

LA TOYA JACKSON TALKS 'CELEBRITY APPRENTICE'

PAGE 19



WINDY CITY TIMES

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

FEB. 27, 2013
VOL 28, NO.21

www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com



Two roads to gay marriage

BY KATE SOSIN

Camilla Taylor knows how to win marriage equality. She did it in Iowa as the lead attorney in a lawsuit that overturned the state's ban on same-sex marriage, and she's been moving toward that goal for years in Illinois, among other places, as the national marriage project director for Lambda Legal.

Today, Lambda Legal Midwest and the American Civil Liberties Union of Illinois are in the unexpected position of fighting for equal marriage in Illinois on two fronts. Both organizations filed lawsuits seeking to overturn the ban on same-sex marriage last year. Now, both are among the leading organizations fighting for the passage of marriage equality in the Illinois General Assembly.

There are benefits and drawbacks to each, said Taylor, who sat down with Windy City Times for an in-depth interview on both roads to marriage in Illinois and the strategies behind that fight.

Windy City Times: You are in the unique position of fighting two marriage campaigns in the same state. Did you imagine this would be the case?

Camilla Taylor: Well, we did draft the marriage legislation with [state] Rep. Harris and Sen. Steans prior to filing the lawsuit. The lawsuit was years in the making, and we had a draft complaint for almost a decade. My predecessor Pat Logue had played a big role in working with some of the clients at the very beginning.

So we'd done an awful lot of work and made a great investment in that case, and we knew we were filing it but we also knew that there was a possibility of win-

ning it through legislation, and that you shouldn't be so myopic in search of one remedy that you neglect the other.

We didn't dream, I think, that we would have as much success so fast in state legislatures around the country. Winning in November in marriage-related votes in four states, depending on how you count it, was a huge impetus to greater legislation traction here.

I think also we didn't anticipate the welcome that received from elected officials when we filed the lawsuit. We of course expected our elected officials would treat us fairly with the expectation that equality is for all people, including lesbian and gay citizens and their

Turn to page 10



TRANS YOUTH DIES

PAGE 9



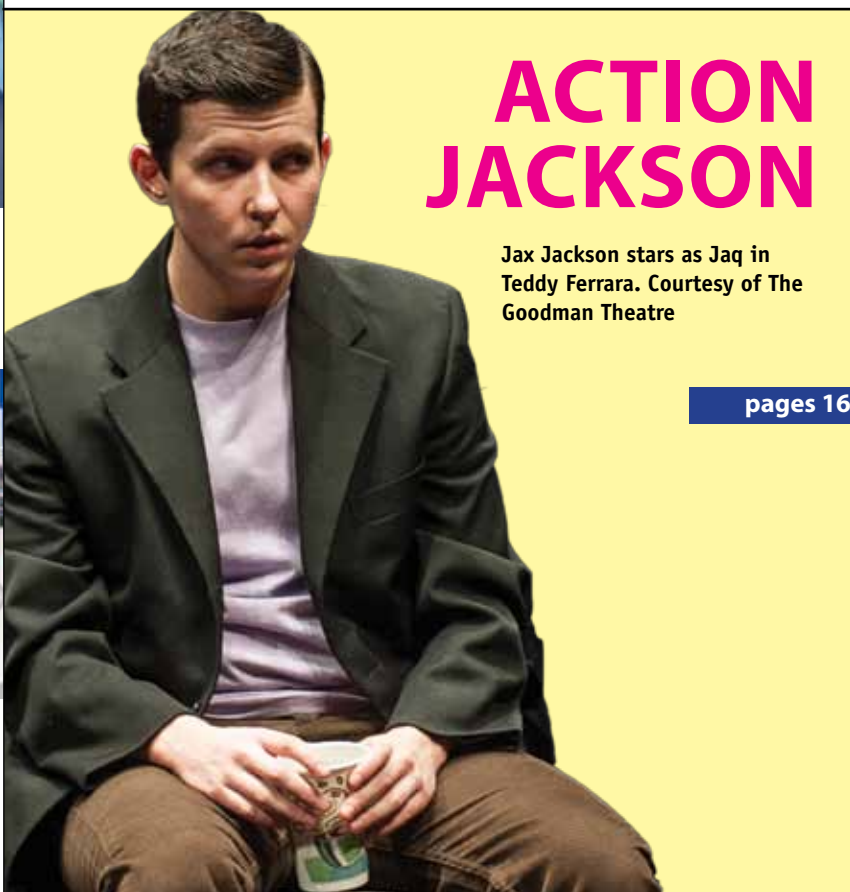
'PREGNANT MAN' VISITS NU

PAGE 8



CHICAGO AUTO SHOW WRAP-UP

PAGE 20



ACTION JACKSON

Jax Jackson stars as Jaq in Teddy Ferrara. Courtesy of The Goodman Theatre

pages 16



CUFF ENOUGH

Before stopping by Davenport's March 2, Tony winner Levi Kreis chatted with Windy City Times. See page 19. Photo courtesy of the theater

page 19



Her gentle but compelling performances blur the line between story and song —Washington Post

Janis Ian
with Livingston Taylor
Thu, Mar 14 at 8pm

Known for "At Seventeen" & "Society's Child," this un-sung folk legend & 2013 Grammy winner should not be missed!

847.673.6300
NorthShoreCenter.org



NORTH SHORE CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS IN SKOKIE
9501 Skokie Blvd. FREE PARKING

There's More at the North Shore!

