18

Step Up Women's Network will launch its first signature event in Chicago, "Shine & Dine," Thursday, Aug. 18, at Galleria Marchetti, 825 W. Erie St., 6-9 p.m.

Valerie Warner, co-host of Chicago's daytime talk show Windy City Live, will serve as honorary chair for the inaugural event. Wave Executive Chef Kristine Subido and ZED451 Executive Chef Patrick Quakenbush will offer guests exclusive tastings. Featured sips will be available from the event's Diamond Sponsor, Ciroc.

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# Illinois man wants Bert & Ernie wedding

BY KATE SOSIN

An Oak Park man is sitting at the center of an international debate about same-sex marriage, but he isn't talking about gay people.

Lair Scott wants Bert and Ernie, the Sesame Street television puppet duo, to tie the knot on the show.

On Aug. 4 Scott launched an online petition on Change.org, calling on Sesame Street to join the puppets in marriage. The petition picked up more than 8,000 supporters in just 10 days and set off an international debate about children and LGBT media representations.

"I think it's the responsibility of Sesame Street and PBS to discuss same-sex parents," Scott said. "Never have they included the gay and lesbian and community."

Sesame Street has a history of tackling tough issues in its programming, including conversations about HIV/AIDS, diversity and death. Scott said its time that Sesame Street talked about LGBT issues.

"There's a human hand behind [the puppets] and a corporation that has the power to educate and change peoples' lives," he said. "We need to discuss homophobia. We need to discuss bullying."

However, Sesame Workshop, the organization behind Bert and Ernie, insists that while the oddly-matched pair might be two male characters, they have no sexual orientation.

"Bert and Ernie are best friends," Sesame said in a statement. "They were created to teach preschoolers that people can be good friends with those who are very different from themselves."

Gay-rights activists have argued for years, sometimes in jest, that the pair must be gay, living together and sleeping in the same bedroom, albeit in separate beds.

However, Scott's petition has also sparked outrage from many who say that the puppets should be left out of the same-sex marriage debate.

"A kid of 3 or 4 does not know what a gay person is. So why should they have it pushed in their faces... Just because you're gay does not mean the whole world has to be gay also," one posted wrote on Scott's "Bert and Ernie Get Married" Facebook page. "Leave the kids alone. Let them have their childhood."

Several copycat petitions have popped up on Change.org against the marriage, but none have gained the same level of support as Scott's.

Despite popular belief, Scott said, the win for same-sex marriage in New York didn't inspire his petition. A friend of his posted a picture of Bert and Ernie with a caption congratulating the puppets on 40 years of marriage.

"I thought well, they're not married... yet," Scott said.

## Protections for military funerals increased

BY KATE SOSIN

In a move that will inevitably thwart Kansas anti-gay hate group Westboro Baptist Church, Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn signed a bill Aug. 14 that makes it harder for groups to protest military funerals.

The legislation extends the "Let Them Rest in Peace Act," a 2006 measure that placed 200 feet of distance between protesters and funeral sites and outlawed protest for 30 minutes before and after the service.

In its newest form, the law adds an extra 100 feet of distance between protesters and funeral sites, bringing the ban up to 300 feet.

"Every family has a fundamental right to conduct a funeral with reverence and dignity," said Governor Quinn in a press statement. "This law ensures that the families of those who have given their lives for our country can grieve without

harassment."

The expansion of the law will likely hinder Westboro Baptist Church, best known for picketing military funerals and other high-profile services with extreme anti-gay messages.

"This kind of law should not even be necessary," said Jim Darby, president of the Chicago chapter of American Veterans for Equal Rights. "It's really outrageous that someone would even think of going to a funeral and upsetting the family at this difficult time."

Still, Darby said he applauds the governor for supporting veterans and LGBT people.



Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn.

## Chicago attorneys to be honored at Lavender Law Conference

Several local attorneys will be honored as the Annual Lavender Law® Conference & Career Fair takes place at Hollywood, Calif., Sept. 8-10.

At the conference, the National LGBT Bar Association recognizes legal professionals and students who have advocated for LGBT rights and equality through their work in the legal profession.

Among the honors being handed out are the Best LGBT Lawyers Under 40 Awards. According to LGBTBar.org, Chicago attorneys Toby Eveland (Arnstein & Lehr LLP), Jordan Heinz (Kirkland & Ellis LLP), Joshua Rafsky (Jenner & Block LLP) and John L. Litchfield (Foley & Lardner LLP) are among those being honored. Eveland, Heinz and Litchfield are past Windy City Times 30 Under 30 Award winners.

Lambda Legal staff attorney Tara Borelli and transgender-rights lawyer M. Dru Levasseur will also be among those receiving awards.

In addition, Nancy Polikoff, a professor of law at American University Washington College of Law, will receive the 2011 Dan Bradley Award, the National LGBT Bar Association's highest honor. See <http://www.lgbtbar.org/annual> for more about the conference.



Toby Eveland.

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# Community groups continue to focus on Lakeview

BY KATE SOSIN

For the eighth week since a Lakeview stabbing heightened safety concerns in the neighborhood in June, residents, service providers and young people continued to search for solutions to both violence and racial tension in the neighborhood.

## Discussions on race

Longtime LGBT activists convened at Chicago News and Letters, a Marxist-Humanist organization, Aug. 8 to talk about racism in Lakeview.

The panel discussion was composed of Benjamin Perry, a youth organizer with Gender JUST; Ed Negrón, of the AIDS Foundation of Chicago; Darrell Gordon, longtime LGBT activist and his-



The panel that discussed racism at Chicago News and Letters included (from left): Benjamin Perry, Ed Negrón, Darrell Gordon and Betty Akins. Photo by Kate Sosin

torian; and Betty Akins, a former Center on Halsted service provider.

Largely, the panel was critical of "Take Back Boystown," the Facebook page created this summer to discuss a perceived increase in crime in Lakeview.

Panelists argued that many discussions on that page were racist.

"We can see in writing what people are truly feeling about young people of color," said Negrón. "Thanks to the internet, this is not going to go away."

Negrón said that the discussions on Facebook presented opportunities to address racial tensions within the LGBT community.

Akins expressed concern that fears about crime in Lakeview would distract attention and needed resources from other communities where violence is more pervasive. Akins also said that she worries that if youth feel targeted by anti-crime efforts, tensions between young people and residents will escalate to a breaking point.

Gordon argued that racism in Lakeview was an old problem, and cited complaints throughout the decades that gay bars were discriminating against patrons of color. He advocated for addressing racism in Lakeview and addressing homophobia in other parts of the city to make Chicago safer for young people.

An audience of about 15 people largely expressed agreement with panelists' concerns. Those actively supporting efforts on the "Take Back Boystown" page did not appear to be present to rebut the criticism.

## Surveying resident concerns

Responding to resident concerns, the Lake View Citizens Council issued a survey the week of Aug. 8 polling residents and visitors on their experiences with crime in the neighborhood. The 12-question survey tackles issues ranging from crime rates to a proposed weekend night parking ban.

The survey, which can be taken by Lakeview

and non-Lakeview residents alike, is available online at <http://survey.constantcontact.com/survey/a07e4kfk0nggr687lui/a01cpgraqb2p1/questions>.

## Center on Halsted launches task force

The Center on Halsted, which has weathered recent criticism from some who say the Lakeview-based organization is attracting trouble to the neighborhood, officially launched its new task force in response to crime and tensions between young people and residents.

The task force had been announced weeks ago, but an official list of participants was made public on Aug. 12 in a press release from the organization. Members include Lakeview service providers, youth, religious leaders, residents and business owners.

According to the news statement, the Lakeview Safety & Inclusion Coalition (LSIC) will address both violence and discrimination in the neighborhood.

"Though we have diverse perspectives and differing life experiences we all share one common vision: to make our community safer and more inclusive for all," LSIC members wrote in an open letter to the community.

More information on the coalition can be found at <http://www.centeronhalsted.org/LSIC>.

## Guardian Angels holding information session

Volunteer crime-fighting organization The Guardian Angels announced an upcoming information session for Lakeview community members who want to join. The Angels, who typically patrol the entire city, will be training new members specifically for a new Lakeview chapter.

The organization is open to people of all genders.

The information session will be held Wed., Sept. 14, 7-9 p.m. at the Center on Halsted. For more information, email [boystownguardianangels@gmail.com](mailto:boystownguardianangels@gmail.com).

## Officials collecting school supplies

State Sen. Heather Steans, state Rep. Kelly Cassidy and Ald. Harry Osterman are collecting school supplies for low-income children in the neighborhood. The fourth annual "Sponsor-a-student" is a partnership with Care for Real-Edgewater's food and clothing pantry, and other local non-profits to provide school supplies for children in Rogers Park, Edgewater and Uptown.

Donors will sign up to sponsor a student and will receive either an elementary school or high school bag. The bags cost \$75 on average, but less expensive lists are available as well. The drive lasts through Aug. 19.

To complete a form, visit <https://spreadsheets.google.com/spreadsheet/viewform?formkey=dG40RUtnTFBpaTlUkZib3ptTnNaNGc6MQ>.

## Burning Man art show at Center starting Aug. 19

The opening reception for "EVERYTHING'S GOING (to turn out just fine)"—an exhibit of photo and video about the annual Burning Man festival by gay Chicago artists Ron Reason and Timothy Long—will take place Friday, Aug. 19, 7-9 p.m. at the Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted.

According to a press release, Burning Man "is a unique, impromptu experiment in creating art, culture, and community, whereby an ad-hoc 'city' of 45,000 pops up for one week each year, inhabiting campers, tents and RVs in harsh federal desert land in Nevada." The exhibit will be available for viewing through September.

Contact curator David Joseph at 773-852-6056 or email [ron@ArtWithinReason.com](mailto:ron@ArtWithinReason.com).

## Town hall with Cullerton, Ann Williams Aug. 24

State Sen. President John Cullerton and state Rep. Ann Williams will host a town-hall meeting Wed., Aug. 24, at Bell School, 3730 N. Oakley Ave., 6-8 p.m.

There will be updates on legislation and the FY12 budget.

Call 773-880-9082 for more information.

## TPAN's 'Roof' Aug. 25 at MDA

HIV/AIDS agency Test Positive Aware Network will present "Up on the Roof" atop the 24-story MDA Apartment building, 63 E. Lake, on Thursday, Aug. 25, 5:30-8:30 p.m.

Guests will be treated to gourmet barbeque creations by The Bristol's Chris Pandel; Joncarl Lachman and David Cooper of HB Home Bistro; and Jared Van Camp of Old Town Social. Pastoral Artisan Cheese, Bread and Wine will provide more treats, with Sweet Margy, Salted Caramel, Rich Chocolates and DAS Caramellini offering desserts.

Admission is \$125 per person; call Billy Surber at 773-989-9400, ext. 235, or visit <http://www.tpan.com>.

## Rainbow Social Aug. 26

The University of Illinois at Chicago's Gender & Sexuality Center (GSC) will hold its annual Rainbow Social Friday, Aug. 26, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., in rooms 181 and 183 of the Behavioral Sciences Building, 1007 W. Harrison.

Visit <http://www.gsc.uic.edu>.

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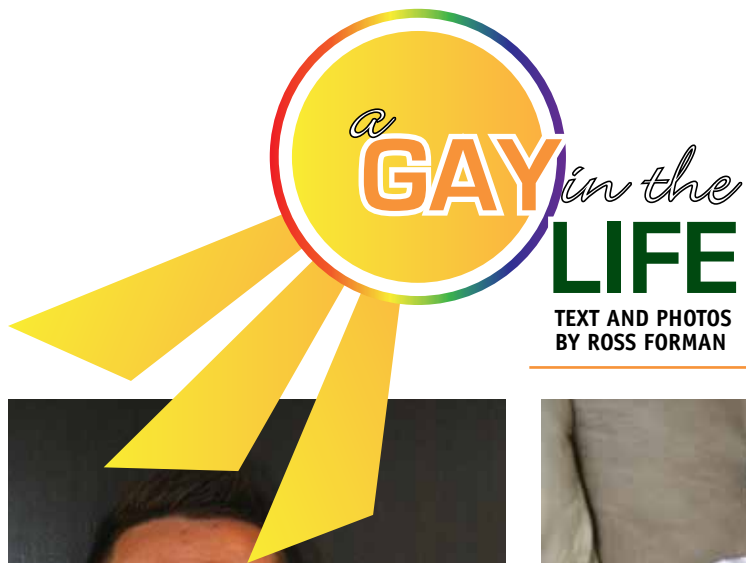
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**Scott Somers**

TEXT AND PHOTOS  
BY ROSS FORMAN



As a sophomore at the University of Washington, Scott Somers managed a radio station, where he encountered commitment issues with one of the disc jockeys he had hired.

Levi Thomas, the DJ, wanted to go to the school's football game on a Saturday instead of working—and when Somers decided he wasn't going to put him on the schedule for the next quarter, Thomas decided he didn't want to DJ anymore.

"To this day, we joke that I almost had to fire him," Somers said.

After all, the two were, and still are, the best of friends. They talk almost daily about their beloved Seattle Mariners; they play racquetball together; they also play on the same softball team in the Chicago Metropolitan Sports Association (CMSA).

Somers is gay; Thomas is straight.

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*the stats*

**Name**  
Scott Somers

**Age**  
28

**Relationship status**  
Dating

**All-time favorite movie**  
The Wizard of Oz

**Hobbies**  
Video games and bicycling

**Sports**  
Plays softball and kickball

**Favorite Chicago restaurant**  
Moto

**Pets**  
One dog named Hunter

**Facebook or Twitter**  
Facebook, which he joined two years ago, "after refusing to do it for the longest time."

**Techie**  
"I'm an under-educated tech person. I always want the newest and latest tech item, but I don't always use [those items] to the degree I [initially] show."



Scott with friend Levi Thomas and Levi's fiancée Jeannine.

Thomas was one of the first people Somers came out to in 2005, when he sent Thomas an email clarifying his sexual orientation.

"Levi was shocked; he had no idea [that I was gay,] but couldn't care less. It really was anticlimatic," said Somers, who admits he was nervous before hitting "send" on that evening email to Thomas. "Levi is just a good person and one of the best friends I've ever had. In 50 years, Levi and I will still be friends."

Somers plays outfield on his C3-Division softball team; Thomas usually plays third base, "and is one of the best players on the team," Somers said.

Somers also is the C3 team's co-coach.

Baseball is Somers' passion. He has a white Seattle Mariners jacket, his favorite team. He has a black replica jersey of Hanley Ramirez, one of his two favorite players (along with Albert Pujols). Somers also plays fantasy baseball and one of his summertime passions is traveling to different major league stadiums.



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## ACTIVIST from cover

est and brightest warriors, Christina Santiago," Amigas Latinas said in a statement. "Santiago, a self-identified 'Nuyorican' lesbian feminist, was committed to empowering queer women of color and advocating for access to healthcare in the LGBTQ community. As Programming Chair for Amigas Latinas, Santiago coordinated countless educational events and fundraisers for Amigas Latinas, including our Health and Wellness series and our community platicas. She was a charming, efficient and energetic motivator who mentored volunteers and staff alike."

Santiago was compelled to work in the healthcare field after the death of her mother due to breast cancer.

Brennon works at the law firm Pierce and Associates. She is from Williamsburg, Iowa, and graduated from Robert Morris University. She

transgender and queer women. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Christina's friends and family, and her beautiful partner Alisha Brennon, who is also a dear friend of HBHC."

During her career at HBHC, Santiago was recognized as a rising star. She recently received HBHC's 2010 Spirit Award; the highest staff honor. Santiago was an instrumental figure in the expansion of HBHC's women's health services division as the manager of LCCP and a strong advocate for the LGBTQ women's community.

Santiago was helping lead HBHC's new women's health initiative for LBTQ women through the LifeCycle Project, a healthcare initiative designed to meet the growing needs of the entire LGBTQ community throughout the entire life cycle.

On Aug. 15, HBHC planned to provide grief counseling services for staff. HBHC is discussing plans to establish a memorial fund in Santiago's honor.



Christina Santiago (front with gray top) at the recent Amigas Latinas gala. Photo by Mel Ferrand

also played in 2010 for the Chicago Force women's pro football team.

Dozens of friends posted messages on Facebook about the incident, and news traveled fast in the LGBT community Aug. 14. A memorial was planned quickly for 5 p.m. that day at HBHC/LCCP, and an additional memorial will be held soon.

At the memorial, several people spoke about Santiago and Brennon, as several TV cameras reported on the high-profile event. The cameras and reporters were eventually asked to leave so that the event could continue in a more appropriate, and somber, tone. Dozens of people packed into the space.

Rosa Yadira Ortiz, Amigas Latinas board president, spoke through tears about the loss of her friend and colleague.

"I lost my go-to buddy today," she said. "She will be seriously missed. As often as we have differences, she really brought us together in a way that very few can do."

Amigas co-founder Evette Cardona also spoke about Santiago's "really good work for the community. She would want the work to continue. We don't know why this happened; we do know that life is fleeting. Continue the fight, pick up the torch, and keep the fight going."

Paul Fairchild, former board member of LCCP, remembered Santiago as a "young baby dyke" when he first came to LCCP. "I then watched her blossom into this amazing young woman. She was a leader, a future leader, and the community has a great loss," he said.

"The sudden and devastating loss of Christina has left the entire community, including her Howard Brown Health Center family, heartbroken," said Jamal M. Edwards, president and CEO of HBHC, in a prepared statement. "Christina was an amazing woman—one of our very brightest stars—who worked tirelessly to improve the lives of women, particularly lesbian, bisexual,

Community photographer Kat Fitzgerald said she will compile the many photos she has taken of Santiago over the years into a tribute.

Donations in Christina Santiago's name can be made at [www.amigaslatinas.org](http://www.amigaslatinas.org) through the "Just Give" button. Designate your donation in the name of Christina Santiago.

Howard Brown Health Center is also accepting donations of two kinds: one for Santiago's and Brennon's families for expenses, the other for LCCP. Donations can be sent in the mail to Howard Brown Health Center, 4025 N. Sheridan Road, Chicago, IL 60613. Or see [http://howardbrown.org/hb\\_services.asp?id=1900](http://howardbrown.org/hb_services.asp?id=1900). Designate whether you want to donate to Christina's family fund or to LCCP.