You know
who loves
rainbows?
Infants.



©2013 Chicago Public Media

WE WANT LISTENERS TOMORROW. GO RAISE KIDS TODAY.

www.GoMakeBabies.com

this week in
WINDY CITY TIMES

NEWS

LGBT survey	4
Supreme Court unknowns	5
Hyatt cancellation	6
Bullying study; Beatie visits NU	8
Gwinn, Smitherman die; conference	9
Camilla Taylor interview	10
Gay in the Life	11
Views: Monroe, Ask Lambda Legal	12

ENTERTAINMENT/EVENTS

Scottish Play Scott	13
Trans actor Jax Jackson	16
Knight: Stoker; Oscars wrap-up	17
Dish: Brasserie 54	18
Donald Trump; Levi Kreis	19
Chicago Auto Show photos	20
Billy Masters	21

OUTLINES

Real estate; classifieds	18
Calendar Q	20
Sports: Roller-derby grandmother	22

Photos on cover (left, from top): Image of Donald Trump from NBC; photo of Makayla/Michael Gwinn from NYPS; photo of Thomas Beatie by Carrie Maxwell; photo from the 2013 Chicago Auto Show by Andrew Davis



DOWNLOAD THIS!

Go to www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com to download complete issues of Windy City Times and Nightspots. Then click on any ad and be taken directly to the advertiser's Web site!

online exclusives at
www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com



'FALL' GUYS

Windy City Times reviews an operatic interpretation of Edgar Allen Poe's The Fall of the House of Usher.

Photo by Liz Lauren



Read about the gender-neutral "fraternity" Delta Lambda Psi at NEIU.



WCT provides a gay tour of Rome.

Photo from Jeff Guaracino

Photo from Jorge Vargas

NOAH'S ARC

WCT chats with Noah Michelson, who helms the Huffington Post's Gay Voices section.

SHIRLEY, YOU JEST

Catch up on events that took place around town, including a chat with Shirley MacLaine.

ENTERTAINMENT NEWS

Find out the latest about Clay Aiken, Susan Boyle and Matt Bomer.

plus
DAILY BREAKING NEWS

TPAN'S NEO NOIR TAKES OFF AT THE PARK WEST

Find Nightspots on **facebook**

OSCAR'S POST-SHOW WITH AMY AND SCOTT

WindyCityQueercast
queer and now

Show #510

www.WindyCityQueercast.com

NEO NOIR

PRODUCED BY KEITH ELLIOTT & TODD KIECH

Reserve your seats now at ChicagoTakesOff.org
For information and tickets, log on to www.ChicagoTakesOff.org or call (773) 989-9400 ext. 235

A BENEFIT FOR TPAN

Chicago Takes Off
Charity at its sexiest!

SKIN IS THE NEW BLACK

2 SHOWS!
SATURDAY, MARCH 2, 2013
7:30 & 10:30PM
PARK WEST | 322 W. ARMITAGE

EVERY SPONSOR: janssen, COMCAST, DOWNTOWN, PARK NEEF, GRAB, HMS MEDIA, PINK PAGES, PA, etc.

Join the Revolution

THE DIVIDE: BOOK 1 UPRISING
KIM FLOWERS

Award-winning author **Kim Flowers** presents a diverse cast of multi-racial characters across the LGBT spectrum in a dystopian US, 200 years in the future. The nation is separated into normal towns and gay communities, and seventeen-year old Serenity secretly joins the revolution to end the divide.

"The Divide has the potential to bring LGBTQ stories to new audiences ..."
—Windy City Times

Paperback and e-book available at QueerTeen Press, JMS Books LLC, Women and Children First Bookstores, Amazon, and BarnesandNoble.com

Massive survey reiterates LGBT estimate—with twists

KEEN NEWS SERVICE

There's a kind of urban myth that most LGBT people live in large urban areas on the West Coast and the northeast region of the country, and that they're mostly gay, male, young and white. However, a new study out this month begs to amend this perception slightly.

Data from the most extensive study ever of LGBT people in the general population say the highest percentage of self-identified LGBT people lives in Washington, D.C., followed by the relatively small population states of Hawaii, Vermont, Oregon, Maine and Rhode Island. And while the distribution of self-identified LGBT people still falls roughly along the West Coast and the northeast region, there are incongruities like low self-identification in marriage equality state Iowa and high self-identification in bordering South Dakota, a sparsely populated Republican-dominated agricultural state.

The analysis was based on data collected by the Gallup Poll group through phone interviews with 206,186 adults throughout the United States. The pollster asked participants a number of questions, including, "Do you personally identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender?" The data was then analyzed and re-weighted to reflect known demographic factors by Gallup Editor-in-Chief Frank Newport and Williams Institute Distinguished Scholar Gary Gates.

Out of the entire sample, all interviewed between June 1 and December 30, 2012, 3.5 percent said yes.

The highest percentage of "yes" responses was found in Washington, D.C., where 10 percent of 493 adults self-identified as LGBT.

The second highest percentage—5.1 percent—came in Hawaii, where 643 adults were surveyed. Others among the top ten states with the highest percentages included Vermont (4.9 percent of 664 surveyed), Oregon (4.9 percent of 3,655 surveyed), Maine (4.8 percent of 1,286), Rhode Island (4.5 percent of 735), Massachusetts (4.4 percent of 4,253), South Dakota (4.4 percent of 722), Nevada (4.2 percent of 1,493), California (4 percent of 18,636) and Washington state (4 percent of 5,990).

The 10 states with the lowest percentage of LGBT people willing to identify themselves as such to Gallup were North Dakota (1.7 percent of 615 people surveyed), Montana (2.6 percent of 1,329), Mississippi (2.6 percent of 1,961), Tennessee (2.6 percent of 4,889), Utah (2.7 percent of 2,726), Idaho (2.7 percent of 1,582), Nebraska (2.7 percent of 1,592), Pennsylvania (2.7 percent of 9,716), Alabama (2.8 percent of 3,603) and Iowa (2.8 percent of 2,692).

"This is the largest single study of the distribution of the LGBT population in the U.S. on record, and the first time a study has had large enough sample sizes to provide estimates of the LGBT population by state," notes a Gallup report released with the data.

To be more precise, this is the largest single study of the distribution of LGBT people willing to self-identify as such in a random phone survey, but even with that more narrow assessment, the data is still very important.

"A lot of people don't truly understand how little data we have," said Gates, who has been studying LGBT demographic data for many years. And because in all but nine states the survey involved more than 1,000 people, the analysis could "credibly" estimate the percentage of LGBT people willing to identify as such in all 50 states, said Gates. "Those data doesn't exist

LGBT by State, 2012

Do you, personally, identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender?

	Yes, do	No, do not	Number of interviews
District of Columbia	10.0%	88.0%	493
Hawaii	5.1%	91.7%	643
Vermont	4.9%	93.3%	664
Oregon	4.9%	92.1%	3655
Maine	4.8%	91.1%	1286
Rhode Island	4.5%	89.2%	735
Massachusetts	4.4%	91.3%	4253
South Dakota	4.4%	92.1%	722
Nevada	4.2%	92.2%	1493
California	4.0%	91.9%	18636
Washington	4.0%	92.6%	5990
Kentucky	3.9%	92.4%	3415
Arizona	3.9%	92.8%	4793
New York	3.8%	91.2%	9917
Michigan	3.8%	92.1%	5913
Illinois	3.8%	92.0%	7038
New Hampshire	3.7%	90.7%	1009
New Jersey	3.7%	91.3%	4999
Indiana	3.7%	91.9%	4947
Kansas	3.7%	93.6%	2174
Ohio	3.6%	92.5%	7543
Georgia	3.5%	92.1%	6177
Florida	3.5%	91.9%	11286
Arkansas	3.5%	93.1%	2165
Connecticut	3.4%	93.5%	2306
Delaware	3.4%	92.9%	668
Oklahoma	3.4%	92.1%	3060
Alaska	3.4%	93.8%	613
Maryland	3.3%	93.0%	4195
Missouri	3.3%	92.5%	4219
North Carolina	3.3%	91.8%	7175
Texas	3.3%	92.4%	13314
Louisiana	3.2%	90.4%	2888
Colorado	3.2%	93.2%	4400
West Virginia	3.1%	92.5%	1410
Minnesota	2.9%	93.4%	4365
Virginia	2.9%	92.7%	6323
South Carolina	2.9%	93.1%	3370
Wyoming	2.9%	93.7%	735
New Mexico	2.9%	93.1%	1861
Wisconsin	2.8%	92.9%	4633
Iowa	2.8%	93.4%	2692
Alabama	2.8%	92.5%	3603
Pennsylvania	2.7%	92.8%	9716
Nebraska	2.7%	92.9%	1592
Idaho	2.7%	94.4%	1582
Utah	2.7%	94.1%	2726
Tennessee	2.6%	93.0%	4889
Mississippi	2.6%	92.5%	1961
Montana	2.6%	94.8%	1329
North Dakota	1.7%	93.7%	615

Gallup Daily tracking, June-December 2012

GALLUP

LGBT survey that Gallup issued. Image courtesy of Gallup.com

anywhere else."

And Gallup was careful to qualify and explain its methods:

"There are a number of ways to measure lesbian, gay, and bisexual orientation and transgender status," noted the Gallup press release. "Gallup chose a broad measure of personal identification as LGBT because this grouping of four statuses is commonly used in current American

discourse, and as a result has important cultural and political significance. One limitation of this approach is that it is not possible to separately consider differences among [LGBT] individuals. A second limitation is that this approach measures broad self-identity, and does not measure sexual or other behavior, either past or present."

The 3.5-percent estimate from the latest massive Gallup Poll data corresponds exactly with an LGBT estimate Gates provided in April 2011, when he released his analysis of five different

population studies. (Counting transgender people, he estimated 3.8 percent.) The five U.S. surveys included the mammoth General Social Survey of 2008 and the National Survey of Sexual Health and Behavior of 2009.

In both analyses, Gates was estimating the percentage of adults in the United States who self-identify as LGBT. But Associated Press's report on Gates' 2011 analysis focused on the finding that 1.7 percent identified as "homosexual."

"That's a much lower figure than the 3 percent to 5 percent that has been the conventional wisdom in the last two decades," noted the AP report, carried widely by the mainstream media. Only near the bottom of the article did AP mention that Gates' study found another 1.8 percent identified as bisexual.