Santiago (right) with partner Alisha Marie Brennon at the Amigas Latinas gala. Photo by Mel Ferrand



From the Aug. 14 memorial for Christina Santiago at Howard Brown Health Center: (left) Santiago's Spirit Award and flowers; (right) Rosa Yadira Ortiz. Photos by Kat Fitzgerald



## Seattle attacker gets life; victim reveals identity

BY SARAH TOCE

A man who viciously raped a lesbian couple in Seattle two years ago, killing one of the women, has been sentenced to life in prison without release—the only possible sentence because prosecutors weren't seeking the death penalty.

Isaiah Kalebu was convicted last month of aggravated murder in the attack on Teresa Butz and her partner, Jennifer Hopper. Kalebu, who has a history of mental illness, climbed in the window of the couple's home and raped and stabbed the couple. Hopper survived.

The Seattle Times reported that Hopper addressed Kalebu in court Aug. 12, saying, "You took so much from me but I'm not broken," she said. "I wish you no harm, I never wanted you put to death, I don't seek revenge, I don't want anything bad to happen to you in prison, nothing. I wish you peace every last day of your life."

Hopper wasn't identified by name in media accounts until last week, when she wrote a personal essay in the Seattle weekly newspaper *The Stranger* titled "I Would Like You to Know My Name."

The essay, in part, says:

"It's impossible to describe in words how it has all been, but the closest I've come is this: It's as if on July 19, 2009, someone grabbed me by the scruff of my neck, lifted me up, and dropped me headfirst into another life. Suddenly, you can't go home. Your home is a crime scene.

"Today, there is very little I say or do that isn't tainted by residual fear, grief, longing, or the process of healing. I'm still sad, I still miss Teresa, my life is still turned upside down. I'm less trusting than I once was, I'm wary of strangers, I'm hypervigilant about my surroundings.

"For about 18 months after the attack, I couldn't sleep at night. My mind was afraid that if I closed my eyes, I would open them to something terrifying. My body was exhausted, but my mind couldn't stop being on guard.

Eventually, I was able to sleep with the light on. I still never sleep alone, and I still sometimes wake up, in the dark, absolutely sure that I've heard someone walking around in the house. I have to dig deep into my reserves, reassure myself that I'm safe, and trust that it will fade in time.

"And while it does, I long for the innocence I experienced before Kalebu entered our lives."

## StreetWise's 'A Hand Up' gala Sept. 15

StreetWise—which aims to assist Chicago area men and women, who are facing homelessness to achieve personal stability—will hold its "A Hand Up" fundraising gala Thursday, Sept. 15, 5:30-10:30 p.m., at the Union League Club, 65 W. Jackson.

Guests will be served dinner and singer Charlene Brooks will provide the evening's entertainment. Entrepreneur, technology venture capitalist and philanthropist J.B. Pritzker will be the keynote speaker; and the honorees are Bruce Crane, Jerry Roper and James W. Mabie.

Individuals tickets are \$150, and a table of 10 is \$1,500.

See <http://www.streetwise.org/events/streetwise-gala-2011>. To become a gala sponsor, contact Executive Director Jim LoBianco at 312-829-2526, ext. 18, or [jlobianco@streetwise.org](mailto:jlobianco@streetwise.org).

## 'Garden of Eve' Sept. 16

"Garden of Eve"—an annual gala benefiting the Lesbian Community Care Project at Howard Brown Health Center—will take place Friday, Sept. 16, 8-11 p.m., at Carnivale, 702 W. Fulton St.

The Jeannie Tanner Quartet, Katie Todd, Diva Kai, Christina Kent, Daniela Sloan and Eileen Censotti will entertain, with DJ Gloria Alers and DJ Teri Bristol spinning dance music. The event also features a raffle, a silent auction, light hors d'oeuvres and drinks.

Tickets purchased before Aug. 31 start at \$100; see <http://www.lccp.org/events.php?ID=228>.



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# Black Gay Men's Caucus responds to rise in AIDS cases in young men

BY ERICA DEMAREST

In response to alarming new data that reveals young Black men who have sex with men are significantly more likely to contract HIV than their peers, the Chicago Black Gay Men's Caucus (CBGMC) hosted "Conversations: A Discussion on the National HIV/AIDS Strategy and the impact for Black Gay/Bisexual Men in Chicago" Aug. 11. On Aug. 3, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control announced that HIV cases among young Black men (ages 13-29) who have sex with men rose by 48 percent between 2006 and 2009. Similarly, records from the Chicago Department of Public Health indicate new HIV cases among young gay Black men (13-29) in Chicago rose by 62 percent between 2005 and 2008.

"At a time where we've seen advances in scientific technology that help to reduce both the spread and the mortality of HIV, we are still seeing Black men who have sex with men become infected and die more than our white and Latino counterparts," said Keith Green, director of federal affairs at the AIDS Foundation of Chicago (AFC) and co-chair of the CBGMC.

As the sun began to set on a beautiful Thursday night, a group of about 75 health professionals, city officials, school teachers and activists gathered in a spacious meeting room in the Gary Comer Youth Center on Chicago's South Side.

While attendees enjoyed a complimentary dinner, Dr. John Schneider, assistant professor of medicine and epidemiology at the University of Chicago, articulated factors that could be contributing to the high rates. Chief among them: unemployment, substance use, poor sex education, mental health issues and a lack of accessible care.

"We don't have really good services on the South Side for anal and penile care," Schneider said. "We need to have providers make those services available ... and train the front staff to be culturally competent and know how to engage somebody who may be very sensitive about either their appearance or their HIV status."

Schneider stressed the need for stable youth centers like Gary Comer and said that while many community groups do good work, funding is always a concern. "Howard Brown can have a problem," he said, "and all the donors step up and fund them. If a small group on the South Side has a problem, they lose their funding and they're gone."

He noted that when youth use alcohol or drugs before sex, they're significantly less likely to use condoms, and that social use of marijuana is common. Through his clinic work on the South Side, Schneider said he's seen many young adults who have very poor grasps of basic sex and health functions.

"What's tragic is that sex education in Chicago public schools has been left up to teachers," he said. "There's no standard procedure. You know, if I can fit it into my math class—eight condoms plus six condoms equals 14 condoms—that's my sex education. There really needs to be good sex education and HIV prevention education."

Another common problem: Many HIV-positive men don't take their medications as prescribed. Some feel they're young and invincible; some don't want to deal with a daily reminder of the disease; others lack access; and still others simply slack off.



Panelists, from left: Sidney Thomas, CBGMC; Chris Brown, assistant commissioner of Public Health for the STI/HIV/AIDS Division for the city of Chicago; Mildred Williamson, PhD, MSW, HIV/AIDS section chief, Illinois Department of Public Health; and David D. Robertson, prevention specialist, Comer Children's Hospital at the University of Chicago and young adult empowerment speaker.

"We really need to get people who are infected and have virus in their body on medicine," Schneider said. "Fundamentally, that's it."

After Schneider's presentation, the audience broke into four small focus groups, each of which contained at least one city health official or doctor—including Chris Brown, assistant commissioner of Public Health for the STI/HIV/AIDS Division of the city of Chicago, and Mildred

Williamson, PhD, MSW, HIV/AIDS section chief, Illinois Department of Public Health; and David D. Robertson, prevention specialist, Comer Children's Hospital at the University of Chicago and young adult empowerment speaker.

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LEFT: John A. Schneider MD, MPH, assistant professor of medicine and epidemiology; director of Global Health Programs in the Section of Infectious Diseases and Global Health in the departments of Medicine and Health Studies at the University of Chicago. RIGHT: Keith Green, Director of Federal Affairs at AIDS Foundation Chicago; founding member of the Chicago Black Gay Men's Caucus

Williamson, PhD, MSW, HIV/AIDS section chief at the Illinois Department of Public Health.

The groups proceeded to draft lists of suggestions that could help community leaders, healthcare providers and city officials stem the growing epidemic. Working to reduce homophobia in Black communities was a common con-

cern; many said churches needed to be more accepting and social media could be used to spread positive messaging. Funding was another heavy-hitter. Some group members wondered how they could procure more funding as cuts were being made all around them. Others complained that current funding channels and grant application processes restricted creativity.

Williamson, PhD, MSW, HIV/AIDS section chief at the Illinois Department of Public Health.

Williamson, PhD, MSW, HIV/AIDS section chief at the Illinois Department of Public Health.

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# Keith Elliott: Co-founder of Dance for Life and a true renaissance man

BY JOE FRANCO

Keith Elliott is not a born and bred dancer, the kind you would see hoping for a spot on So You Think You Can Dance or being beaten by a woman with a stick on

Fame. His first foray into the world of dance was spent in front of a mirror imitating Baryshnikov.

"My parents caught me doing it. They just laughed," Elliott said. "There was no shame in dancing. I think my parents wanted me to go into the arts."

Elliott's life began in the Village of Rantoul, Ill. "We moved to Hawaii for a bit, but that move was driven by the Air Force," he said. Elliott is a born and bred Midwesterner. He started college in Canton, Mo., and finally ended up at Illinois State University. Surprisingly, he still had not taken a single dance class.

"Oh I used to watch the classes. There was

something about the physicality—the kinetics and movement that I enjoyed watching," said Elliott.

Even after his fascination with the art, Elliott still was not sure about dancing for a living. He ended up in Indianapolis at a bartending school. From there he moved to California. "My car broke down in Salt Lake City. I only had \$500 to my name. It cost \$500 to fix my car but I made it to Carmel, Calif.—obviously with not very much money," he said.

While bartending at Andre's of Carmel, he started taking a few jazz dance class. "I thought to myself, could I really like this?" he said.

A job as a flight attendant with United Airlines got Elliott back to the Midwest and Chicago. "I lived for a while at Wabash and Chicago but then later moved up near Wrigley," he said. Elliott's schedule left some free time. It was then that he started to take dance classes seriously at Joseph Holmes Chicago Dance Theater.

"When I wasn't flying, I was studying. I felt that I really wanted to be there," said Elliott. He was soon granted an apprenticeship and then a company contract while still employed with United. "I danced Monday through Thursday and again on Saturday. I worked so much that I would actually cry."

Elliott's dance career began in the mid-'80s during the early years of the AIDS epidemic. "So many other dancers were just dying," Elliott said, "even Joseph Holmes himself died from AIDS complications then." During the beginning of Elliott's career, the dance company had been successful with full 52-week travel contracts. "Then in 1990, we had a 36-week travel contract with the summer off. It was that summer I sat down with Todd Keich and worked on a concept that would become Dance For Life."

With Harriet Ross, who was then the associate artistic director of Joseph Holmes Chicago Dance Theater, and the involvement of Danny Kopelson at the AIDS Foundation of Chicago, Dance For Life had its inaugural, sold-out performance in 1991.

"I could not believe that we had sold out. I remember running into the lobby and telling the people still waiting to get in that we were sold out and hearing them jeer 'You suck!'" Elliott recalled.

"Why this concept took and others didn't? I just don't know," he said.

Now in its 20th season, Dance For Life is the most successful concept of its kind in the Midwest and one of the most successful in the country.

"I'm still fighting for the integrity of the event. I want to the dancers and artists and staff to know that they are appreciated," said Elliott.

Dance For Life's 20th Anniversary also brought the message and mission of the organization to the suburbs.

"We felt we needed to bring this to the suburbs. A lot of people haven't experience it yet," said Elliott. Dance For Life started "The Awareness Initiative," which brought Dance For Life



Keith Elliott. Photo by Hal Baim

and activism to the schools. At New Trier High School, the Dance For Life mentors brought together a "Spring Fling Dance Workshop." It became Dance For Life in miniature.

"We taught them how to ask for money, set up committees. It was cute and good experience for them. It was cute until those kids raised over \$12,000. They really blew us away," Elliott said. Dance For Life also introduced a pilot program for choreographers. Called LIFTED and held at the Ruth Page Center, the program hopes to bring in both dancers and choreographers from the entire area.

When asked about the future for Dance For Life, Elliott responded, "How do you sustain that kind of energy? What do you do in the 21st year? I think the events of this year will help," said Elliott, who also pointed to the suburban outreach programs like the "Awareness Initiative" and LIFTED as other ways to inspire growth and sustainability.

"This is about sustaining the performance and still providing the audience a beautiful show. It's an evening of pure entertainment and artistry," he said.

**Dance For Life's 20th Anniversary performance will be Saturday, Aug. 20, 2011 at 7:30 at the Auditorium Theater located at 50 E. Congress. There is also a special pre-event gala. Tickets are available at [www.danceforlifechicago.com](http://www.danceforlifechicago.com).**



Image from Dance for Life. Press photos from HMS Media

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of Chicago, said he loved the ideas he heard but thought the event was flawed. Though it aimed to address a problem faced by young Black queer men aged 13-29, very few were in the audience. "I'm disappointed," Robertson said. He stressed that if youth were brought into the discussion and treated as equals, then "we wouldn't have all these attitudes, arguments, debates. This in here is an implosion. There's an explosion going on outside. [Youth] should be in here. Period."

"There's no faith in my generation," he continued. "We have innovative ways, we have a connection. Have a little faith. ... We're not going to steer you wrong. We want to make sure [these young people] are going to be our doctors to take care of us. We want to help them, trust me." Green announced that the CBGMC would hold a second event that focused exclusively on fostering youth voices and creating youth-led solutions. No date has been set.

**A list of ideas generated at the Aug. 11 event will be posted at: <http://chiblackgay-caucus.org/>**



## Audience members discuss statistics, solutions



# Chicagoans help people with AIDS in Vietnam

BY CAMILLE BEREDJICK

AIDS is a four-letter word—especially in Vietnam. Hardly talked about and barely tolerated, HIV/AIDS is on the upswing in the Southeast Asian country and shows no signs of slowing. Vietnam remains a country with a biting stigma attached to HIV; poverty and fear of alienation keep many who contract the virus from seeking proper treatment. In a country that shuns its HIV-positive population, the Bickford-Land Clinic is a haven.

Debbie Davis and Brenda Wolfe founded the Bickford-Land Clinic in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam in August of 2006. The clinic offers physical and mental health services for about 30 people, mostly children and families, affected by HIV.

Wolfe is an HIV clinical nurse specialist at Chicago's Mount Sinai Hospital, where she directs the HIV services program and researches pediatric AIDS. She says it's been a long-standing dream to work in international HIV treatment and prevention. Davis owns a tax services business and considers her work completely unrelated to the field of HIV.

They're both fond of travel, and a one-week trip through Vietnam in 2004 put them face-to-face with a need for HIV care they did not expect. They had stumbled upon a problem bigger than both of them, and together they sat down to find a solution.

Friends for at least a decade and now partners in business, Davis and Wolfe are quick to emphasize one another's contributions to the creation of Bickford-Land Clinic. Wolfe used her network at Mount Sinai to contact physicians and pharmacists in Vietnam with experience treating HIV/AIDS. Davis researched organizations in Vietnam that focused on helping mothers and children with HIV; she found no such group.

"We had hoped to partner with an existing organization there but we found there was nobody to partner with," said Davis, the clinic's director of social services.

Wolfe and Davis did track down one woman in Vietnam who took care of a few HIV-positive kids, mainly to "keep these children out of orphanages." But she lacked the resources to provide thorough care for the children; they saw a physician only every few months, and the woman kept their records on note cards. Wolfe and Davis realized she was doing the best she could and decided they'd take over from there.

Hesitant to open their doors to government control in a Communist country, Davis and Wolfe decided the clinic would function most effec-



Staff members and patients of the Bickford-Land Clinic in Vietnam gather during a group outing in 2010. The clinic serves about 30 people. Photos courtesy of Brenda Wolfe

tively as a private organization. They found a westernized clinic that had opened three months prior where they could rent space and contract their services. Using U.S. guidelines, Wolfe trained Vietnamese doctors to become specialists in treating HIV-positive children.

"The government is aware that we're functioning and they could shut us down at any point in time," said Wolfe, the clinic's medical director. "However, they know we're doing good work."

The World Health Organization estimates a 0.5 percent adult HIV prevalence rate in Vietnam as of 2007, though limited information is available about the number of infected children under 15. Reports from groups like Family Health International suggest Ho Chi Minh City, where the clinic is located, is the center of the epidemic.

Many Vietnamese people consider AIDS strong-

ly linked with prostitution, and the government has informally grouped it with prostitution and intravenous drug use in its list of "social evils." HIV/AIDS education and awareness were near non-existent until a United States-sponsored education program launched in Vietnam in 2003. Davis and Wolfe say the stigma is not only present, but obvious, especially when they compare Vietnamese attitudes with those in other countries. Wolfe recalls one visit when a cab driver started chatting with her about what she was doing in Vietnam. When she told him, he stopped talking and said he only spoke Vietnamese.

"Vietnam was very slow in Southeast Asia in even recognizing HIV, so the growth rate was just extraordinary," Davis said. "In Thailand, you go there and the cab driver gives you a condom."

Patients come to the clinic mostly by referral from churches; the stigma against HIV drives people away from hospital-based clinics and towards private care for confidentiality reasons, a need Davis says the LGBT community can understand even in the United States. Bickford-Land only accepts patients who are infected with the virus because large-scale testing efforts cost too much.

The clinic's approach to HIV care is holistic: mind and body, Wolfe explains. A part-time staff of five—a physician, dentist, nurse, social worker and assistant—provide medications, physical exams, mental health services and dental work.

"It was almost impossible for these kids to receive dental care because no dentist was willing to work with them in the past," Davis said. "[A dentist told us,] 'We will bring dental services to you. If our paying customers find out there are HIV children in our waiting room, we will lose our customers. The stigma is a real problem.'"

As another service, the clinic allows families affected by HIV to borrow \$50 in business loans

to start a business and rebuild their lives. Wolfe said the program has created many success stories, from the man who wakes up at 4:30 every morning to work at the bed-and-breakfast he started to the women who make a living selling jewelry.

"HIV isn't the end of your life or the end of your world," Wolfe said. "We've helped them get on their feet and they're very happy and healthy."