The estimates of people willing to identify as LGBT are naturally smaller than estimates of people who have ever felt a sexual attraction to a person of the same sex or who have ever had sex with a person of the same sex. In his famed studies of the 1940s-1960s, researcher Alfred Kinsey estimated 10 percent of males "are more or less exclusively homosexual for at least three years between the ages of 16 and 55." A Williams Institute analysis of subsequent studies found eight percent of adults reported having had sex with a same-sex partner at some point in their lives and 11 percent had been attracted to a person of the same sex.

Gates has been careful to point out, however, that Kinsey did not rely on large, population-based data, but rather interviews with several thousand participants in a study of human sexual behavior.

The 3.5-percent estimate nationally from the

latest Gallup data and from Gates' 2011 analysis closely approximate data collected by a major media coalition during the national elections in 2010 and 2012. The National Election Pool found that about 3 percent to 4 percent of people answering exit poll surveys when leaving the voting booth identified themselves as gay, lesbian, or bisexual.

An earlier release of the Gallup data, covering data collected between June 1 and Sept. 30, 2012, included about 121,000 respondents, noted Gates. The analysis released this month was collected from June 1 to December 30.

Two "big takeaways" Gates offers from the Gallup data is that the variation from state to state "doesn't play into the stereotype that the LGBT community is entirely concentrated in New England and the West Coast" and, with one exception, "all the top ten states are some of the most gay friendly states in the country."

The exception is South Dakota, where 4.4 percent of 722 adults surveyed identified as LGBT. Gates suggested South Dakota might have shown a higher percentage because it was among the nine states where the polling sample was under 1,000. In fact, four of the top ten states plus D.C. had polling samples under 1,000.

Counting only states where at least 1,000 people could be sampled, the highest LGBT self-identification rates were in Maine, Massachusetts, Nevada, California, Washington, Kentucky, Arizona, New York, Michigan and Illinois.

Illinois and Michigan had 3.8 percent identifying as LGBT.

"Does this mean that gay people are moving to those states or that those states are more accepting and so people are more willing to identify?" asked Gates. "I'm skeptical that it's the migration to friendly," said Gates. "The evidence suggests more the latter. If a state has a more accepting social climate, the higher the level of identification."

But there's another stereotype being undone and another variable in play, said Gates. A disproportionate number of the self-identifying LGBT people are not young, gay, white and male, but young, bisexual, non-white and female.

"The young is not surprising. Younger people are more likely to self-identify," said Gates.

As for female, Gates said he has been seeing multiple surveys of women identifying largely as bisexual. And non-white people who self-identify tend to be younger and female.

©2013 Keen News Service. All rights reserved.

Former Surgeon General Koop dies

Former U.S. Surgeon General Dr. C. Everett Koop, 96—who was one of the few voices of reason during the start of the AIDS epidemic in the 1980s—died Feb. 25.

Koop, a pediatric surgeon by training, was appointed to his national post by President Reagan in November 1981 and served until October 1989.

In the 2009 book *Infectious Ideas: U.S. Political Responses to the AIDS Crisis* (University of North Carolina Press), Jennifer Brier, UIC assistant professor of gender and women's studies and history, wrote how the AIDS crisis, in the face of the expanding New Right, influenced American political matters involving health care and foreign policy, reproductive health, gay and lesbian rights and racial justice.

Brier wrote that AIDS divided conservatives. One example was between Koop and Gary Bauer, who served as under secretary of education, and later, as chief domestic policy adviser for President Reagan. "While Koop was never entirely successful in implementing policies that acknowledged people's sexuality, Bauer was equally stymied when trying to enact AIDS policies that were driven by his strict definition of morality," she said.

Unknowns haunt Supreme Court cases

BY LISA KEEN
KEEN NEWS SERVICE

One month away from the most historic and, perhaps, influential U.S. Supreme Court cases in LGBT history, a surprising number of facts are still unknown.

For instance, while New York attorney Roberta Kaplan will argue the merits of lesbian plaintiff Edith Windsor's position that the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) is unconstitutional and lesbian law professor Pamela Karlan will argue Windsor's position on the legal standing issues, it has not yet been decided exactly who will argue the merits and the legal standing issue for the couples opposing Proposition 8. Ted Olson, who along with David Boies is leading the legal team challenging Prop 8, says his team will decide who will argue the merits and who will argue the standing issue after seeing what the Solicitor General decides to file—or not file—in their case.

There have been no signals from the Supreme Court that it will make the audio recordings of the two cases available to the public on the same day as the arguments, as it did with the landmark health reform cases. (Normally, such audio is not available until the end of the week, though a written transcript is often available on the same day as the argument.)

It has still not been announced by the Solicitor General's office what argument—narrow or broad—the Obama administration will take in opposing DOMA. And there has been no indication of whether the Obama administration will even take a position in the Prop 8 case.

But a lot of these unknowns are about to be resolved. Critical briefs—particularly from the solicitor general's office—are due to be submitted to the Supreme Court this week.

Friday, Feb. 22, is the solicitor general's deadline for laying out the Obama administration's view of how the court should resolve the DOMA dispute. And Feb. 28 is its deadline to file a brief in the Prop 8 case, if it chooses to do so.

This much is known: The Obama administration considers DOMA unconstitutional and President Obama has publicly made very clear that he believes same-sex couples should have the right to marry.

The question, according to two articles this month in *The New Yorker* magazine, is whether the Obama administration will take positions that promote a "bold" striking down of all anti-gay marriage laws, beyond DOMA, or a more "cautious" dismantling of them, state by state.