For HIV-positive women who want to have children, the clinic offers birth education services about how to keep from transmitting HIV to their baby. With proper care, Wolfe says, the risk of mother-to-child transmission of the virus is just one percent. She and Davis believe women have the right to have children if they so desire, and they're helping HIV-positive women to do it safely.

Part of this process simply comes down to testing; stigma and poverty in third-world countries stand in the way of many women getting tested for HIV. But knowing a woman's HIV status can make all the difference—that's part of the reasoning behind the Illinois Perinatal HIV Prevention Act, a law mandating pregnant women be tested for HIV unless they decline. Birth procedures may change drastically if a woman is HIV-positive, and simply knowing a pregnant woman is positive can help lessen the risk she'll have an HIV-positive baby.

"If you can identify whether the mother is HIV-positive, there's really no reason to have a child with HIV anymore," Davis said. "In third-world countries, just to get these women tested is such an extraordinary thing."

Wolfe says she's sure there are services available for Vietnam's LGBT population, but Bickford-Land Clinic serves a different group of people. Women and children constitute much (if not all) of the clinic's clientele, but it's not because of dangerous sexual practices or drug use.



Brenda Wolfe, left, and Debbie Davis work at a Bickford-Land Clinic booth during Chicago's River East Festival last year. They sold Vietnamese gifts, some made by patients at the clinic.

High prostitution in Vietnam contributed to the country's fast-growing HIV rate, she speculates, and many women have had to suffer because of choices their husbands made.

"There are more women and children now that are getting infected because of the husband's earlier escapades out of marriage," Wolfe said. "You're seeing a newer population of infections in women and children, and it's not because of their habits. It's their innocence and trust in the man that they're with."

Four times a year, the clinic staff takes the kids out just to be kids. They'll take field trips to the park or plan family parties, complete with snacks, lunches and drinks. The staff meets in person as often as possible too; Wolfe explains it's an important part of both the HIV/AIDS field and of Asian culture to establish trusting relationships with one another.

The clinic is funded by 5 Loaves 2 Fishes Foundation, a United States nonprofit created solely to support Bickford-Land. Money's been tight since the clinic's "angel funder," whose donation established the organization, had to leave the group a year ago (Wolfe serves as the foundation's president while Davis is its treasurer).

There's also funding available from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention set aside specially for international HIV clinics, but Wolfe and Davis expect that will run out soon. As a result, they're paying for much of it themselves.

"We've been able to maintain, but we have not been able to expand into something run internationally wide," Wolfe said. "When we started, [we took] five new kids a year. We've had to put a cap on that. ... We'd love to find some funding. That's what we're struggling with right now."

Fundraising events with friends, family and the community have also helped keep the clinic in business. For example, Davis and Wolfe set up a 5 Loaves 2 Fishes Foundation stand at Chicago's Northalsted Market Days on Aug. 13 and 14. They planned to take donations and sell scarves, jewelry, silk purses and other "souvenirs" from Vietnam, some handmade by the patients themselves.

The two rely on mileage donations to visit the clinic at least yearly, and they often ask donors for Costco gift certificates to cover vitamins and other basics. Davis and Wolfe used to visit the clinic in Vietnam more often, but it's not financially possible anymore.

"I continue to have meetings with my staff to make sure kids are doing well," Wolfe says. "Whether I'm there or not, I'm with my staff 100 percent of the time."

With dreams in mind of one day expanding the clinic, Wolfe and Davis plan to continue going it alone. Creating and running Bickford-Land has become as much a part of their lives as their daily routines in the United States.

Wolfe's work at Mount Sinai has helped minimize the number of babies born with HIV, with the last positive born in 2004. She says the joy of a bringing an HIV-negative child into the world is universal.

"You get fulfilled by the fact that you can tell a woman, 'Yes, you can have a baby! You can tell families their child is HIV-negative,'" Wolfe says. "The greater AIDS movement is trying to provide a greater quality of life ... [and] we're trying to provide the opportunity for families to grow."

For Davis, whose job keeps her working outside of HIV/AIDS, the experience is humbling.

"You see such extraordinary need," Davis says. "It makes your life seem so small in comparison."

**For more information or to donate to 5 Loaves 2 Fishes Foundation, visit their website at [www.5and2.org](http://www.5and2.org).**

# Attorney Barry Taylor puts his time where his heart is

BY JOHN J. ACCROCCO

This spring's annual Season of Concern Larry Sloan Awards marked a special theatrical occasion with a star-studded reading of the classic film *All About Eve*, but for one Chicagoan the evening was even more touching. "It was a great event, we had a great venue and an even better turn-out," said Barry Taylor, the winner of the Larry Sloan Heritage Award for his dedication to the organization.

Taylor has helped with Season of Concern, which helps area theater professionals, since getting involved in 1994 while doing some community theatre in the suburbs with former Season of Concern board president, Cathy Davis.

Together with others, Davis and Taylor helped produce a benefit called *A Time to Act* to raise awareness about HIV/AIDS in the suburbs and raise critical funds for Season of Concern. Since then, Taylor has helped produce seven other benefits for Season of Concern with his goal being, "to raise money for AIDS service organizations and provide direct care for theater professionals living with HIV/AIDS."

Taylor was the Season of Concern board president from 2001 to 2005. He spent two more years on the board as vice president until 2007. Taylor's job as board president was to decide the overall mission for the organization, which included the delegation of grants to various HIV/AIDS direct-care charities.

Taylor is a Chicago lawyer who works as the legal advocacy director for Equip for Equality, a non-profit organization designed to ensure the Protection and Advocacy (P&M) Systems in Illinois. Since graduating from law school at the University of Illinois in 1988, Taylor's legal interests have shifted toward a desire to help with civil-rights issues.

He left his job as a litigation attorney at a private firm in the 1990s and worked as the AIDS Project Attorney for Lambda Legal, the largest LGBT legal organization in the country. Lambda Legal's Midwest regional office is in Chicago and during his time there Taylor represented clients with HIV/AIDS. He also worked on HIV policy issues and educated people with HIV about their rights. One controversial case handled by Taylor while at Lambda Legal was on behalf of a Chicago Public School teacher who was outed as HIV+ after truthfully answering an application question.

"Because of the Americans with Disabilities Act, asking HIV status on a job application is



Barry Taylor receives his award from Season of Concern in Spring 2011. Photos by Hal Baim

illegal by federal law," Taylor said. "After this teacher had disclosed his status the Chicago Public School board gave him a second questionnaire with even more intrusive questions having to do with his lifestyle and how he contracted the virus. Since this case, no one applying with the Chicago Public Schools has to go through this kind of questionnaire. Through my work with Lambda Legal, I have seen first-hand how people with HIV/AIDS are frequently subjected to discrimination and harassment simply because of their HIV-positive status.

"In the past 10 years federal laws have been amended to make it easier for HIV patients to protect their rights. It's becoming an easier thing to enforce as the federal disabilities act evolves," said Taylor.

A love for theater and a drive to help people living with HIV/AIDS has prompted Taylor to devote a lot of time and effort to Season of Concern. The organization, based on a similar group in New York, was started in the 1980s by people working in the Chicago theater community to raise money for the care of their colleagues with HIV/AIDS.

Around the time Taylor got involved with the organization, Larry Sloan was the executive board president. "I didn't know him terribly well but I got to see him on stage, and then I met

him at a benefit. He really inspired me to get involved with Season of Concern," Taylor said.

Sloan passed away due to AIDS complications, but his mission is no less clear today. The organization has expanded to help more than actors and theater people with HIV/AIDS but anybody involved in Chicago theater living with a catastrophic illness or injury. When Season of Concern was originally conceived, the antiretroviral AIDS/HIV drugs were years away. The group's goal in the early years "was mostly to help those in the later stages of life, but now we're dealing with more long-term care goals such as housing and medications," said Taylor.

Though May's Season of Concern *All About Eve* event was handled exceptionally by The Mayne Stage, years past have not been as easy for Season of Concern. "At all our benefits we've tried to make as much money as possible for the organization without having to spend much. One year though, the theater we were holding our event at was unwilling to wave the theater rental fee so we were thinking we would have to use money we had raised, to pay the theater. The event happened to be on the night of my birthday and my partner [Marv Pollack], as a gift to me, gave Season of Concern the rental cost, it was a really great birthday present," said Taylor. This year's benefit was also special for Taylor as he was awarded the Larry Sloan Heritage Award. "Receiving the Larry Sloan Heritage Award was especially meaningful because I had a great deal of respect and admiration for Larry Sloan," Taylor said.

Though Taylor is a father of two and has been with his long-term partner since 1995, he has personally felt the effect of HIV/AIDS.

"Recently, Will Kight, my dance partner from the *A Time To Act* benefits, passed away of HIV related illnesses, which has only motivated me more to continue to support the work of Season of Concern," Taylor said. "I love that Season of Concern relies upon the generosity of the theater community and its audiences for most of its funding. The theater community was hit hard by HIV/AIDS and Season of Concern filled an important need for those who were in desperate need for medication, housing and nutritional support."



Taylor (right) with Stephen Rader, executive director of Season of Concern, and Amy Matheny, who helped organize the benefit where Taylor was honored.

## VIEWPOINTS

WINDY CITY  
TIMES

**VOL. 26 No. 45, Aug. 17, 2011**  
The combined forces of *Windy City Times*,  
founded Sept. 1985, and *Outlines* newspaper,  
founded May 1987.

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**WEB HOSTING:** LoveYourWebsite.com (lead programmer: Martie Marro)

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**REV. IRENE  
MONROE**

## NPR's Fox-ification of ex-gay rhetoric

If it were Fox News I wouldn't have flinched—but it was National Public Radio.

To my surprise, I didn't know—especially in 2011—my sexual orientation was still up for debate. But on Aug. 1 on the "Morning Edition" of National Public Radio (NPR), it was. And the topic on the show that morning was "Can Therapy Help Change Sexual Orientation?"

"Today in Your Health, a controversy that is both political and personal. Conversion therapy is psychotherapy which aims to help gay men and women become straight. It's hardly new, but it's in the news again because the mental health clinic run by the husband of Republican presidential candidate Michele Bachmann reportedly provides such therapy," Renee Montagne, host of "Morning Edition" said.

My head spins at the thought of how Christian counseling services, like Dr. Marcus Bachmann's, still get so much air time, especially, in spite of the voluminous information disputing the pseudo-science of "ex-gay" conversion therapies.

Just three years ago, the American Psychological Association put out an official position paper stating, "The longstanding consensus of the behavioral and social sciences and the health and mental health professions is that homosexuality per se is a normal and positive variation of human sexual orientation."

The negative health outcomes both emotional and psychological these "conversion" programs exact are untold and include depression, anxiety, self-destructive behavior, sexual dysfunction, avoidance of intimacy, loss of faith and

spirituality, and the reinforcement of internalized homophobia and self-hatred, to name a few.

"It took really hard work to get my brain back and to recover from the emotional and psychological damage that I had experienced under that care," Peterson Toscano, a theatrical performance activist, stated on NPR. Toscano spent 17 years in conversion therapies and faith-based ex-gay programs. Today he's the co-founder of "Beyond Ex-Gay," an online community to help ex-gay survivors.

However, there are still groups, usually motivated by religion-based homophobic therapies and ministries like Bachmann's, who are hell-bent on the idea that LGBTQ Americans can and should be made straight.

These groups proselytize ex-gay rhetoric as both their Christian and patriotic duty.

For example, "Pray the Gay Away?," an episode of the television series *Our America* with Lisa Ling—that aired on Oprah Winfrey's OWN—Alan Chambers, president of ex-gay organization Exodus International, spoke about his surefire remedy for us LGBTQ "prodigal" children, and how his organization can help us reconcile our faith, mend our sinful lives and walk away from our supposedly wrong-headed "lifestyle" choice.

There are hordes of supposedly ex-gay "converts" who'll be poster children for these conversion therapies. However, truth be told, their conversions from being "homosexual" to "heterosexual" don't "cure" their homosexual predilections, but rather these therapies attempt to put LGBTQ people on the road to outwardly live a straight life.

"It meant probably walking away from my religion, not having the wife and children of my future that I would expect, lots of shame and conflict with family and others. It was just devastating to contemplate," Rich Wyler, who grew up in a Christian conservative family, stated on NPR.

However, the truth is that these "ex-gay" reparative therapies have a failure rate of 90 percent, and several "ex-gay" groups over the years have had to shut down when their leaders finally dealt with the reality of their own homosexual-

ity.

A case in point is John Paulk, an "ex-gay" poster boy who appeared in HRC's 2000 photo album with a one-word caption: "Gotcha!"

Wayne Besen, then-associate director of communications of the Human Rights Campaign, captured that Kodak moment as he snapped a picture of the then-37-year-old Paulk in a Washington D.C. gay bar. In the moment, pandemonium broke out in the bar, as the series of flashes from Besen's camera were assumed by some to be those of a homophobe harassing a patron. However, as Paulk hunched down trying to conceal his face, he learned that he could neither run nor hide. Paulk says he went into the bar just to use the bathroom—an unlikely story, as 40 minutes after entering the bar, he was still there, keeping company with both a drink and a fellow patron.

Paulk, a former drag queen known as Candi and a one-time first runner-up in the Miss In-genuie pageant, is presently married to a self-proclaimed former lesbian who also underwent counseling in an "ex-gay" ministry run by Exodus International. Today, they both don the drag of being heterosexually married. They prominently graced the cover of *Newsweek* in August 1998; appeared on *60 Minutes* and *Oprah*; and wrote the book that gave Focus on the Family its name for its "ex-gay" conferences: *Love Won Out*, a memoir depicting the Paulks' flight from gayhood.

"Conversion" therapies are a tool used by right-wing religious organizations to raise money and advocate against LGBTQ rights. With this money, these organizations are able to produce politically and religiously Biased Agenda-Driven (aptly abbreviated as "B.A.D.") science like "reparative therapies," attempting to justify them by presenting LGBTQ people as genetically flawed—a charge eerily reminiscent of the scientific racism and sexism that once undergirded treatment of blacks and women morally inferior due to supposed genetic flaws.

Fox News is no friend to the LGBTQ community. However, now I'm wondering about NPR.

## LETTERS

### Settling the difference

Dear Editor:

Regarding *Windy City Times*' "analysis" of Howard Brown Health Center (HBHC) published Aug. 3: It is important for members of the LGBTQA community to know—as we stated in our response to the author's questions—that HBHC is in compliance with the federal guidelines for its Federally Qualified Health Center Look-A-Like designation, which is reviewed periodically by the appropriate authorities, including a recent review. This is particularly important now, as we await the federal government's decision on our application for full FQHC status.

WCT's Aug. 3 article stated:

"Via email, we asked Jamal Edwards if the 51-percent requirement was fulfilled. However, he did not respond directly to the question, only stating that the agency was seeking FQHC status."

Yet, as you know, in direct response to your questions, on July 17 HBHC wrote:

"HBHC is in compliance with the federal guidelines for its Federally Qualified Health Center Look-A-Like designation, which is reviewed periodically by the appropriate authorities, including a recent review."

In the interests of accuracy and fairness when informing the community we collectively serve, we hope you'll carefully consider correcting any discrepancy.

HBHC remains deeply committed to providing compassionate and culturally competent care to

the entire community, regardless of their ability to pay, and to becoming the best LGBTQA health center in the country. We are a lifeline for those in need, and appreciate the community's support.

Jamal M. Edwards  
President & CEO  
Howard Brown Health Center

Yasmin Nair responds: We asked a very straightforward question to Mr. Edwards: Is the 51-percent requirement being fulfilled? We did not get an answer to that question, and duly noted that point. In this letter, Mr. Edwards is, in effect, answering a question that was not asked

and yet still does not address the issue of the 51-percent requirement. If it is perhaps the case that this requirement is negligible or unimportant, Mr. Edwards is perfectly within his rights to state that such is the case. His letter gives the impression that we deliberately sought to state that HBHC was not in compliance with federal guidelines as a whole; such is not the case.

The federal government is capable of determining a health center's eligibility for Federally Qualified Health Center status or the Look-Alike status without relying entirely on a newspaper report; I imagine that involves asking questions about matters like the 51-percent requirement, the question about which still remains unanswered.

Send letters and viewpoints to  
[Andrew@WindyCityMediaGroup.com](mailto:Andrew@WindyCityMediaGroup.com).  
Items may be edited for length or clarity.

## GOINGS-ON

WINDY CITY TIMES' ENTERTAINMENT SECTION

Photo  
by Brett  
Beiner

## 'TODD' WILLING

Sweeney Todd comes to Chicagoland. See more below.

## THEATER

'Trojan' man.  
Page 29.

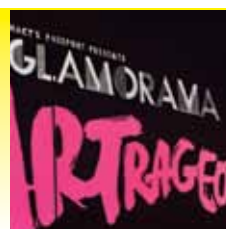
Photo by Brett Rush



## EVENTS

Glam, I am.  
Page 40.

Photo by Kat Fitzgerald



## SPORTS

Battling for life.  
Page 39.Photo of Michael Ortiz  
from Ortiz

## Scottish Play Scott

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

Broadway veterans Gregg Edleman (*City of Angels, 1776*) and Liz McCartney (*Taboo, The Phantom of the Opera*) are getting the chance to tackle two of their dream roles in Drury Lane Theatre current production of *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street*.

Yet both Edleman and McCartney are slightly cowed to respectively follow in the footsteps in Tony Award-winning actors Len Cariou as the revengeful Victorian razor-wielding title character, and Angela Lansbury as Mrs. Lovett, the over-resourceful Cockney meat pie maker.

"It's such an iconic role," McCartney said about approaching her first full crack at playing Mrs. Lovett. "Everybody would want to emulate the person who put the role on the map, especially since Angela Lansbury put such an amazing stamp on it."

Throughout rehearsals, McCartney said she started to realize how much she had to bring of herself to the role to put her own stamp on it the role.

"I want to be reverent to Angela Lansbury without mimicking her," McCartney said. "It is her role, I don't care what anyone says, but I want to do the role justice but without going so far that people saying that, 'Oh, she just wanted to be different for difference sake.'"

*Sweeney Todd* was McCartney's second Broadway show she ever saw, and the classic musical by composer/lyricist Stephen Sondheim and book writer Hugh Wheeler left a lasting impression on her. Skokie native Edleman also saw the original 1979 Broadway production, and he also can't escape the effect it had on him.

"I have to say that Len's performance [as *Sweeney Todd*] has really stuck with me," Edleman said. "It was so powerful and so raw that it sort of stays there."

Edleman is also careful not to copy Cariou's approach to the title role, and to find a way to make it fit for him (and to suit the Drury Lane's tough schedule of performances which feature back-to-back matinee and evening performances three days out of the week).

"It is one of those all-encompassing roles and now here getting the chance to play *Sweeney* is another one of those total journeys that the actor gets to go on," Edleman said. "It utilizes all of my abilities as an actor and as a singer and it's quite a thrilling challenge to put all those pieces and skills together into one performance."

Along with discovering their roles in *Sweeney Todd* with Jeff Award-winning director Rachel Rockwell, both McCartney and Edleman have had some extra outside help. McCartney boasted how she got to sing a *Sweeney Todd* duet with Tony Award-winning star George Hearn (who replaced Cariou in the original Broadway production and is featured on two video and one audio recording of the work), while Edleman has been able to bring questions to Sondheim himself (in part because Edleman worked with the esteemed composer/lyricist while originating a role in his 1994 musical *Passion* and starring in the 2002 Broadway revival of *Into the Woods*).

"I did have an opportunity to write to him and tell him that I'll be doing *Sweeney* and [Sondheim] was so helpful to me," Edleman said. "[Sondheim] said if you have any questions, please tell me, but the one caveat he said was it had to be specific questions."

Edleman made a list of about 10 questions (like *Sweeney* not having a big commonwealth accent like everyone else) and Sondheim replied with a number of reasons. (Edleman said Sondheim didn't want a thick accent for *Sweeney* so he wouldn't be colored by class distinctions.)

"He was actually a wonderful resource to be

able to call him up and say, 'Why is this this way here and why is this way that way there?'" Edleman said. "He's brilliant and an amazing communicator so he could just clarify problems I had about the character or the score in a second."

This is not only the first time both McCartney and Edleman have worked at Drury Lane, but it's also the first time the two have ever worked together despite the many Broadway credits between them (although McCartney did star on Broadway alongside Edleman's wife, Tony Award nominee Carolee Carmello, in *Mamma Mia!*).

"We're having a hard time not looking at each other," McCartney said, laughing at the fact that she and Edleman were cracking each other up during rehearsals at inopportune moments. "I think it's more that he's cracking up because I'm

forgetting my lines. He's been so great and supportive to work with."

"I didn't know what I was in store for with Liz because she has been hysterical. She's so funny and so witty and she has quite a saucy mouth—which is okay for this show," Edleman said. "As *Sweeney*, I'll have to be on my best behavior around her."

Drury Lane Theatre's *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street* continues at 100 Drury Lane, Oak Brook, through Oct. 9. Performances are at 1:30 p.m. Wednesdays; 1:30 and 8 p.m. Thursdays; 8:30 p.m. Fridays, 5 and 8:30 p.m. Saturdays; and 2 and 6 p.m. Sundays. Tickets are \$35-\$46, with \$49.75-\$68 lunch and dinner packages, depending on the day of the week. For more information, call 630-530-0111 or visit <http://www.drurylaneoakbrook.com>.



Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street. Photo by Brett Beiner

**INDICATION:** REYATAZ® (atazanavir sulfate) is a prescription medicine used in combination with other medicines to treat people 6 years of age and older who are infected with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). REYATAZ has been studied in a 48-week trial in patients who have taken anti-HIV medicines and a 96-week trial in patients who have never taken anti-HIV medicines.

**REYATAZ does not cure HIV or lower your chance of passing HIV to others.** People taking REYATAZ may still get opportunistic infections or other conditions that happen with HIV infection.

#### **IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION:**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Tell your healthcare provider if you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.** REYATAZ use during pregnancy has not been associated with an increase in birth defects. Pregnant women have experienced serious side effects when taking REYATAZ with other HIV medicines called nucleoside analogues. **After your baby is born,** tell your healthcare provider if your baby's skin or the white part of his/her eyes turns yellow. **You should not breast-feed** if you are HIV-positive.

**Also tell your healthcare provider if you have end-stage kidney disease** managed with hemodialysis or **severe liver dysfunction.**

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

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

If you or someone you know needs help paying for medicine, call 1-888-4PPA-NOW (1-888-477-2669). Or go to [www.pparx.org](http://www.pparx.org)



#### **IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION (cont'd):**

- **Severe rash** may develop with other symptoms that could be serious and potentially cause death. **If you develop a rash with any of the following symptoms, stop using REYATAZ and call your healthcare provider right away:**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- **Immune reconstitution syndrome** has been seen in some patients with advanced HIV infection (AIDS) and a history of opportunistic infection. Signs and symptoms of inflammation from previous infections may occur soon after starting anti-HIV treatment, including REYATAZ.

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

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

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

**You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit [www.fda.gov/medwatch](http://www.fda.gov/medwatch) or call 1-800-FDA-1088.**

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

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

REYATAZ is a registered trademark of Bristol-Myers Squibb. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners and not of Bristol-Myers Squibb.



# DETERMINED + UNDETECTABLE

REYATAZ CAN HELP GET YOU TO UNDETECTABLE,  
SO YOU CAN FIGHT HIV YOUR WAY.

## ONCE-DAILY REYATAZ IN HIV COMBINATION THERAPY:

- Can help lower your viral load to undetectable\* and help raise your T-cell (CD4+ cell) count
- Has been prescribed by physicians for more than 200,000 HIV patients since 2003†
- Can be taken by adults who are starting HIV treatment for the first time and adults who have already been on HIV treatment

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

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

Individual results may vary.

Ask your healthcare team how REYATAZ in combination therapy can help get you to undetectable.

**REYATAZ**<sup>®</sup>  
(atazanavir sulfate) 200 mg/300 mg capsules

Fight HIV your way.

[www.REYATAZ.com](http://www.REYATAZ.com)

\* Undetectable was defined as a viral load of less than 400 copies/mL.

† Wolters Kluwer, SDI Product Brand Report, Total Patient Tracker, November 2010.

## FDA-Approved Patient Labeling

Rx ONLY

## Patient Information

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

**ALERT: Find out about medicines that should NOT be taken with REYATAZ (atazanavir sulfate).** Read the section “What important information should I know about taking REYATAZ with other medicines?”

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

**What is REYATAZ?**

REYATAZ is a prescription medicine used with other anti-HIV medicines to treat people 6 years of age and older who are infected with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). HIV is the virus that causes acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS). REYATAZ is a type of anti-HIV medicine called a protease inhibitor. HIV infection destroys CD4+ (T) cells, which are important to the immune system. The immune system helps fight infection. After a large number of (T) cells are destroyed, AIDS develops. REYATAZ helps to block HIV protease, an enzyme that is needed for the HIV virus to multiply. REYATAZ may lower the amount of HIV in your blood, help your body keep its supply of CD4+ (T) cells, and reduce the risk of death and illness associated with HIV.

**Does REYATAZ cure HIV or AIDS?**

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

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

**Who should not take REYATAZ?****Do not take REYATAZ if you:**

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

**What should I tell my healthcare provider before I take REYATAZ?****Tell your healthcare provider:**

- **If you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.** REYATAZ use during pregnancy has not been associated with an increase in birth defects. Pregnant women have experienced serious side effects when taking REYATAZ with other HIV medicines called nucleoside analogues. You and your healthcare provider will need to decide if REYATAZ is right for you. If you use REYATAZ while you are pregnant, talk to your healthcare provider about the Antiretroviral Pregnancy Registry.
  - **After your baby is born,** tell your healthcare provider if your baby’s skin or the white part of his/her eyes turns yellow.
- **If you are breast-feeding.** You should not breast-feed if you are HIV-positive because of the chance of passing HIV to your baby. Also, it is not known if REYATAZ can pass into your breast milk and if it can harm your baby. If you are a woman who has or will have a baby, talk with your healthcare provider about the best way to feed your baby.
- **If you have liver problems or are infected with the hepatitis B or C virus.** See “What are the possible side effects of REYATAZ?”
- **If you have end stage kidney disease** managed with hemodialysis.
- **If you have diabetes.** See “What are the possible side effects of REYATAZ?”
- **If you have hemophilia.** See “What are the possible side effects of REYATAZ?”

**REYATAZ® (atazanavir sulfate)**

- **About all the medicines you take** including prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. Keep a list of your medicines with you to show your healthcare provider. For more information, see “What important information should I know about taking REYATAZ with other medicines?” and “Who should not take REYATAZ?” Some medicines can cause serious side effects if taken with REYATAZ.

**How should I take REYATAZ?**

- **Take REYATAZ once every day exactly as instructed by your healthcare provider.** Your healthcare provider will prescribe the amount of REYATAZ that is right for you.
- **Always take REYATAZ with food** (a meal or snack) to help it work better. Swallow the capsules whole. **Do not open the capsules.** Take REYATAZ at the same time each day.
- **If you are taking antacids or didanosine (VIDEX® or VIDEX® EC),** take REYATAZ 2 hours before or 1 hour after these medicines.
- **If you are taking medicines for indigestion, heartburn, or ulcers such as AXID® (nizatidine), PEPCID AC® (famotidine), TAGAMET® (cimetidine), ZANTAC® (ranitidine), AcipHex® (rabeprazole), NEXIUM® (esomeprazole), PREVACID® (lansoprazole), PRILOSEC® (omeprazole), or PROTONIX® (pantoprazole),** talk to your healthcare provider.
- **Do not change your dose or stop taking REYATAZ without first talking with your healthcare provider.** It is important to stay under a healthcare provider’s care while taking REYATAZ.
- **When your supply of REYATAZ starts to run low,** get more from your healthcare provider or pharmacy. It is important not to run out of REYATAZ. The amount of HIV in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time.
- **If you miss a dose of REYATAZ,** take it as soon as possible and then take your next scheduled dose at its regular time. If, however, it is within 6 hours of your next dose, do not take the missed dose. Wait and take the next dose at the regular time. Do not double the next dose. **It is important that you do not miss any doses of REYATAZ or your other anti-HIV medicines.**
- **If you take more than the prescribed dose of REYATAZ,** call your healthcare provider or poison control center right away.

**What are the possible side effects of REYATAZ?**

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

**The following side effects have been reported with REYATAZ:**

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

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

- shortness of breath
- general ill feeling or “flu-like” symptoms
- fever
- muscle or joint aches
- conjunctivitis (red or inflamed eyes, like “pink eye”)
- blisters
- mouth sores
- swelling of your face
- **yellowing of the skin or eyes.** These effects may be due to increases in bilirubin levels in the blood (bilirubin is made by the liver). Although these effects may not be damaging to your liver, skin, or eyes, call your healthcare provider promptly if your skin or the white part of your eyes turn yellow.
- **a change in the way your heart beats (heart rhythm change).** Call your healthcare provider right away if you get dizzy or lightheaded. These could be symptoms of a heart problem.
- **diabetes and high blood sugar (hyperglycemia)** sometimes happen in patients taking protease inhibitor medicines like REYATAZ. Some patients had diabetes before taking protease inhibitors while others did not. Some patients may need changes in their diabetes medicine.
- **if you have liver disease** including hepatitis B or C, your liver disease may get worse when you take anti-HIV medicines like REYATAZ.
- **kidney stones** have been reported in patients taking REYATAZ. If you develop signs or symptoms of kidney stones (pain in your side, blood in your urine, pain when you urinate) tell your healthcare provider promptly.

**REYATAZ® (atazanavir sulfate)**

- **some patients with hemophilia** have increased bleeding problems with protease inhibitors like REYATAZ.
- **changes in body fat.** These changes may include an increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck (“buffalo hump”), breast, and around the trunk. Loss of fat from the legs, arms, and face may also happen. The cause and long-term health effects of these conditions are not known at this time.
- **immune reconstitution syndrome.** In some patients with advanced HIV infection (AIDS) and a history of opportunistic infection, signs and symptoms of inflammation from previous infections may occur soon after anti-HIV treatment, including REYATAZ, is started.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**The following medicines are not recommended with REYATAZ:**

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

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

- VFEND® (voriconazole).

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

- CIALIS® (tadalafil), LEVITRA® (vardenafil), or VIAGRA® (sildenafil), used to treat erectile dysfunction. REYATAZ may increase the chances of serious side effects that can happen with CIALIS, LEVITRA, or VIAGRA. Do not use CIALIS, LEVITRA, or VIAGRA while you are taking REYATAZ unless your healthcare provider tells you it is okay.
- ADCIRCA® (tadalafil) or TRACLEER® (bosentan), used to treat pulmonary arterial hypertension.
- LIPITOR® (atorvastatin) or CRESTOR® (rosuvastatin). There is an increased chance of serious side effects if you take REYATAZ with this cholesterol-lowering medicine.
- Medicines for abnormal heart rhythm: CORDARONE® (amiodarone), lidocaine, quinidine (also known as CARDIOQUIN®, QUINIDEX®, and others).
- MYCOBUTIN® (rifabutin, an antibiotic used to treat tuberculosis).

**REYATAZ® (atazanavir sulfate)**

- BUPRENEX®, SUBUTEX®, SUBOXONE®, (buprenorphine or buprenorphine/naloxone, used to treat pain and addiction to narcotic painkillers).
- VASCOR® (bepidil, used for chest pain).
- COUMADIN® (warfarin).
- Tricyclic antidepressants such as ELAVIL® (amitriptyline), NORPRAMIN® (desipramine), SINEQUAN® (doxepin), SURMONTIL® (trimipramine), TOFRANIL® (imipramine), or VIVACTIL® (protriptyline).
- Medicines to prevent organ transplant rejection: SANDIMMUNE® or NEORAL® (cyclosporin), RAPAMUNE® (sirolimus), or PROGRAF® (tacrolimus).
- The antidepressant trazodone (DESYREL® and others).
- Fluticasone propionate (FLONASE®, FLOVENT®), given by nose or inhaled to treat allergic symptoms or asthma. Your doctor may choose not to keep you on fluticasone, especially if you are also taking NORVIR®.
- Colchicine (COLCRYS®), used to prevent or treat gout or treat familial Mediterranean fever.

**The following medicines may require a change in the dose or dose schedule of either REYATAZ or the other medicine:**

- INVIRASE® (saquinavir).
- NORVIR® (ritonavir).
- SUSTIVA® (efavirenz).
- Antacids or buffered medicines.
- VIDEX® (didanosine).
- VIREAD® (tenofovir disoproxil fumarate).
- MYCOBUTIN® (rifabutin).
- Calcium channel blockers such as CARDIZEM® or TIAZAC® (diltiazem), COVERA-HS® or ISOPTIN SR® (verapamil) and others.
- BIAXIN® (clarithromycin).
- Medicines for indigestion, heartburn, or ulcers such as AXID® (nizatidine), PEPCID AC® (famotidine), TAGAMET® (cimetidine), or ZANTAC® (ranitidine).

**Talk to your healthcare provider about choosing an effective method of contraception.** REYATAZ may affect the safety and effectiveness of hormonal contraceptives such as birth control pills or the contraceptive patch. Hormonal contraceptives do not prevent the spread of HIV to others.

**Remember:**

1. **Know all the medicines you take.**
2. **Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take.**
3. **Do not start a new medicine without talking to your healthcare provider.**

**How should I store REYATAZ?**

- Store REYATAZ Capsules at room temperature, 59° to 86° F (15° to 30° C). Do **not** store this medicine in a damp place such as a bathroom medicine cabinet or near the kitchen sink.
- Keep your medicine in a tightly closed container.
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We Live Here. Photo by Amanda Clifford

## THEATER REVIEW

### We Live Here

Playwright: various authors

At: Theatre Seven of Chicago

at the Greenhouse, 2257 N. Lincoln Ave.

Phone: 773-404-7336; \$18-\$25

Runs through: Sept. 11

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

"You don't move into Chicago—Chicago moves into you!" caution the voices haunting a newly arrived young student who soon finds himself afflicted with an illness from which he will emerge convinced that the benevolent intervention of his adopted home was responsible for his recovery. He's not the first urban immigrant whose faith is put to the test—before the evening is over, we will meet daredevil bicycle messengers and reckless automobile drivers, disgruntled waiters and compassionate baseball fans, lonely matrons and wide-eyed country boys. Some will be treated kindly by their foster city, and some not.

This kind of anthology drama is the stock-in-trade of the company calling itself Theatre Seven of Chicago (note the suffix). Whether authored by a single writer, as in Marisa Wegrzyn's *Diversey Harbor*, or collected from several narrators, as in *The Chicago Landmark Project*, its multiple vantage serves to amplify the diversity of experiences recounted by those dwelling

within the Big Windy's municipal limits. None are the stuff of high tragedy: losing one's job, one's boyfriend, one's ball game—even one's unborn child or one's memory—are only single chapters in journeys still blessed with time for making fresh starts. Our knowing this, as the speakers do not, doesn't prevent each monologue engaging us immediately, nevertheless.

Evidence of the slate's hasty assembly to meet a deadline involving a company member's imminent departure is reflected in the generic bridging device of a suburban-raised teenager riding the El in search of adventure, as well as in the orchestrated movement and spoken-word harmonies augmenting the sometimes slim solo vocals. What the transitional material may lack in originality, however, it redeems in ensemble-based performance under the direction of Cassy Sanders and Margot Bordelon.

Now that the city's offices of Culture and Tourism have joined forces, isn't it high time the latter created a theater space along the Mag Mile—I hear there's an empty *Borders* for rent—specifically for plays delivering a panoramic view of Chicago from perspectives historical, geographical and up-close personal? (A *Twist Of Water*, *Northwest Highway*, the aforementioned *Chicago Landmark Project* and the ongoing *El Stories* series are just a few from this last season.) What better way to introduce visitors to the many faces of the metropolis at the crossroads of America?