In the Prop 8 case, notes legal analyst Jeff Toobin, "Obama could take the position, as the plaintiffs have, that the Constitution compels every state in the union to allow same-sex marriage."

"If adopted," he said, "this argument would turn the *Hollingsworth* case into the gay-rights equivalent of *Loving v. Virginia*, the 1967 landmark decision that said states could no longer ban interracial marriage."

In the DOMA case, notes gay Democratic activist and attorney Richard Socarides, where the government is already on record, the bigger issue is "whether the federal government should just abide by state laws legalizing same-sex marriage, by overturning the Defense of Mar-

riage Act, or, more powerfully, by saying that every American has that right."

To reach that latter—bold—result, the Supreme Court would have to agree with the Second Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals decision in *U.S. v. Windsor* that courts should give a heightened level of scrutiny to laws treating people differently because of sexual orientation.

"If the Supreme Court adopted that reasoning to strike down DOMA [in *Windsor*] and Prop 8 [in *Perry*]," wrote gay legal scholar William Eskridge, in a December 9 post at *scotusblog.com*, "every state marriage law excluding lesbian and gay couples would be in immediate jeopardy, because no state could muster a compelling or substantial public interest that would satisfy the Second Circuit's approach."

That's how big the decisions in *Windsor* and *Perry* could get.

"*Windsor* and *Perry* are likely to be two of the most important constitutional decisions in our lifetimes," wrote law professors Neal Devins and Tara Leigh Groves at *scotusblog* Dec. 8, 2012. "If [as we suspect], the Court reaches the merits of each case, we believe it will advance the cause of same-sex marriage by invalidating both DOMA and Prop 8. But, in our view, the Court's jurisdictional rulings—on the power of a single chamber of Congress and private sponsors of ballot initiatives to defend federal and state measures—will also have important implications, informing the scope of the constitutional separation of powers at both the federal and state level."

But "if the court reaches the merits of each case" is one of the looming uncertainties in both cases. The court may not rule on the merits of each case. It could make a ruling on standing that would preclude it reaching the merits of the disputes.

"If the Court does not rule on the marriage rights issue itself in either of the granted cases, and that is all that is concludes on the issue this Term," wrote veteran Supreme Court reporter Lyle Denniston, in his Dec. 7 post at *scotusblog*,

"the question would arise whether it might take on some of the other pending cases, so as to reach the more fundamental constitutional dispute. That, however, might come too late for a decision this Term, with a likely recess in late June."

Briefs from parties on both sides of both cases are due to the court on the issue of legal standing, as well as the Olson-Boies' brief about the merits of the Prop 8 argument, were due last week.

©Copyright 2013 by Keen News Service. All rights reserved.

Vatican denies gay-related reports

The Vatican is denying reports that Pope Benedict XVI's resignation was linked to an emerging scandal involving gay priests and high-priced blackmail, according to USA Today.

Vatican Secretary of State Tarcisio Bertone, who didn't specifically mention the scandal, said, "It is deplorable that as we draw closer to the time of the beginning of the conclave ... that there be a widespread distribution of often unverified, unverifiable or completely false news stories that cause serious damage to persons and institutions."

A story that was originally in the Rome newspaper *La Repubblica* claims the pope's decision to step down dates to Dec. 17, 2012, after he first saw a nearly 300-page dossier—dubbed "VatiLeaks" by the Italian press—that details meetings between priests and other officials working in the Vatican and laymen who were "united by their sexual orientation."

CIVIL UNIONS & WEDDINGS AT THE KEITH HOUSE

The Keith House is among Chicago's oldest grand houses, in the heart of the renowned Prairie Avenue Historic District, 10 minutes from downtown Chicago. It resides next to the beautiful Chicago Women's Park and Gardens, which is perfect for pictures.

We can accommodate up to 90 people for cocktail style reception and 60 for a sit-down in a single room. Also available for corporate events, retreats and meetings.



Center on Halsted; the Community Media Workshop; Ellen Stone Belic Institute for Women & Gender in Arts & Media, Columbia College Chicago; and Windy City Times newspaper are honored to present

"Irresistible Revolution: A Discussion of the Contemporary LGBT Movement"

with LGBT rights advocate and award-winning author

Urvashi Vaid

for the only public program in Chicago to discuss her new book,



"*Irresistible Revolution: Confronting Race, Class, and the Assumptions of LGBT Politics*"
Magnus Books Publishing.



Photo by Jurek Wajdowicz

Followed by a Q&A and book signing.

Wednesday, April 3, 2013

7 p.m. – FREE – Center on Halsted
3656 N. Halsted St.
Chicago, IL 60613

RSVP: To make a reservation, contact Tom Elliott at telliott@centeronhalsted.org or 773-472-6469.

BOOKS: To purchase and/or reserve your copies call Women & Children First Bookstore at 773-769-9299 or visit www.womenandchildrenfirst.com.

Guests are encouraged to reserve copies or prepay to ensure an adequate number of books. Reserved copies and a limited number of additional copies will be available at the event.

From one of the nation's best-known social justice leaders and community activists comes a strategic and informed argument about the pitfalls of limited political vision, and the benefits of an agenda that encompasses, yet moves beyond, equality.

For more information, please contact Ellen Stone Belic Institute for Women & Gender in Arts & Media, Columbia College Chicago at 312-369-8829.