## SPOTLIGHT



Start stocking up on your doses of comedy caffeine to prepare for the **2nd Playground Improv Marathon**. Improv troupe K.C. Redheart is preparing 30 continuous comic hours of improv to benefit the Namaste Charter School and The Playground Theater. Each hour consists of a new show featuring guests from companies like The Second City, iO, Comedy Sportz and more. Get in on the improv insanity from 5 p.m. Friday, Aug. 26, through to 11 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 27, at The Playground Theater, 3209 N. Halsted St. Ticket prices vary with \$5 for matinee hours, \$10 for prime time hours, or \$25 passes for the entire marathon. For more information on the 2nd Playground Improv Marathon, call 773-871-3793 or visit <http://www.The-Playground.com>. Photo courtesy of K.C. Redheart and Guy F. Wicke



## THEATER REVIEW

### In Pursuit

Playwright: Breahan Eve Pautsch

At: Hobo Junction Productions

(The Second Stage Theater,  
3408 N. Sheffield)

Phone: 800-838-3006; \$15

Runs through: Sept. 11

BY STEVEN CHAITMAN

In television and film, we're used to aliens arriving on Earth with the intent of violently eradicating the human race in order to absorb our resources, not with the hope of peacefully assimilating somewhere in Wisconsin. That's the focus of *In Pursuit*, a new sci-fi comedy from Breahan Eve Pautsch and Hobo Junction Productions over at the Second Stage Theater.

A pair of blue aliens outfitted in men's shorts and polos plucked from a department store bargain rack are set to meet with a few human employees of a government agency tasked with providing work visas for such beings. One and Two as they're called, desperately hope to make a good impression using proper Earth-American party-hosting etiquette, but things begin to domino out of control starting with the arrival of their loud and rambunctious cousin (aptly named Three). Plus, their guests seem to bring their own peculiarities to the party.

Extraterrestrial science fiction and the stage do not exactly have the best relationship. It's not easy to construct an otherworldly character that an audience can definitively perceive as such in a live close-up medium, especially in a short play aiming for comedy. Although *In Pursuit* makes for a quick hour of silly fun, it loses its trajectory and ends up a bit chaotic and fruitless as a concept intended to provoke thought.

For one, the play descends into a farce rather quickly without fully capturing its alien characters. Considering One (Cassandra Clingon) and Two (Lauren Robertson) desperately wish to behave humanly, we don't get to observe them behaving completely as their own species. When their human counterparts

enter the scene, the goofiness has already begun and too many characters need to be accounted for. These humans are also comedic caricatures with their own agendas and suddenly several pieces of the ensemble compete for our attention.

Soon thereafter, however, Pautsch's ideas do start to blossom in terms of the creative ways in which her play provokes a discourse on social issues. For example, One and Two have no gender, so when they must identify for the sake of paperwork, discussion ensues that exposes just how rooted sexism is in society. Also, because they are in a relationship, the play draws overt connections to gay marriage. At this point, the deftly clueless Special Agent Banks (Travis Barnhart) mentions One and Two could go to Iowa, except no one in America would recognize their union.

Yet just as we begin to see the meat behind the play's entire concept, the story devolves into a murder mystery and the alien characters literally take a seat, as do the amusing, vibrant talents of the actresses playing them. Enter General Rex Winters (Christopher Rex Jacobs), a mean-talking Southern Jewish gay man with a daughter, and what seems bold and unconventional gets a bit messy despite the boost in humor.

The mostly likable characters and old-fashioned shenanigans of *In Pursuit* make for successful entertainment in the most general sense, but as far as planting some unique thoughts with science fiction and properly utilizing the genre's best tools to bolster the humor, the play simply never makes it that far. The shuffle of subplots and over-the-top characters is too loud to let the ideas flourish half as much as the on-stage fun does.



In Pursuit. Photo by Rachel Renee

## Andrew Dits in 'Memoirs' Aug. 19 in Indiana

Andrew Dits will star in the one-man show *Memoirs of Jesus*, a play by Father Harry Cronin, Friday, Aug. 19, at the First United Methodist Church, 333 N. Main St., South Bend, Ind., at 7:30 p.m.

Dits, an actor who lives in Los Angeles, is a native of South Bend. Lampkin Music Group is producing the show. Dits plays multiple characters—Jesus, Mary, Judas, Satan and a prostitute—in the play.

Tickets are \$10, and are available at the door. Call 574-233-9463.



Andrew Dits.

## CRITICS' PICKS

**The Homosexuals**, About Face Theatre at the Biograph, extended through Aug. 21. A decade in the life of a once-naive young gay man, told via two-person flashbacks through friends and lovers. Philip Dawkins's serio-comic world premiere is smart writing, well-acted. JA

**Side Man**, Ka-Tet Theatre Company at City Lit, through Aug. 20. Our hero's parents may have been unfit to raise a child, but that's how it was in the 1950s for big-band musicians facing extinction with the rise of rock-and-roll in Warren Leight's nostalgic look at the jazz subculture that once ruled New York's Greenwich Village. MSB

**Sky's the Limit (Weather Permitting)**, Second City e.t.c., in an open run. American aspirationalism gets spoofed with sarcastic pessimism in this great new comedy revue that unabashedly leans left with its wit and humor. SCM

**The Trestle At Pope Lick Creek**, Eclipse Theatre at the Greenhouse, through Sept. 4. Part social drama and part neo-gothic romance, Naomi Wallace's eerie tale of teenagers and parents adrift in America's mining regions during the Great Depression is a haunting caveat on our own troubled times. MSB

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge and Morgan



The Trojan War...  
Photo by Brett Rush

**THEATER REVIEW**

**The Trojan War, or How One Bad Apple Spoiled The World**

Playwright: Jessica Puller  
At: Inconceivable Theatre at the Apollo Studio, 2540 N. Lincoln Ave.  
Phone: 312-935-6100; \$12  
Runs through: Aug. 29

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

It's still the most extensively documented war in Western history. Three thousand years later, scholars still scrutinize the recorded facts of the long and bloody invasion of Troy by the neighboring kingdom of Sparta, their analyses complicated by the assumption on the part of the chroniclers in Homer's age of intervention by polytheistic divinities figuring more significantly in the outcome than nowadays. That said, there is nothing startling in the notion of the major characters associated with that debacle sharing quarters in the underworld for all eternity. Nor

does it come as any surprise—since Eris (goddess of discord, for those of you who didn't do your homework) is one of the roommates—that Helen, Paris and Aphrodite continue to bicker over who is to blame for the slaughter.

Oh, we may think we know the story of the Trojan war—Menelaus' runaway wife, Hector's defiled corpse, Odysseus' booby-trapped horse and all that dusty tabloid gossip. To these celebrities, however, we are an audience of strangers offering them an opportunity to plead their cases before an unbiased jury. They promptly commence recounting their own disparate versions of the events leading up to the conflict, beginning with the rigged beauty contest where Paris awarded the golden apple prize to Aphrodite. As the in-depth reports of seemingly-unimportant decisions engendering cataclysmic consequences increase, we come to realize that war's cause is never simple, nor its conduct less than horrifying.

Jessica Puller's play likewise begins on a deceptively light note, its personnel a catalogue of modern pop-stereotypes—airheaded socialite, brainy profeminist, dimwit jock, bossy den-mother—whose mannerisms the actors tend to oversell. Also impeding the flow of Puller's 85-minute script are a series of interruptive

pacifist aphorisms rendered in voice-over, presumably as a bridging device, but instead raising questions better introduced in a study guide for post-show discussions (the power of arguments inspiring tragedies to this day need no additional annotations). Under Tony Dobrowolski's keen

direction, however, the tone soon shifts away from youth-market chirpiness, so gradually that we are barely aware of the darkness descending, to encompass tales of atrocities to make us shudder. You didn't forget about Andromache and poor little Astyanax, did you?

**THEATER REVIEW**

**Family Devotions**

Playwright: David Henry Hwang  
At: Halcyon Theatre at the Greenhouse, 2257 N. Lincoln Ave.  
Phone: 773-404-7336; \$10-\$25  
Runs through: Sept. 4

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

David Henry Hwang wasn't always the world-famous playwright he is today. In the early 1980s, he was merely another disenfranchised Asian-American author writing about—well, being Asian-American. In this 1981 portrait—dedicated to, among others, Sam Shepard—he looks at three generations of a Chinese family now living comfortably in Los Angeles during the second half of the 20th century.

It's not a pretty picture. Ama and Popo, the clan's native Chinese matriarchs, have mythologized their memories of the Japanese occupation in World War II and the subsequent Communist revolution to emerge as stubbornly unreconstructed as a pair of Dixie-bred dowagers. Joanne and Hannah, their respective daughters, have both married beneath their station—one husband is (gasp!) second-generation Japanese-American and the other, an immigrant from ("Shhh! Neighbors will hear!") the port city of Shanghai. The grandchildren, musician Chester and would-be dancer Jenny, yearn to escape the tribal tensions exacerbated by the grannies' Christian convictions, acquired in girlhood from a revivalist missionary. Ah, but today, a visitor from the People's

Republic of China is coming to dinner—and, with him, the truth behind the legends.

The value of truth is a fundamentally western concept, restricted to citizens of privilege sufficient to protect them, should their "truth" prove embarrassing to governments exercising absolute power. Chinese parents are more inclined to indoctrinate their offspring in the wisdom of denying inconvenient "truths" and adherence to the zeitgeist of the moment. Thus, when the elderly uncle arrives, he promptly finds himself implored by his sisters to distort his experience in conformity to theirs—even to having an amen-snorting exorcism inflicted upon him when he refuses—while nephew-in-law Robert expounds on the virtues of a democracy where even a vulgar nobody like himself can suffer crimes usually reserved for VIPs. Is it any wonder that Chester warns their bewildered guest to flee before he's brainwashed by the culture that invented that term?

All this would be inexorably depressing if taken seriously, but Halcyon Theatre director Jenn Adams has prudently chosen to pace her production at a speed emphasizing the humor of newly affluent SoCal dwellers struggling with fashionable cuisinarts, microwaves and automatic grillers. The cast is uniformly excellent, fearlessly immersing themselves in personalities nowadays largely relegated to ethnic stereotype. Special mention, however, is due the courageous Mia Park, whose intractable Ama is a saber-toothed Tiger Mom dispensing policy as draconian as that of the totalitarian states she now purports to deplore.

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**In the Next Room**  
*or the vibrator play*  
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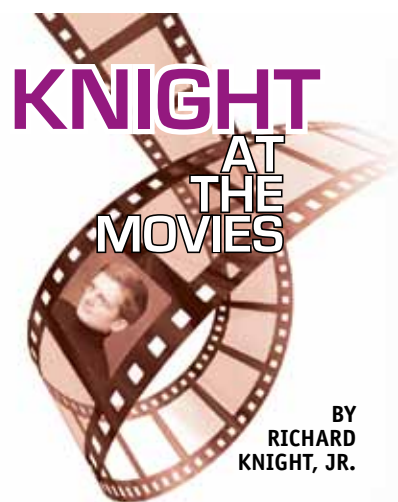
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## Fright Night; This Time: A Music Documentary

Writer-director Tom Holland's 1985 film **Fright Night**—aside from being a cheerful blend of comedy and horror and a perfect microcosm of '80s guilty-pleasure cinema (cue the synthesizers)—is also memorable to queer audiences because its chock-full of gay subtext.

The movie features a fun, over-the-top performance from the late gay actor Roddy McDowall as horror-TV host Peter Vincent; and a cute-as-a-button Amanda Bearse, who later came out of the closet, as the love interest of young hero Charley Brewster (played by William Ragsdale). In turn, Brewster suspects that his new neighbor—the elegant, scarf-wearing Chris Sarandon—is a vampire (complete with a hunky, woman-hating assistant played by Jonathan Stark).

Then there's Stephen Geoffreys as Charley's adorable best friend, "Evil," who becomes a victim of the vampire in a scene in which Sarandon enfolds the spiky-haired teenager into his cape with the promise, "No one will ever laugh at you again"—hinting that at a life of homophobic taunts and gay bashings is about to be exchanged for eternal life. In this case, the subtext is twice as powerful, as Geoffreys later turned to acting in gay porn (though of late he's returned to the horror genre).

Now director Craig Gillespie and screenwriter Marti Noxon (using Holland's story as a template) have given us a remake of **Fright Night** for a new generation and I am happy to report that, although the homoeroticism isn't nearly as palpable, the remake has the same jokey, snarky tone of the original mixed with plenty of genuine, delicious scares.

The action has switched to Vegas, which gives

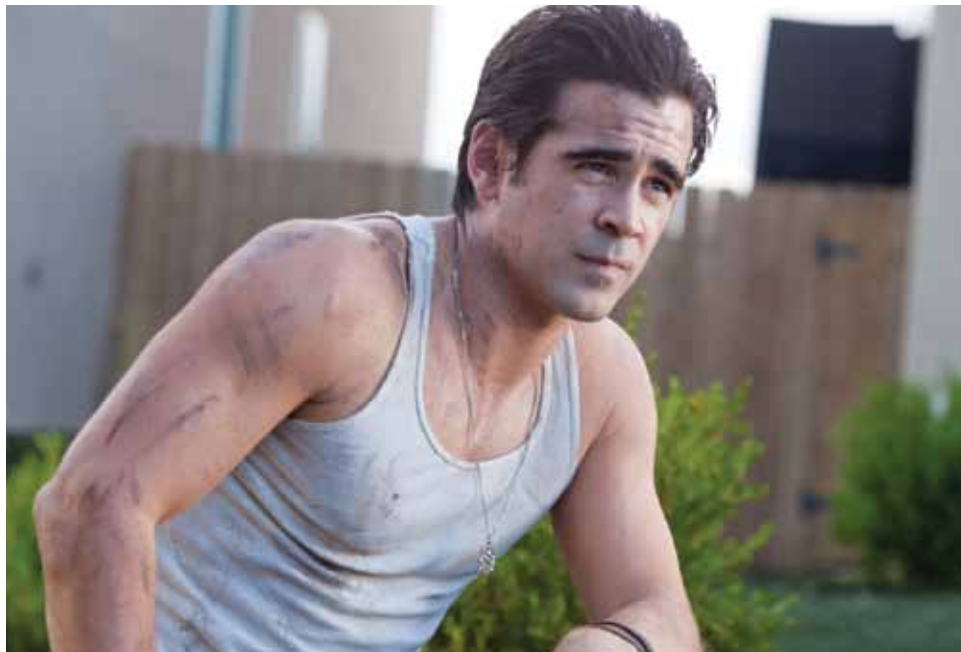


**The Sweet Inspirations in This Time: A Music Documentary.** Photo by John Skaliski

the script a plausible basis to spin the story of a vampire moving in next door. (In Vegas, for example, it's no surprise to have your windows painted over, you see, because a lot of folks work all night and sleep all day.) This time out it's not Charley (played by Anton Yelchin, who recently gave a remarkable performance in Jodie Foster's *The Beaver*) who gets on to Jerry, the vampire with the stupid name (an assured, uber-sexy Colin Farrell); it's his former best friend, Evil (Christopher Mintz-Plasse). Taking a page from *Heathers*, Charley has ditched his nerdy past with Evil and moved on to the cool kids (one of whom is played by James Franco's brother Dave) and Amy, his super-hot babealicious girlfriend (Imogen Poots).

However, when Evil disappears, Charley becomes suspicious and soon the game's afoot and everyone—from Charley's mom (Toni Collette) to David Tennent (channeling Russell Brand) as an over-the-top Goth magician to Sarandon in a nice cameo—is engaged in trying to kill Jerry.

The original movie isn't exactly a classic, which might be the reason this new **Fright Night** doesn't feel like its treading on sacred territory; also, on the plus side, it still has its own "gay" moments. ("I'm feeling a little homoerotic now" Evil comments, tongue in cheek, during his vampire encounter with Charley.) In addition, just like the first version, this **Fright Night** is a perfect little date movie. As we wait around for the inevitable sequel, we can also wonder who in this cast might come out, giving the movie that extra gay undercurrent kick for subsequent generations.



**Colin Farrell in Fright Night.** Photo by Lorey Sebastian

**This Time: A Music Documentary**, from out filmmaker Victor Mignatti, is a fascinating, entertaining, inspiring and heartbreaking record of a group of music professionals trying to hang on, return or find a place at the table in the tough, tough music business.

Mignatti (who directed, shot and edited the movie) tracks the attempts of L.A.-based producer/performer Peitor Angell to carve out new recording careers for The Sweet Inspirations (longtime backup singers for Elvis Presley as well as backing vocalists for Frank Sinatra, Dusty Springfield, Aretha Franklin, Barbra Streisand, etc.) and one-time disco diva Pat Hodges (who is homeless as the film begins).

Angell's passion for his initially cautiously enthusiastic divas is palpable, and his willingness to try and put these singers back on the recording map is laudable. The enormous amount of confidence and optimism he exudes as he goes about making this happen is alternately contagious and, when faced with the waning enthusiasm of the objects of his passion, very sad. Faced with disinterest from a youth-obsessed market in the midst of technological change as well as increasing impatience from his divas, Angell forges ahead until realities force him to

make some tough decisions.

Concurrently, we follow Manhattan-based Bobby Belfry as he goes about trying to make a name for himself in the world of cabaret (while holding down a job as a singing bartender). Like Angell, Belfry's optimism is constantly tested. "Maybe this will be the gig, the recording; the magazine interview that will make the difference" is the mantra everyone in the film seems to repeat endlessly in variation. (The title of the film couldn't be more ironic.)

As the performers and producers work on new projects, they relay their stories and we see and hear a glorious assortment of sensational songs (from a soundtrack available on iTunes). Everything is here—from kitschy cabaret to sizzling dance music to blistering gospel infused soul. **This Time: A Music Documentary** is a testament to the faith and endurance of talented performers born to make music and to the producers who believe in them, no matter the personal cost. This movie is highly recommended. <http://www.thistimemovie.com>

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

## Halfway gay

*What's so gay  
about dude comedy  
30 Minutes or Less?  
More than you think*  
BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

It felt like a major coup—a gay journalist invited out to New York City to interview the cast of *30 Minutes or Less*, a comedy that appeared to be made for men. Straight bro-talking, burp-expelling men.

However, after the recent gay marriage ruling in New York, progress is just sweeping the nation. I mean, how else do you explain my presence among all this mainstream press covering a movie that, I was told, wasn't the least bit gay?

So just minutes into the film, about a pizza-delivery guy forced to rob a bank, I couldn't believe what I was witnessing—gayness, everywhere. Maybe I'm just trained to see gay—you know, like a sixth sense or something—because *30 Minutes or Less* was full of it: gay-adjacent relationships where having sex with your dude-friend's sister means you had sex with him too, humping Jason Voorhees



**Jesse Eisenberg in 30 Minutes or Less.**

via a movie screen (weird? or gay? or both?) and talk of a girl getting some OTPF (Over The Pants Fingering) from a gay guy. And that's not all—there's Jesse Eisenberg, Aziz Ansari, Danny McBride and Nick Swardson, the four-some who comprise the budding bromances.

When the all-guy cast casually assembles in

street clothes at the Ritz-Carlton Central Park for a press conference that's nearly as funny as the film itself, my question is, naturally, the gayest: When does a bromance go full-on gay?

"There is an alternate ending we shot where we all fuck each other," said a straight-faced Ansari, best known for his role opposite Amy Poehler on NBC's *Parks and Recreation*. "But when we watched that, we're like, 'This is turning into a gay thing.'"

Even without the scene, sometimes *30 Minutes or Less*, like so many halfway-gay buddy films where the guys have a complicated and unusually strong tenderness for each other (for instance, *I Love You, Man*, *Superbad* and *Pineapple Express*), seems kind of like a gay thing—just not gay-gay, clarifies director Ruben Fleischer.

"I call it a double-buddy comedy," he said. "This is really two pairs of friends, and to me the friendship never strays too gay. It's just a true affection and support and love for a friend."

Because in the film, the well-off Chet (Ansari) throws his life on the line to help rob a bank so that his not-all-together chum, Nick (Eisenberg), doesn't explode into smithereens when two small-town twits, Dwayne and Travis (McBride and Swardson, respectively), strap a bomb to his chest and give him an ultimatum: get them the money, or die. What ensues is ridiculously, and probably surprisingly, hilarious, as they exert their masculinity by making homemade flamethrowers in the garage and blowing the hell out of watermelons—and yet Dwayne and Travis still come off, at times, like two big fruits themselves. And therein lies the setup of an endless barrage of gay jokes. That's not it, though: Gender and ethnicity, you're not getting off that easy.

"I kind of have this Lenny Bruce approach," Fleischer explains. "If you insult everybody, it's like you're not singling anyone out."

Said Swardson: "For me and Danny, we made a lot of off-color jokes and we did have to be in the mindset of those characters, because they are these kind of small-town—I mean, they're just jerks. It was really in the vein of those guys."

So it makes sense that these dummies would talk and act like fifth-graders who get a kick out of finding bad words in the Spanish dictionary. One scene has Dwayne calling out Travis on "being gay for this dude," referring to his softheartedness toward Nick.

**Turn to next page**

**HALFWAY from page 30**

"If wanting a lot of money is gay," he responded, "then yeah, I'm fucking Elton John."

For as much gay talk as there is, and with the so-close-they're-almost-gay bonds between the guys, it wouldn't have been terribly shocking had one of them come out by the time the movie reached its big finish.

However, since they don't, we'll just have to call it a bromance.

"Can everyone stop saying bromance?" Ansari insisted, admitting his distaste for the genre. Still, it's hard not to see *30 Minutes or Less* as exactly that. Fleischer even compares the two duos to Edward and Jacob of *Twilight* (and that's pretty gay), and Swardson, well, he has his own way of putting it: "The cool thing about the movie is that it does show the relationships of guys and just how close guys can be without chowing each other's cocks," he said. "It just shows that guys are ... awesome."

"It's so great," Ansari added, "because you guys are like the bad guys in the movie and you have such a sweet relationship, and it really pays off."

In his most mockish tone, Swardson looked lovingly at Ansari: "It's very bromantic, right?"

**Real-life bromance**

Nick Swardson was like that guy you've seen at the bar but can't quite place how or why he looks familiar. Even as he stood in front of me on an elevator in the Ritz, casually dressed in a T-shirt and jeans, it took me a good few minutes before it hit me.

That's because Swardson, a longtime comic actor who's gone gay in *Grandma's Boy* and *I Now Pronounce You Chuck and Larry*, has a tendency to get lost in his characters. You might remember him as, and he puts it best, "a raging



**Jesse Eisenberg and Aziz Ansari in 30 Seconds or Less.**

gay prostitute on roller skates" named Terry on Comedy Central's cop farce *Reno 911!*

"I really wanted to do the exact opposite of what I did in *Reno 911!*" said Swardson, who jokes that he used audio loops from gay pornos to get him pumped for the action sequences in *30 Minutes or Less*.

The movie's also a vehicle for the two sides of Jesse Eisenberg, who not only does his nerdy, average-guy thing, as seen in *Zombieland*, but morphs into a fake-gun-totting badass. After *The Social Network*, and last year's lesser-known *Holy Rollers*, what's up with all these shady characters?

Eisenberg looked concerned when asked, and then gave a deadpan response: "Thanks, Mom."

"No, I mean, all of these characters have, like, a real inner life," he continued. "They're going through something real, experiencing it in a realistic way. This one is very heightened, because he's experiencing this mortal fear at every moment, but it's all the same to me."

Even somewhat relatable, as his role as a pizza boy paralleled with a past real-life gig in

musical theater. "I started doing musical theater when I was 10 years old, and I did a lot of musical theater," he said, "so maybe cumulatively that's a terrible job—but individually they were fun!"

The rest of the cast didn't fare much better. Fleischer cleaned up the Scantron bubbles while working at a standardized testing company. Ansari joked that he's currently managing a Bubba Gump Shrimp Co., and McBride worked at an amusement park's candy store a half-hour from his house.

"I used to pray on the way to work, 'God, please help get me in a car accident,'" McBride recalled. "'One where I don't get hurt but where I don't have to go to work today!'"

Said Eisenberg: "It's tough to find that middle ground in a car accident."

Swardson had lots of sucky stints. "Before I started doing comedy and acting, I was a bus-boy at Planet Hollywood," he said. "It was kind of bizarre, but I also prayed for car accidents."

Who can say they have that in common? Oh, these two fellas, who don't just have that on-screen camaraderie, or bromance (sorry, Aziz), but a real-life relationship.

"Making a movie is long hours," McBride said. "Whenever you get to work with people that you dig, who you think are really funny and cool, it's always good. With this project, all these guys were awesome to work with. I'd want to do it again in a heartbeat with any of them."

Should a sequel happen, and Fleischer doesn't expect it to, Ansari already had the concept worked out: "It's, like, a couple day later and Jesse's character comes back, knocks on my door, has another bomb and he goes, 'Here we go again!' That's how the second film will start."

But the real question, Aziz, is: How does it end?

**'Housewives' on tour, in Indiana Oct. 8**

Bravo Media is bringing *Housewives* from various cities together on one stage for an exclusive experience as the network presents "The Real Housewives Live Tour." Fans will have the chance to get up-close and personal with their favorite cast members as the ladies discuss the most talked about moments, reveal cast secrets and answer questions straight from the audience.

The tour will stop in Hammond, Ind., on Saturday, Oct. 8, with Sonja Morgan (New York City), Gretchen Rossi (Orange County), Lisa Vanderpump (Beverly Hills) and Phaedra Parks (Atlanta).

Tickets will go on sale Friday, Aug. 19, at 10 a.m., with pre-sale tickets available through venues and participating media partners starting Wed., Aug. 17. For more information, visit <http://www.BravoTV.com> and follow on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/BravoPR>.



**Gretchen Rossi of The Real Housewives of Orange County.**

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NUNN ON ONE: TV

# Roseanne, no holds Barr-ed



BY JERRY NUNN

Roseanne Barr started with stand-up, then changed the way sitcoms were viewed, with her show, *Roseanne*, airing for nine seasons. With the Lifetime Channel she seeks to tackle the reality show circuit in Hawaii on a macadamia nut farm no less. See why Roseanne's life is nuts these days with this candid interview.

**Windy City Times:** Hi, Roseanne. I just watched episodes of your new reality show and saw you cursing on a tractor. You were raised very conservatively, right?

Roseanne Barr: Yes, I came from a really conservative place, the reddest state there is: Utah. That is where I grew up and started thinking everything was ridiculous.

**WCT:** Do you go back and visit there?

RB: I do, and I gave a great big speech at a rally there recently.

**WCT:** What compelled you to open up your life for this television show?

RB: Because I had something to say and I just wanted to.

**WCT:** In one episode there appeared to be a wardrobe malfunction and your private parts were blurred out.

RB: That made me mad and I tried to make them take that out. I had black shorts on. I sat down the shorts went to the back. When those guys filmed that then I asked them to take it out because it looked like I didn't have on any underwear. But they convinced me to leave it and they said it was funny so I let it go. I did indeed have linen shorts on that go to my knees unless I sit down they get really short. Thanks for your interest in my crotch.

**WCT:** [Laughs] What made you decide to buy a macadamia-nut farm?

RB: Because I wanted to show what America is doing to its farmers. I had to join a righteous cause. I think Americans should know about their food and what is being fed to them and have some alternatives presented to them because I am running for president of the United States. That is my goal.

**WCT:** Really? What do you want from a reality show, then?

RB: I hope it blows up everybody's programming and scrambles themselves down the core of their DNA. That's what I pray to God it does. I think it might.

**WCT:** What do you get from Hawaii that you couldn't find in L.A.?

RB: There is a great sense of community of the farmers in Hawaii. They are really trying hard to grow organic food. It really is a hard task. That is what I am doing in the background of all of the stupid stuff you see on the screen. There is an incredible method to my madness.

**WCT:** What have you done to keep away those wild pigs?

RB: Well, I have done just about everything from peeing on things to building a fence. I have done it all and nothing works.

**WCT:** Does Greg Cipes help out by living in your yard?

RB: Oh he doesn't really live there, hon. It is just TV. My show is all fake reality.

**WCT:** You have an episode about snoring. Are you sleeping better with the sleep-apnea mask on?

RB: I can't figure that damn thing out. I have to take a class in the fall and then I will try to get that going.

**WCT:** How has the surfing been going?

RB: I only did it once but I will tell you that I really liked it. They had these half naked gorgeous Hawaii men holding me up so how could I not like it?

**WCT:** Do people recognize you on the big island?

RB: Yes and they say, "Hi."

**WCT:** How did you meet your boyfriend, Johnny Argent?

RB: I met him on my website, <http://www.roseanneworld.com>. It is a great dating place. So many people have come there and fallen in love. I am not kidding. I happen to be one of them. I have made some nice matches over there.



Roseanne Barr. Photo by Mario Perez

**WCT:** You have a big following on Twitter. How has social networking been for you?

RB: I have done it off and on for many years. I do it for a while until I get too addicted to it and then I run from it. This is like my third Twitter thing but I am enjoying it so far.

**WCT:** Is your real life similar to your sitcom show, *Roseanne*?

RB: Yes.

**WCT:** So many reality shows have a big dramatic ending. Are you avoiding that with this one?

RB: I might break up with Johnny over this reality show. I seriously might...

**WCT:** Oh, no!

RB: Well, he's pissing me off, man, on this reality show. He doesn't do a goddamn thing around there.

**WCT:** Your arguing like a real couple is refreshing to see on television.

RB: I am so glad to hear you say that. We fight all the time. We really do.

**WCT:** And then you can have the make-up sex...

RB: We like to do our thing but we like to talk, too. We have built a life with these chickens and goats. Johnny and I are having a blast inventing all kinds of funny things to do on TV. It is like all reality television and fake.

**WCT:** People forget that sometimes.

RB: They sure do and I think that's funny that they forgot. [Laughs] It's a fake version of myself. It can be fun. For instance this week I get to hit my son on the head at least five good shots. That was rad! It was the best Mother's Day.

**WCT:** Was it hard to let the cameras in for

moments like that?

RB: No, I was ready for it. It was time to do some comedy.

**WCT:** Who are female comedians that you like?

RB: I have Phyllis Diller and Sandra Bernhard on this show and I consider both of them intense trailblazers. A lot of other women too, but I am good friends with both of them.

**WCT:** Would you come back to Chicago to do more stand-up?

## Pre-conference examines LGBTQs and pop culture

BY STEVEN CHAITMAN

One of the ways in which we qualitatively measure the progress of the LGBTQ movement is through pop culture and the media. Five scholars from around the country participated in a roundtable discussion Aug. 10 that focused on various recent examples of LGBTQ portrayal from "Glee" to the recent Broadway revival of "The Normal Heart."

The roundtable took place at the Leather Archives and Museum and was part of a daylong event that served as a preliminary symposium to The Association for Theatre in Higher Education's (ATHE) annual conference. Those who attended this LGBTQ "pre-conference" attended the greater conference Aug. 11-14 at the Palmer House Hilton Hotel.

Moderated by Willa Taylor, director of education and community outreach for the Goodman Theatre, members of the pre-conference panel addressed different examples of queer representation in television, film and theatre to share with the audience.

Madison Moore, a doctoral student at Yale University, began by showing a clip from a relatively new show on MTV's Canadian network called 1 Girl 5 Gays in which a heterosexual girl asks five gay men a series of 20 questions ranging from the fun and lighthearted to the deeply personal and sexual. Moore praised the show for showcasing different experiences and perspectives through use of a more honest approach.

Patrick McKelvey, a doctoral student at Brown University, went with a more mainstream example in Fox's hit show *Glee*. He pointed out that the hit show tailored a good chunk of its second and most recent season around openly gay character Kurt Hummel (Chris Colfer) in a way that mirrored this past year's "It Gets Better" project.

Panelist Kim Marra, professor of American studies and theatre arts at the University of Iowa, used Ellen DeGeneres and last year's

RB: Well, I should. I have enjoyed the times that I came there. I am not doing that right now but I wish I was sometimes. Maybe I will come and give a presidential speech down there.

**WCT:** Come on back then. Since you have done sitcoms, reality TV and movies, what's next on your bucket list?

RB: Porn!

Watch Roseanne's Nuts on Wednesdays and visit <http://www.mylifetime.com> for listings and details.

Oscar-nominated film *The Kids Are All Right* to address the growing heterosexual framework used to describe lesbian marriage in which one woman is depicted as the "butch" and the other the "femme," which she said continues to negatively impact societal views of women.

Roundtable coordinator Jason Fitzgerald is the member-at-large for the LGBTQ focus group sub-sect of ATHE. He assembled a panel of scholars that he personally respects and asked them to study these various representations in the media and talk about them as symptoms of a political movement.

"I've always been interested in popular culture and the question of progress which I think is kind of a tricky word," Fitzgerald said. "I wanted us to examine other ways to think about progress other than the linear 'we reach this goal and then we move on to something else'"

Other roundtable participants were Carrie Sandahl, associate professor at the University of Illinois-Chicago in the department of disability and human development, who highlighted the lack of visibility with regards to issues of sexuality in the disabled community, and University of Southern California professor David Roman, who discussed the Tony-winning revival of *The Normal Heart* and how a generation of young people has now arisen that has known about AIDS their entire lives.

Fitzgerald said feedback was positive for the pre-conference and that it reconfirmed for him that LGBTQ representation in pop culture goes beyond mere visibility.

"I think it proved if nothing else that popular culture is a place where politics is happening and in conflicting and different ways," he said. "We need to think about how we watch television and movies. ... There's more to be said than 'Wow that's great—two lesbians on screen!' It's import to say that but also to say more after that."

The panel concluded with a 30-minute discussion and ended with each panelist's thoughts on what defines progress. All agreed that more conversations need to happen within the LGBTQ community and that pop culture should not ultimately define queer progress.



From left: Kim Marra, Patrick McKelvey, Willa Taylor, David Roman, Madison Moore and Carrie Sandahl. Photo by Steven Chaitman



## NUNN ON ONE: TV

# Viktor Luna works the '(Project) Runway'

BY JERRY NUNN

The reality television show Project Runway has been working it for years and now starts its ninth season. Viktor Luna is the new designer in town hopefully proving that he has what it takes to be the next big thing. He tells us how he got from Sesame Street to Cornelia Street and now to Project Runway.

**Windy City Times:** Hi, Viktor. You are from New York?

Viktor Luna: Yes, I reside in New York.

**WCT:** There were many designers from New York this time. Did you know any of the other contestants before the show?

VL: No, absolutely not.

**WCT:** How did you become a part of this season?

VL: I was saving myself for a long time because I was a fan of the show. I wanted to be on it before but I wasn't ready. I got to a point that I was good at sewing and designing so I gave it a try very last minute.

**WCT:** Did you send in a tape?

VL: No, I wasn't going to audition but saw the casting on Facebook. The day before I ran to my studio and grabbed my stuff. I wanted to just give it a try.

**WCT:** Did you go to school for fashion?

VL: I was self-taught in the beginning. I had a little bit of a background with my mom doing samples. She taught me the basics but I did go to school at FIT or Fashion Institute of Technology and took courses. I knew how to sew a little bit so it was just finishing the techniques of pattern making and draping.

**WCT:** What was your journey to New York City like?

VL: My family is from Mexico. My dad moved here when he was 28. He left all of our family behind just to get us into a better track in life. He moved us to LA when I was seven years old. I am 30 now. We were an immigrant family and my dad was the only one that had proper papers to live here. He filed for us to get our papers. I was able to work and go to school after that. It was a little bit of a struggle at the beginning for my family. I decided to move here to New York City about nine years ago. I wanted to go to school here. I was studying photography at first because that was what I was doing in L.A. After fashion photography I became more interested in clothing because of my background my mom. I realized I could design better than other people so I started my own thing.

**WCT:** What part of Mexico are you from?

VL: Guadalajara, Jalisco.

**WCT:** L.A. is so different than New York. How do you like it?

VL: I am a city boy ever since I was a little kid watching Sesame Street. I remember loving the brownstones and the city life. Inside, I knew I was going to be in the big city.

**WCT:** I heard you would like to design for the musician Bjork.

VL: Yes, I love love love Bjork! I love artists that are risk takers and take things to another level.