CENTER ON 3656 N. HALSTED

CMW Community Media Workshop
www.communitymediaworkshop.org

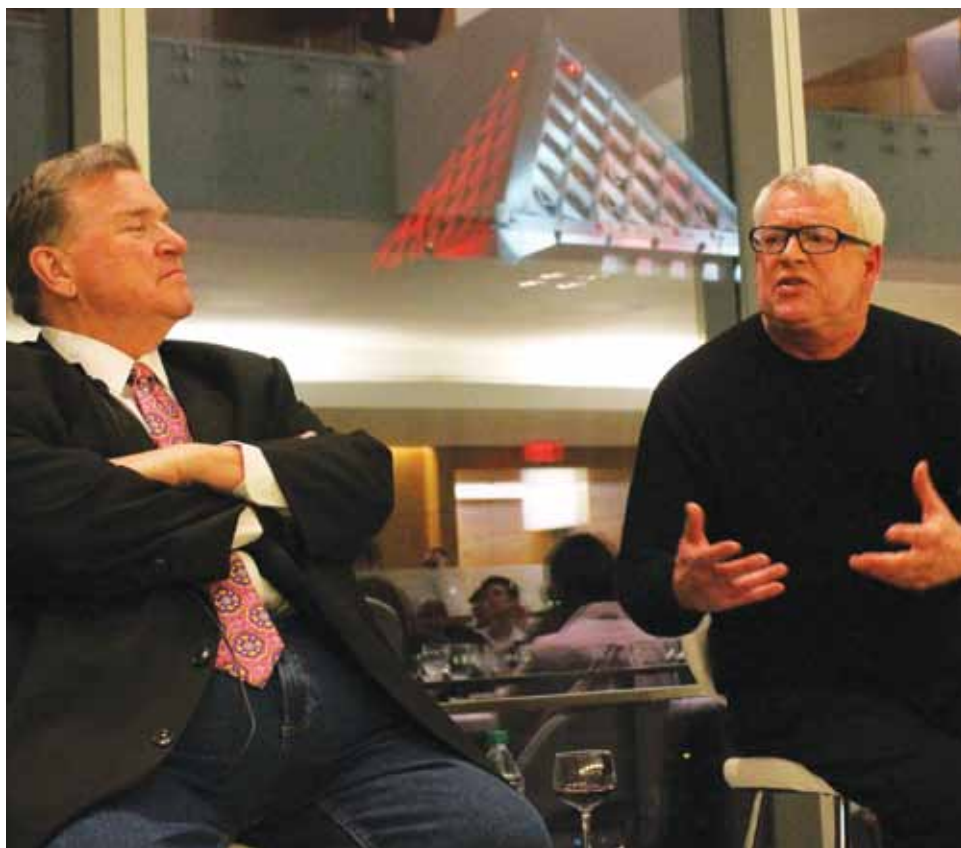
ELLEN STONE BELIC INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF WOMEN & GENDER IN THE ARTS AND MEDIA AT COLUMBIA COLLEGE CHICAGO

WINDY CITY TIMES



1900 S. Prairie Avenue
Chicago IL 60616-1321

Phone: 312.907.7909
events@keithhousechicago.com



Cleve Jones (right) blasts a convening of LGBT journalists for crossing a workers' boycott at Hyatt Hotels Feb. 22. His comments were part of a Q&A session held with longtime activist David Mixner (left). Photo by Kate Sosin

Controversy brews over LGBT group's Hyatt cancellation

BY KATE SOSIN

In the latest in a controversy that has embroiled LGBTs nationally, an LGBT group is facing significant penalty fees after canceling their retreat at a Hyatt hotel in New Mexico in response to a boycott.

Funders for LGBTQ Issues, a national group, has been hit with a \$40,600 cancellation fee for pulling the plug on its agreement with Hyatt.

Hyatt is the target of a workers boycott, after more than three years of failed contract negotiations with hotel workers' union UNITE HERE. The boycott has embroiled LGBTs nationally and in Chicago, where Hyatt is based.

Veteran LGBT activist Cleve Jones works with UNITE HERE, and he has called on LGBTs to respect that boycott. He drove that message home to a convening of LGBT journalists in Philadelphia Feb. 22, blasting journalists in the room who had crossed the boycott at other events in recent years.

"In my union, we negotiate contracts that protect our people in states where there is no [LGBT] legislation protecting them, and then you cross our picket line," Jones said.

Two years ago the Chicago-based International Mr. Leather competition took heat for continuing with its event at the Hyatt Regency downtown. IML organizers said the costs of cancellation and booking another hotel made it impossible for the event to move hotels.

Now, Funders for LGBTQ Issues is facing that reality.

"The moment we heard about the boycott, we felt we had to move the retreat," said Ben Francisco Maulbeck, President of Funders for LGBTQ Issues, in a statement. "There's such a strong history of solidarity between the movements for workers' rights and LGBT rights—dating back to Harvey Milk's early organizing work in San Francisco. We just couldn't imagine having our retreat, talking about issues of equality and social change for LGBT communities, in a space that we knew was under boycott by workers."

According to a release put out by UNITE HERE, the cancellation fee is a substantial chunk of the LGBT group's operating budget and more than

the cost of the retreat itself. That release states that group wants the cancellation fee waived.