**WCT:** Have you heard her new song yet?

VL: I still have to update myself with everything that is going on right now. I will definitely check it out.

**WCT:** Anyone else you would like to design for besides her?

VL: Beside Bjork, I would like to design for Robyn the singer. I think she is really stylish. I like Sarah Jessica Parker. She has an amazing style. I have so many...

**WCT:** Have you been to Chicago yet?

VL: I have actually been to Chicago and I



Viktor Luna. Photo courtesy of Lifetime

stayed in Boystown. I went to Sidetrack and a couple of areas there. My friend used to live on Cornelia Street. I love Chicago. I went there twice to visit him and we had a blast!

**WCT:** What did you do for the premiere of Project Runway?

VL: They had an opening screening at the Tribeca Grand Hotel. We had some cocktails.

**WCT:** How do you feel now that it's out there? You have to wait for a while for the debut.

VL: Just like everyone else we have to wait until it is out there. We don't know anything either. It is all a surprise for us too. At first I was scared watching it but it was amazing to see myself on television. It's weird.

**WCT:** They usually have so many contestants on the show at the beginning that it is hard to get screen time.

VL: Oh yeah, definitely.

**WCT:** What do you think of the judges and Tim Gunn?

VL: Today is Tim Gunn's birthday. I wish I could be in front of him to tell him happy birthday. He is the most amazing guy that I know. He's so down to earth. You can feel his energy.

I love Nina Garcia. She has great style. She is another person I would love to dress. Michael Kors is a really funny guy. He has so much personality that it's unbelievable. Heidi Klum is so gorgeous. Every time I looked at her it was a shocking moment. Wow, I couldn't believe she was there in front of me.

**WCT:** They also have great guest judges every season.

VL: It was nice to see Christina Ricci on the first episode. She looked stunning. She is style icon. She dresses so cool. Every time I see her on a red carpet I love her dresses.

**WCT:** She has come a long way, hasn't she?

VL: Yes, I love her whole goth moment. I grew up on punk rock and goth so to me she was always the cool girl.

**WCT:** Every year there are many gay designers on Project Runway. Are there any straight guys on this season?

VL: There is one and it is going to be shocking when it's revealed.

**WCT:** So people can look forward to that. Many people on the show also have partners. Are you single?

VL: No, I have a partner. He's an actor and his name is David Beck. He's a lovely person and we have been together for five years.

**WCT:** It must be great to live in New York

and have the option of gay marriage one day.

VL: I know! I am so happy, proud and excited to be here in New York City where they legalized gay marriage. I have to take advantage of it soon I'm sure.

**WCT:** Where do you want to take your fashion designs for the future?

VL: I am very happy for Christian Siriano and

how he worked it out. He is a household name. I would like to do the same. I want to grab this platform and really go out there. I want to really turn it out!

See if Viktor turns it out and is "in or out" this week by watching him on Project Runway. Listings and details can be found at <http://www.mylifetime.com>.

## Out Christian singer to perform in Skokie

Out gay Florida-based singer/songwriter Shawn Thomas will perform at the Skokie Theatre Sunday, Aug. 28, at 7:30 p.m.

Thomas, an award-winning singer, songwriter, musician and producer, recently released his first recording in two years, a two-disc set called Covered and Created that features his own newest work along with covers of work by Mariah Carey, Cher and others.

Tickets to the concert are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. For more information, visit <http://www.skokietheatre.com>.

## 'The Homosexuals' extended through Aug. 21

Due to popular demand, About Face Theatre's (AFT's) world premiere of The Homosexuals, written by Philip Dawkins and directed by AFT Artistic Director Bonnie Metzgar, has now been extended through Aug. 21.

The production featured AFT Artistic Associates Patrick Andrews, Scott Bradley and Elizabeth Ledo through July 24 and Benjamin Sprunger with Stephen Cone, Eddie Diaz, John Francisco and Sara R. Seigny from July 25 through Aug. 14.

The Homosexuals plays at The Victory Gar-

dens Richard Christiansen Theater, 2433 N. Lincoln Ave. Tickets are available at <http://www.aboutfacetheatre.com> or 773-871-3000.

## Melissa Manchester in Elgin Oct. 3

Open Door Clinic will present Grammy Award-winning singer/songwriter Melissa Manchester—known for hits such as "Don't Cry Out Loud" and "You Should Hear How She Talks About You"—Monday, Oct. 3, at 7:30 p.m. at the Hemmen's Cultural Center, 45 Symphony Way, Elgin.

Tickets are \$35-\$55; see <http://www.opendoorclinic.org> or call 847-695-1093, ext. 19. at the Hemmen's Cultural Center, 45 Symphony Way, Elgin.

Tickets are \$35-\$55; see <http://www.opendoorclinic.org> or call 847-695-1093, ext. 19.



Melissa Manchester. Photo by Vern Hester

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## Lesbian filmmaker Katherine Brooks on new movie, the film industry

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

Lesbian filmmaker Katherine Brooks is taking on a new challenge.

Brooks—whose other films include the lesbian love story, *Loving Annabelle* and the drama/thriller, *Waking Madison*, as well as stints working on *The Osbournes* and *The Real World*—has taken her career in an entirely different direction with *Face 2 Face*.

The genesis of her new film came when Brooks realized that she wasn't happy living in Los An-

movie about it.' Within ten minutes I had almost 100 people saying yes so I had my 50 and that is how it started."

Brooks took the first 50 people who responded and had AAA chart the most economical route for her 11,000-mile trip. At the time of this interview Brooks was in Winslow, Arizona having already met with 33 of the 50 people on her list. When asked what has surprised her the most during her travels Brooks said, "what are the chances that out of 5,000 people on my Facebook page everyone I have met has had some



Katherine Brooks.

come to us when we have good intentions and I plan on giving all the profits from this movie to charity," said Brooks.

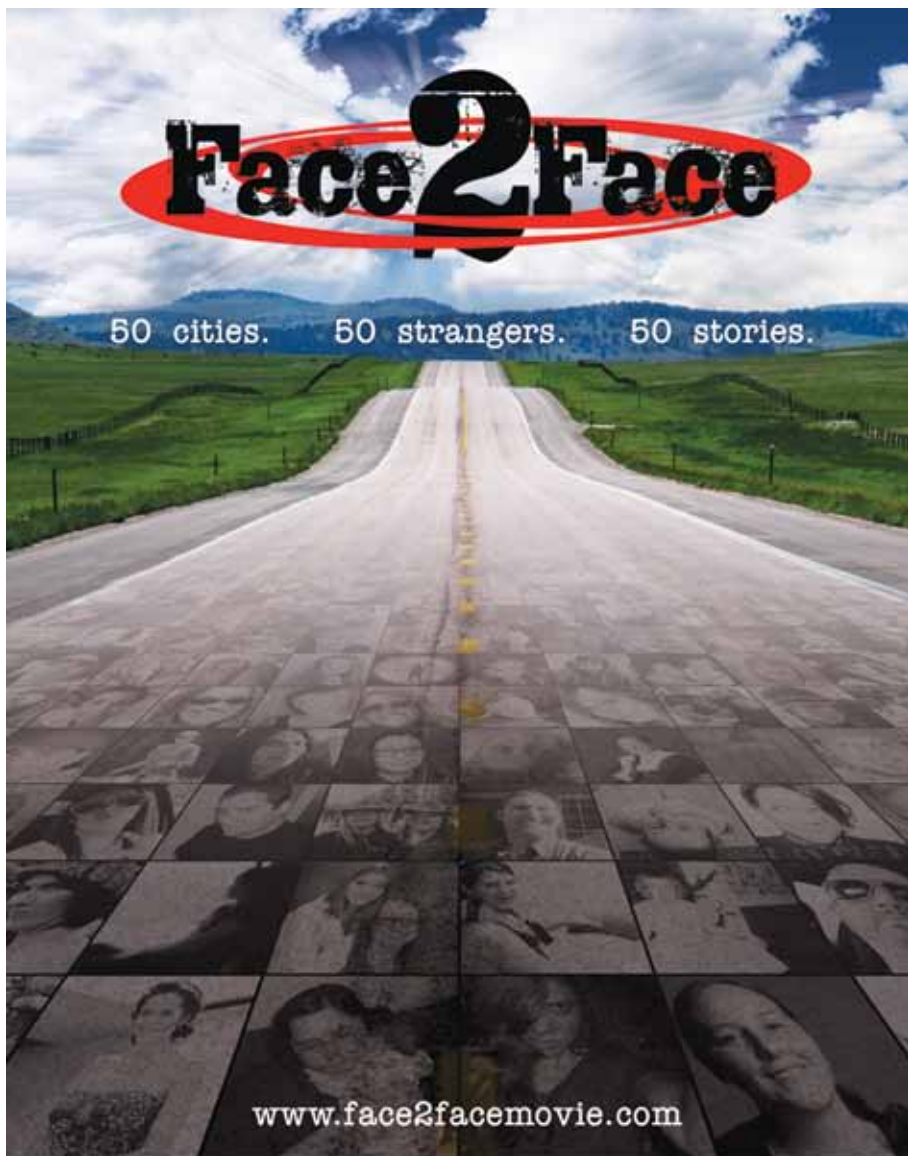
Looking back at her 16-year-old self Brooks said she never expected to be where she is as a

filmmaker. She initially dreamed of fame, fortune and the glitz and glamour of Hollywood but now her work has nothing to do with that. Now all she wants to do is make and do things that will help people.

Her advice to aspiring filmmakers is if you love a movie get the screenplay online to see what was on paper and what the end product looked like onscreen. Also, watch movies with the sound off to see camera movements and placement and watch the directors commentary track to hear how they made their movie. Read interviews with filmmakers you admire and subscribe to filmmaking magazines. "That is your film school," Brooks explained saying that where you went to school is not important to people in the entertainment industry.

Looking back at the reason why Brooks is doing this documentary she said "I believe that technology is a gift if we use it in a positive way. I would encourage people if they are using technology as an escape or to fill a void caused by loneliness to go out into the world and interact with people especially your friends and while you are with people put your phone away and disconnect."

For more information, visit <http://www.katherinebrooks.com/home.html>. To find out more about *Face 2 Face*, visit <http://www.face2face-movie.com>. For fundraiser tickets, visit <http://katsinthehouseface2face.eventbrite.com>.



geles so she sold her house and expensive car and moved to New Orleans to reconnect with her roots (she grew up in a small town in the bayou of La. near New Orleans). While living in New Orleans she had major surgery and became bedridden. As she was laying in bed her depression turned into severe depression and she also started running out of money. Brooks knew she would have to go back to LA and get a job in reality TV which she swore she would never do again.

"Here I am recovering from surgery staying with my mother and contacting reality TV producers telling them I needed a job. During that time I ended up trying to kill myself by OD'ing on Demerol," Brooks explained going on to say "that's only happened to me two times in my life, the other instance was when I was a teenager just before I left home. ... I do believe in a higher power and while I was laying in bed I said. ... Help me do something good with my life. Within an instant I got the idea for *Face 2 Face*."

"I was on my Facebook page and I saw that I have 5,000 friends but I'm completely alone. I've been in this bed for two months and no one has come to visit me so I turned on my flip cam and wrote in my status update 'the first 50 people who say yes, I'm coming to your city to spend the day with you and I'm going to make a

connection to my personal journey. That to me proves that nothing in life is random. Most of the people I have met I have made a lifelong connection with and will stay in touch with them after this project is over."

Which part of the country did Brooks find the most interesting to visit so far? Brooks related that she fell in love with Maine and is going to get a place there when she is finished with this film. "While I was there I felt like I was home so now I am going to start a commune for rescue animals. I worked with a man who helps people with emotional struggles and uses his horse for therapy. I got to ride his horse into the Atlantic Ocean during a sunrise and it was the most beautiful experience I've ever had. While riding that horse I said to myself 'thank God I didn't die because I would have missed this if I was gone.'" Brooks doesn't plan on retiring from filmmaking but will have her home base in Maine.

Since this project is not being backed by a studio or production company Brooks is financing it through donations. Brooks raised the initial \$80,000 through Kickstarter and is now selling *Face 2 Face* movie posters and other memorabilia, giving people a chance to Skype with her for 30 minutes if they donate to the film as well as her upcoming Chicago meet and greet fundraiser with live music by Jordis Unga. "I have faith that people will continue to help. Things

### Illinois artists sought for artisans' program

Illinois artists are invited to submit applications to the Illinois State Museum Artisans Program. All areas of arts and crafts, including folk, traditional, contemporary, ethnic and country, as well as fine art forms are sought.

Artists are required to submit an application, 6-10 digital images, artist statement, resume, a self-addressed stamped envelope and a \$25 application fee made out to the Illinois Artisans Program. The deadline is Sept. 12. For more information and an application visit <http://www.museum.state.il.us/artisans> or send a SASE to Illinois Artisans Program, James R. Thompson Center, 100 W. Randolph, Suite 2-200, Chicago, Ill., 60601.

### 'Jersey Boys' in Chicago next year

The Tony, Grammy and Olivier Award-winning musical *Jersey Boys* will return to Chicago to play the Bank of America Theatre, 18 W. Monroe St., April 5-June 2, 2012.

The premier engagement of *Jersey Boys* in Chicago was an overwhelming success. It ran for more than two years, with 951 performances; more than 1 million theatergoers saw it. *Jersey Boys* worldwide has grossed more than \$1.2 billion dollars and been seen by approximately 13 million people (as of July 17, 2011).

Tickets are available now for groups of 15 or more by calling Broadway In Chicago Group

Sales at 312-977-1710. Individual tickets will go on sale at a later date.

See <http://www.BroadwayInChicago.com> or <http://www.JerseyBoysTour.com>.

### 'Superstars of Burlesque' Sept. 16

"Superstars of Burlesque" will take place Friday, Sept. 16, at the Park West, 322 W. Armitage. The two shows will take place at 8 p.m. and 10 p.m.

The show, in its second year, will feature performers such as Michelle L'amour, the all-male troupe Stage Door Johnnies, Julie Atlas Muz (Reigning Queen of Burlesque 2006), Tiger! (New York City's King of Burlesque 2006) and others

Murray Hill will host the event. See <http://www.superstarsofburlesque.com>.

### Eco-fashion show Oct. 20

Conscious Living TV presents the third annual Vert Couture Spring 2012 Eco-Fashion Show Thursday, Oct. 20, under the tents at Millennium Park, 201 E. Randolph St.

Now in its third year, this carbon-neutral charity event is one of four headlining shows during Fashion Focus Chicago, Oct. 17-23. General admission is \$35; VIP admission is \$95. Tickets may be purchased online at <http://www.VertCouture.com>.



From left: Steve Gouveia, Joseph Leo Bwarie, Quinn VanAntwerp and Matt Bailey in *Jersey Boys*.

# Northalsted Market Days 2011

Photos by Dave Ouano. See more online at [www.windycitymediagroup.com](http://www.windycitymediagroup.com)



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# the **DISH** WEEKLY DINING GUIDE IN | WINDY CITY TIMES



## SAVOR Patty Burger

BY ANDREW DAVIS

Right across from the Art Institute of Chicago is a place that's a bit more downscale, some might say—but it's a lot of fun.

Reminding me of Johnny Rockets but definitely with its own vibe, the '50s-style diner Patty Burger features a plethora of sandwiches that can be made to order.

Manager Rich told Savor that the most popular burger is the Hollywood (a burger with fresh sliced avocado, crispy bacon and melted provolone cheese). Other burgers include The Boys in Bleu (burger topped with bacon and bleu cheese crumbles), the Cowboy (with crispy bacon, ranch dressing and melted provolone cheese) and the Chicago Fire (which comes with jalapenos and jalapeno cheese). Burgers come in single (1/3-lb.) and double (2/3-lb.) sizes, and people can also order chicken sandwiches with the toppings featured on the burgers.

Even vegetarians can enjoy themselves here

thanks to sandwiches such as the Vegilectible (a portobello mushroom cap topped with sauteed onions and avocado slices).

One of the things to love about this place is the versatility. All burgers come with fresh lettuce, tomato and red onion, but you can ask for items to not have certain toppings. In addition, the restaurant was even able to satisfy my request for mayo (which isn't on the condiment table).

Of course, there was the taste test—and Patty Burger had no problem passing. The patty melt I had was the best I've eaten in ages. (Also, if the sizeable sandwiches aren't enough, there are fries—which you can get with cheese—and some thick milkshakes.

Also, Patty Burger delivers. However, the bad news is that its delivery area encompasses five blocks—so if you work in the Loop, you may be in luck.

By the way, Rich added that owner Greg Majewski may add more Patty Burgers throughout the city. We can only hope.

Patty Burger is at 72 E. Adams. See <http://www.pattyburger.com>.

## Dining news

—**Mrs. Fields**®, the iconic fresh-baked specialty cookies and brownies brand, has a new concept store in downtown Chicago at 242 S. State St. Along with the new décor, the store is the first Mrs. Fields® to feature its own coffee line of hot, iced and blended specialty drinks, complete with flavors like Snickerdoodle, Milk Chocolate Chip and Macadamia Nut, along with a Debbi's Signature® original and decaf brew. Cookie cakes, party trays and gift tins will also be sold.

—**Bistronomic**, 840 N. Wabash Ave., will honor Pots de Crème day in August and September by offering guests this traditional French dessert off the menu. From Saturday, Aug. 27, to Saturday, Sept. 3, guests can enjoy their choice of chocolate or vanilla Pots de Crème for \$8.

—**Fleming's Prime Steakhouse & Wine Bar**, 960 Milwaukee Ave., Lincolnshire, is hosting "Wine Tasting Under the Stars" featuring Stags' Leap Winery Saturday, Aug. 27, at 6:30 p.m. The foods paired with the wines will include shrimp scampi skewers and lamb

chops. The cost is \$59 per person, excluding tax and gratuity.

—**Supreme Lobster** is partnering with one of Chicago's most popular annual charity events, the 20th Green Tie Ball—themed A Return to Emerald City—to benefit Chicago Gateway Green. Supreme Lobster will feature its final round of the Chicago Summer Chef Challenge Series at the Sept. 17 gala, to be held at A. Finkl & Sons, 2011 N. Southport Ave., at 8:30 p.m. General admission tickets start at \$125 each; visit <http://www.gatewaygreen.org>. For information about the Green Tie Ball, visit <http://www.greentieball-blog.com> or <http://www.chicagogatewaygreen.com>.