However, Hyatt said that both parties agreed to the contract and that it thinks Funders for LGBTQ Issues has been misled about the Hyatt's policies and commitment to LGBT issues.

"In our contract with the Funders for LGBTQ, we had an industry standard cancellation policy, which both the organization and the hotel agreed to," wrote Katie Rackoff, director of corporate communications for Hyatt, in a statement to Windy City Times. "We're always happy to sit down with any of our customers and discuss any concerns they may have. We hope to welcome this organization back to Hyatt in the future."

Laura Bush in marriage-ad flap

Former First Lady Laura Bush wanted to be removed from a pro-marriage-equality ad that is part of a \$1 million campaign from a new coalition, according to Advocate.com.

In an ad for the Respect for Marriage Coalition, Bush appears among clips from a series of Republicans (including former Vice President Dick Cheney) supporting marriage equality. The group is already planning its second ad in the campaign, so the first ad will quickly be replaced on air; however, there are no plans to remove the first lady in the current version.

On a related note, The Respect for Marriage Coalition has launched a second national television ad which features Craig Stowell, a Republican and former Marine corporal, speaking out for the freedom to marry, according to a press release.

Titled "Stowell," the national television ad is part of the Coalition's ongoing "#Time4Marriage" advertising campaign. "Stowell"—which features Craig Stowell, wife Berta, and brother Calvin, who is gay—began airing on cable, and will air during networks' Sunday shows over the coming weeks.



Chicago marks Manning milestone at Pritzker Park

BY ANDREW DAVIS

A variety of events took place around the world Feb. 23 to mark out U.S. Army private Bradley Manning spending 1,000 days behind bars.

According to PolicyMic.com, Manning is accused of leaking state secrets to WikiLeaks in the largest intelligence leak in U.S. history. Originally charged in June 2010 with leaking classified information, 22 additional charges against Manning were announced in March 2011, including "aiding the enemy"; and multiple counts of theft of public records, transmitting defense information and computer fraud.

Gay Liberation Network (GLN) and Chicago World Can't Wait co-sponsored the local event, which was held at Pritzker Park in the South Loop. At one point, Thayer said, among other things, that Manning's leak showed the Obama Administration's support of the 2009 military coup in Honduras that "left thousands of Hondurans dead."

Thayer added, "The LGBT movement in our country does no service to its brothers and sisters abroad by not supporting Bradley Manning. ... The response of the U.S. government has been to vilify Bradley Manning. President Obama said that Bradley Manning was guilty. [Obama] was a constitutional-law scholar at the University of Chicago; he should know better than anyone else that you do not prejudice a trial before it happens ... by calling someone guilty before he's had his day in court."

Others spoke as well, including members of Chicago Can't Wait and Brandon Pruitt, who identified himself as a "non-gay ally." People passed out postcards (addressed to "Bradley Manning 89289, 830 Sabalu Road, Fort Leavenworth, Kan., 66027") that expressed support for Manning. The event concluded with a march up State Street.

Urvashi Vaid in Chicago April 3

Author of *Irresistible Revolution: Confronting Race, Class, and the Assumptions of LGBT Politics*

CHICAGO: Longtime LGBT rights advocate Urvashi Vaid will be in Chicago Wed., April 3, for a free event at the Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted St. She will discuss and sign copies of her new book, **Irresistible Revolution: Confronting Race, Class, and the Assumptions of LGBT Politics**. This is her only public program in Chicago.

The event will start at 7 p.m. and is co-hosted by Center on Halsted, the Community Media Workshop; Ellen Stone Belic Institute for Women & Gender in Arts & Media, Columbia College Chicago; and Windy City Times newspaper. Women & Children First Bookstore will have books for sale at the event.

From one of the nation's best-known social justice leaders and community activists comes a strategic and informed argument about the pitfalls of limited political vision, and the benefits of an agenda that encompasses, yet moves beyond, equality.

Irresistible Revolution is intended for a broad and general audience. The book looks at many common controversies, rhetoric, and strategic questions that face contemporary social change

movements: pursuit of broad or narrow agendas, integration of economic and racial justice, integrating sexual orientation and gender identity in human rights frameworks, the persistence of sexism, the dilemmas of bipartisanship, and the challenge of seeing beyond the short term to secure gains made for the long run.

RSVP: To make a reservation, contact Tom Elliott at telliott@centeronhalsted.org or 773-472-6469.

BOOKS: To purchase and/or reserve your copies call Women & Children First Bookstore at 773-769-9299 or visit www.womenandchildrenfirst.com. Guests are encouraged to reserve copies or prepay to ensure an adequate number of books. Reserved copies and a limited number of additional copies will be available at the event.

For more information, contact the Ellen Stone Belic Institute for the Study of Women & Gender in the Arts & Media, Columbia College Chicago at 312-369-8829.

About the author: Vaid is a community organizer and attorney who has been a leader in the LGBT and social-justice movement for 30 years. Currently the director of the Engaging Tradition Project at Columbia Law School's Center for Gender and Sexuality Law, Vaid is a former staff attorney with the ACLU National Prison Project, and a former executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. She lives in New York City with her partner of 25 years, humorist Kate Clinton.

The best minds in medicine have built the best hospital in Chicago.

The University of Chicago Medicine Center for Care and Discovery is at the forefront of cancer care.