—**Hugo's Frog Bar & Fish House**, 55 S. Main St., Naperville, is hosting a cocktail tasting and party Tuesday, Aug. 30, at 7 p.m. For \$35 each, guests will enjoy a sampling of summer cocktails along with paired bites prepared by Executive Chef Jose Sosa. Also on hand will be a Jack Daniels ambassador to teach guests how to make a signature cocktail, Jack the Beekeeper.

Send items to [Andrew@WindyCityMedia-Group.com](mailto:Andrew@WindyCityMedia-Group.com).

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#### Roscoe's Sidewalk Cafe

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### Hamburger Mary's

5400 N. Clark St., Chicago  
773-784-6969  
[hamburgermarys.com/chicago](http://hamburgermarys.com/chicago)  
Burgers, salads and sass served up in a kitschy atmosphere with an on-site brew pub.

### BAKERY

#### Swedish Bakery

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LOCAL PROFILE

# Softball player battles back from cancer

BY ROSS FORMAN

Michael Ortiz went to his first softball games of the season July 17, and was greeted with hugs from everyone on his Spin Wildcats C1-Division team as well as opposing players.

It was an emotional reunion and tears of joy no doubt blended in with the sweat on that hot and humid afternoon at Margate Fields.

Ortiz, 41, who works as the director of human resources for Point Roll and lives in East Lakeview, was finally back around the sport he truly loves, among friends and teammates who endured, battled and supported him extensively over the past year, a roller coaster ride unlike any.

The story starts last August, when Ortiz had cold-like conditions. He'd have the chills one moment, then sweat the next. At night, he'd often wake up and be able to wring out his shirt and sheets from perspiration.

His doctors were treating it as a cold, giving him antibiotics.

Ortiz was, at the time, traveling extensively for work, with several cross-country flights each week.

"I remember as if it was yesterday, sitting in a senior management meeting [out of state]. It was just about my turn to talk and I started sweating incredibly," said Ortiz, who was battling a high temperature at the time.

He returned home and the cold eventually subsided—for about a month.

Ortiz was then in New York for work, and yet he could barely move and had no energy.

"When I got back from New York, I told my doctor that he had to do something, that something was not right," said Ortiz who, from August until early-December was still being treated for a cold.

Ortiz was then sent for CT scans of his head, neck, chest, abdomen and pelvic area. Doctors then wanted to conduct a biopsy of his lymph nodes.

On Christmas Eve, Ortiz learned the root of his ills: He had Hodgkin's lymphoma, a form of cancer.

"You always kind of prepare for the worst and hope for the best. There's nothing that can really explain what to think when you're told that you have cancer, yet have been so healthy for so long," said Ortiz, who has been living in Chicago for five years and originally is from Marshall, Mich.

Ortiz has long been the picture of health. He works out six days a week and eats a healthy diet. He weighed 194 pounds last August; by December he was only 135 pounds. He had a 34-inch waist on his 5-foot-8 frame, but dropped to a 29-inch waist in late 2010. Also, he was down to a small shirt, not his normal large.

"I still had muscle mass, but was completely shrinking, getting thinner and thinner and thinner," Ortiz said. "When they told me [it was cancer], it was surreal. I had to let it sink in. It didn't seem real to me at first. I kept thinking, 'How can this be? I'm healthy; I do all of the right things; I eat all of the right foods.'"

Then it really hit him, and Ortiz admitted he "got really sad and became very, very depressed."

Quickly, though, Ortiz recovered. "I knew I could not allow this [diagnosis] to control me; I knew I had to control it," he said. "I knew I had to turn things around; I have to remain positive. I'm going to battle this with all I have, and I know that I have great family and friends to support me. And I am going to get through this; I am not going to let this take me out."

In January, his oncologist diagnosed him with Stage 3 cancer. He also had a bone-marrow biopsy, and doctors revealed that, luckily, the cancer had remained in his neck area—but it also had traveled into his bone marrow.

Ortiz started semimonthly chemotherapy at Northwestern Memorial Hospital Jan. 13.

By early April, doctors told Ortiz they had contained the cancer, and that he was showing up as cancer-free.

"I was so relieved, knowing that they got the cancer so quickly," Ortiz said. "That was a huge, huge relief. Part of that was due to eating the right foods, being healthy, working out, being active."

Ortiz has, even during his chemotherapy, been a regular on the weight machines at Fitness Formula Club (FFC) in East Lakeview.

His last day of chemotherapy was June 16—but that wasn't the end of the ride.

On July 5, he was not feeling well, so he went

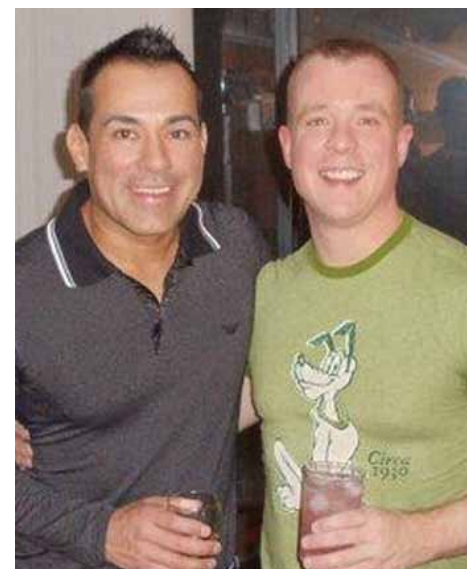
to see his oncologist. "The next thing I knew, I was being rushed to the emergency room; I was in the ICU with all of these gadgets [attached] on me," he said. "They couldn't figure out what was going on. My body ached so bad, so, so, so bad. I couldn't move; I could barely talk. They were doing test after test after test."

Doctors eventually determined that bacteria had grown on the catheter of the port used for his chemotherapy, causing a staff infection, leading to septic shock, pain, lethargy, high fever and pneumonia. He was hospitalized for two weeks.

Finally, on July 18, a healthy Ortiz returned to work.

"I'm doing very, very well. They got the cancer, cleared me of the cancer, and here I am," he said. "As the saying goes ... that which doesn't kill you makes you stronger."

Read the entire piece online at <http://www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com>.



A recent photo of Michael Ortiz (left) with Reed Benedict. Photo courtesy of Ortiz

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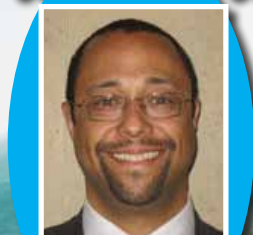
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# Glamorama is 'ART'-felt

BY JERRY NUNN



Macy's Passport presented Glamorama—celebrating its 30th anniversary this year—Aug. 12. One of the city's biggest fundraisers in Chicago, Macy's continues to raise money to combat childhood illness, cancer and HIV/AIDS. "AR-Trageous" was the theme this year and began at the Chicago Theatre with a show featuring fashion and music. The production began with ballet and break-dancing that mixed it up for the crowd.

There was an ode to Moulin Rouge with Rufus Wainwright's song "Complainte de la Butte" that proved touching and fashion forward while bringing the past to the present. Jean-Paul Gaultier was chic and slick with the styling being tame. Armani Jeans spotlighted fashion for the fall with sweaters to compliment the denim.

The electro-hop band Far East Movement had a short set but got the audience members raising their hands in the air by the end. It was then back to designers as Kenneth Cole had "All the Young Dudes" on a conveyor belt while Karl Lagerfeld's Impulse Collection brought something new to the table. Designer Tracy Reese used retro styling that was a highlight. Models strutted their stuff with Miami-based Papi underwear—and had girls (and some guys) gasping.

Singer/The Voice mentor Cee-Lo Green lost points for sporting jean shorts—after wearing at least something original with spikes and leather at Lollapalooza the previous week.

The after-party is always a smash with attendees walking a block to Macy's on State. The party didn't stop until late with prancing, Patron and portraits on the seventh floor. This stellar evening raised funds for the Ronald McDonald House Charity that will benefit people in need for years to come. Visit <http://www.macys.com> for details about donating and store information.





Photos by Kat Fitzgerald (MysticImagesPhotography.com)



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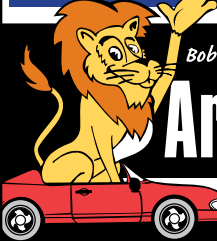


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# Northalsted Market Days 2011

Photos by Linda "Kizzy" Ramos



# Celebrations

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

## Gray-Ewert civil union

Vernita Gray and Pat Ewert exchanged vows Aug. 13 in front of many friends. The ceremony was officiated by Rev. Stan Sloan. Photos by Kat Fitzgerald



From left: Paul Fairchild, Mary Morten, Vernita Gray, Pat Ewert and Willa Taylor.



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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](mailto:andrew@windycitymediagroup.com) and let Windy City Times join in your celebration.



# BILLY MASTERS

"I play *Corny Collins*. He's sort of a DJ. He hosts a music show. Sort of like a straight *Ryan Seacrest*. *Ryan's a friend*. We've kissed."—John Stamos tells Jimmy Kimmel about the character he just played in the Hollywood Bowl's production of *Hairspray*. Behind every joke, there's always at least a grain of truth.

I've made it home from Europe ... barely. My luggage, on the other hand, spent an extra few days in Berlin because the Germans are so hospitable. Let's just say that the Von Trapps had an easier time getting away from the Nazis than my bag had of escaping the clutches of *Air Berlin!* I would think it's for the best that I ditched my original plans to extend my trip to spend time with family in Albania, but I may have been wrong. Eliza Dushku was just there and the government was so excited, they made her a citizen ... and she's only half Albanian! I could have been crowned king!

Luggage or no luggage, I was not missing my annual week in Provincetown with a number of dear friends, including Bob Mackie, Nancy Dussault, Robbie Benson, Peter Marc Jacobson, Mark Sendroff and Marilyn Maye. In addition to eating our way across Cape Cod, our motley crew went to see quite a few performers who you should check out.

Randy Roberts is a veritable institution in P-town—in fact, he probably should be in an institution with the multiple personalities living inside his sexy skin. His voice has never been better. He looks amazing, and the audience loves him. Also, his Cher is simply magical.

Varla Jean Merman never ceases to amaze me. The high level of her writing ability is almost matched by her priceless delivery. All that plus she sings and looks great...and at one point, she's on a swing! As with last year, Varla's pianist is Tom Judson (aka porn superstar Gus Mattox)—and he's a great foil for Merman, in addition to looking quite fetching tickling the ivories. He's also doing his own show, which is somewhat of a departure for him—this one focuses more on his singing and vocal abilities, which are considerable. That said, there were some who may have been dismayed that they didn't get to see an inch of flesh for at least a half hour. I quipped, "You see more skin at a Marilyn Maye show!" Moments later, Judson reappeared in undies—a look that was short-lived, but which he nonetheless pulls off quite well. I think the audience left satisfied, and perhaps knowing a bit more about this extraordinarily talented man.

Leslie Jordan brought his new one-man show to Provincetown. *Stories I Can't Tell Mama* is a delight. He primarily talks about this past year—doing *My Life On The Pink Carpet* in London, appearing in the doomed Broadway-bound musical *Lucky Guy*, and acting in the current box-office hit *The Help*. It's fresh, it's funny and it's fabulous—just like Leslie himself. Check out his website at <http://www.TheLeslieJordan.com> and definitely catch him when he's in a city near you.

Finally, there's Marilyn Maye. After dragging her with us to P-town year after year, someone came up with the bright idea of letting this legendary lady do what she does best (which, contrary to local folklore, is not shopping). Marilyn knocked 'em dead with a powerhouse set of standards, classics and rarities all delivered in her unmistakable clarion tones. More than ably accompanied by the incredible Billy Stritch and two other musicians, Marilyn had the audience eating out of the palm of her hand ... and they would have stayed there all night had it not been for the next show being ready to go on. A rare privilege and one that will not soon be forgotten.



Leslie Jordan is telling "Stories" in Provincetown—to the delight of audiences.

You may recall I bemoaned the premature shuttering of the revival of *La Cage aux Folles*—particularly given the exquisite performance of *bon ami*, Christopher Sieber. Well, you're in luck—he's just been added to the cast of the upcoming national tour. However, he won't be playing Georges (which was his role on Broadway). This time around, Chris will play Albin and Georges will be the dashing George Hamilton (who just underwent treatment for skin cancer—*quelle surprise*). At some point, I wouldn't be surprised if Sieber were playing both parts!

This week's "Ask Billy" question comes "Have you seen recent pictures of Gerard Butler? He's usually hot and beefy, but right now he looks pretty lean and ripped. Is he doing it for a role or just changing his look?" from Joseph in Las Vegas:

Gerard Butler is certainly a ruggedly handsome man who usually looks very hunky (and, occasionally, chunky). So I was quite surprised when researching this question to find photos of him looking very lean, very ripped, and very buff. Oh, and very blond! As it happens, he's transformed his body for a role in "Mavericks" where he will be playing a professional surfer (which explains the hair). Since I'm sure the rest of the fans will enjoy these semi-nude locker room shots, I'm happy to post them on BillyMasters.com.

Lastly, I recently ran into Scott Evans, the sexy brother of Chris Evans. So that got me thinking—how'd ya like to see Chris Evans naked? Well, you'll get the chance when his new movie, *What's Your Number*, opens in October. Or you could just go to BillyMasters.com to get a sneak peek.

When the Evans brothers are competing for my attention, it's definitely time to end yet another column. Phew—I'm back!! And you know what I need? A vacation! That means I'm gonna lay low in Boston for a week prior to reuniting with my paramour in Fort Lauderdale. So while I'm trying to get the smell of bratwurst out of my lederhosen, I will also be updating [www.BillyMasters.com](http://www.BillyMasters.com)—the site that's multilingual. For your questions, send a note to [Billy@BillyMasters.com](mailto:Billy@BillyMasters.com) and I promise to get back to you before Christopher Sieber gets cast in a production of "Victor/Victoria"! Until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible.

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# First Market Days Classic a success

BY ROSS FORMAN

About 30 Chicagoans played in the inaugural Market Days Classic ice hockey tournament, held Aug. 12-14 in suburban Lincolnwood, as the Chicago Gay Hockey Association (CGHA) fielded two teams among the eight participating.

The three-day tournament attracted 150, which included players and guests, including skaters from Boston, Toronto, Ottawa, Vancouver, New York City and Denver, among other cities.

"The tournament was a ton of fun. It seemed like everyone had a great time and, most important, everyone loved the city of Chicago," said Andrew Sobotka, 25, the president of the CGHA. "The entire tournament was fast-paced and action-packed. It could have been any team taking home the medals because the games were so tight."

Take, for instance, the playoff game between Vancouver and Ottawa that ended 7-7 after

overtime and went to a shootout before Ottawa ultimately won.

Toronto, though, won the championship in the top-tiered Northside Division, while Boston won the Southside Division.

"Both Chicago teams placed third after the round-robin games and then we both lost in the playoff round," Sobotka said. "While it is always fun to win, we don't mind losing since we have

so much fun along the way."

Brian Hull, who played on the Chicago 312 team, was the leading scorer on his team, while the Chicago Crew had several players scoring multiple goals.

"I think every night of social events presented something different and were fun in their own right," Sobotka said. "The Market Days festival was a big draw for everyone and I think people really enjoyed seeing the city."

Sobotka said the CGHA donated \$250 to the Dr. Peter Centre, which does care and outreach for people with HIV/AIDS.

"I just want to thank every player, guest, sponsor and volunteer for coming to play and enjoy Chicago," Sobotka added.



Scene from the Market Days Classic. Photo from the CGHA

# Chicago teams in women's softball world series

BY ROSS FORMAN

Chicago will be well represented at the annual ASANA Softball World Series, to be held Aug. 23-27 in Philadelphia.

Five area teams will be participating, including the Chicago Mood Swings and the Chicago Nubians in the top-tiered, 10-team B-Division. The Chicago Breeze will be in the C-Division, while the Chicago Raw Energy Majors and the Chicago Raw Energy Minors will carry the banner in D-Division.

The annual all-women's tournament features teams from Los Angeles, Las Vegas, New York, Atlanta, Kansas City and other cities.

"Ten teams in the B-Division is fewer than past years; I wonder if it's because of the location," said Yvette Holt, a middle infielder for the Nubians. "Last year, when the event was held in Las Vegas, there were 20 to 30 B-Division team. There always seem to be more B-Division teams when the event is held on the West Coast."

"That said, it's always good competition and a lot of fun."

The Nubians have played in the event for about seven years, Holt said, and this might be its best team.

"We have a good group going, so that should help. Hopefully we still will be playing on Saturday," in the championship round, Holt said.

Holt added that the Mood Swings are a "very good" team that definitely has the possibility to go far in the tournament.

# Pride Day at Wrigley to benefit Chicago charities

CHICAGO—Windy City Times will present Pride Day at Wrigley Field Sunday, Sept. 4, at 1:20 p.m., when the Chicago Cubs take on the Pittsburgh Pirates. The sales of tickets for the Labor Day weekend game will benefit six local LGBT and AIDS charities.

Pride Day is presented in partnership with the national gay softball world series taking place through Sept. 3 in the Windy City. Thousands of athletes will be in Chicago as part of the annual North American Gay Amateur Athletic Association (NAGAAA) world series tournament.

The organizations that will receive a portion of the proceeds are: AIDS Foundation of Chicago, Center on Halsted, Equality Illinois, Howard Brown Health Center/Lesbian Community Care Project, GLAAD Chicago Leadership Council and Lambda Legal.

The media partners for Pride Day at Wrigley are Windy City Times, Nightspots, GoPride.com and Grab Magazine.

The winner of the Windy City Gay Idol contest will be given the chance to sing at Pride Day, and the NAGAAA world series Chicago host committee will select a person to throw out the ceremonial pitch for the Sept. 4 game.

Tickets are \$50, and they are all for bleacher seats. The price includes tax, shipping and a portion donated to charity. Purchase tickets online at <http://www.windycitymediagroup.com/WrigleyPride> through Aug. 20 and after that call 773-387-2394



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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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