Cancer experts, like Dr. Sonali Smith, are leading the way using innovative therapies and state-of-the-art procedures that save lives. With cancer clinical trials involving more than 300 promising new therapies, we are improving the standard for patient care.



The best minds in medicine — ready for your greatest challenges.

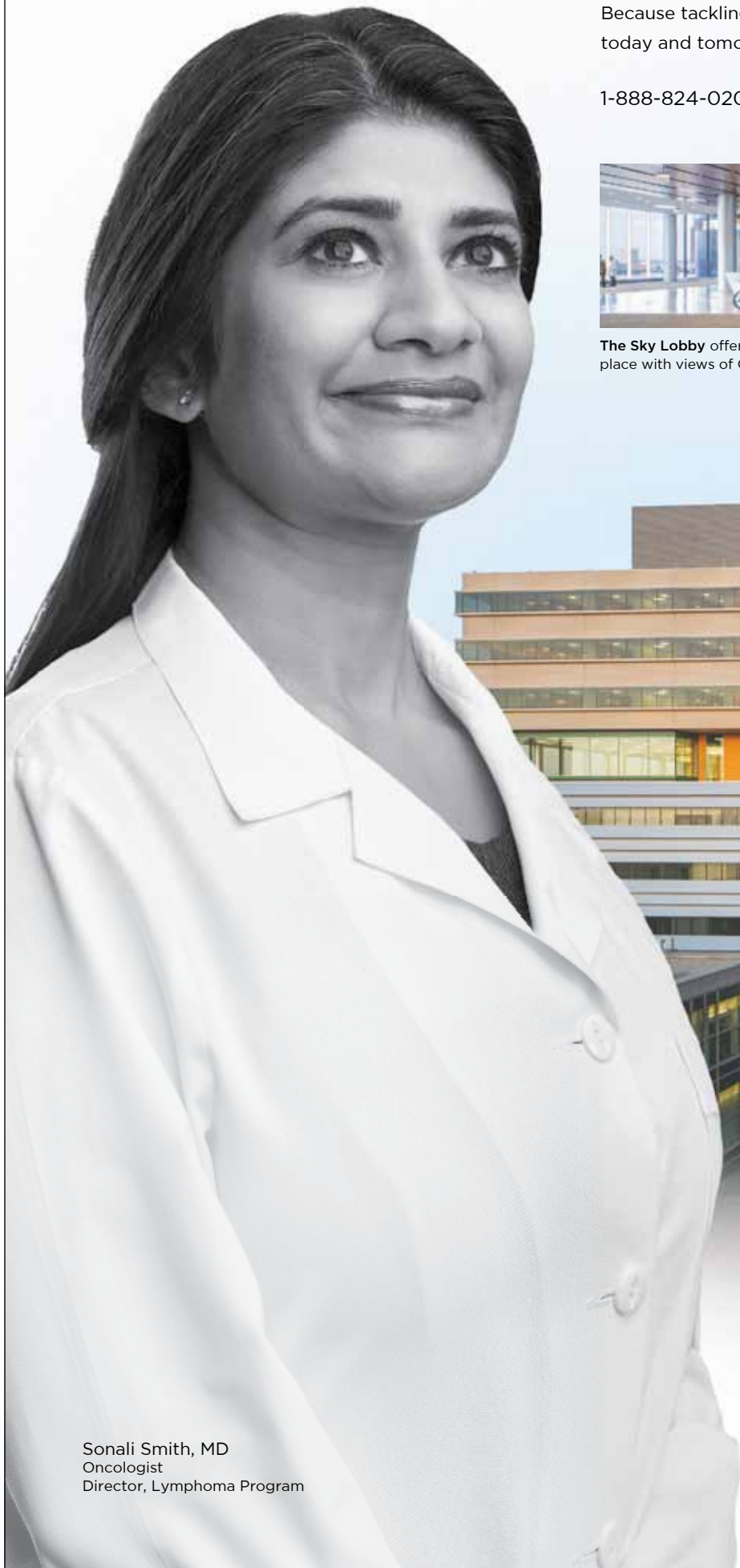


THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO MEDICINE

Center for Care and Discovery

Because tackling medicine's greatest challenges — today and tomorrow — is what we do.

1-888-824-0200 or uchospitals.edu  



The Sky Lobby offers a gathering place with views of Chicago.



Operating Rooms are equipped with leading-edge technology and designed for collaboration.



Patient Rooms are large and filled with natural light.



Sonali Smith, MD
Oncologist
Director, Lymphoma Program

The Center for Care and Discovery is located at Maryland and 57th.

Our New Hospital Is Now Open

Study: Bullying decreases over time

BY MARGO ANDERSON

A recent study in Pediatrics has found that bullying of LGB youth really does decrease over time.

More than 4,000 English teens were interviewed annually from 2004 to 2010. One hundred eighty-seven of these teens identified themselves as LGB. Fifty-seven percent of lesbian and bisexual girls and 52 percent of gay and bisexual boys reported being bullied at ages 13-14. However, by the ages of 19-20, only 6 percent of lesbian and bisexual girls and 9 percent of gay and bisexual boys reported that they were being bullied.

However, when considered relative to their heterosexual peers, the findings are more com-



Illinois Safe Schools Alliance's Shannon Sullivan.

plex. At the ages of 13-14, LGB boys and girls were twice as likely as heterosexual boys and girls to be bullied. But by the ages of 19-20, lesbian and bisexual girls were only as likely while gay and bisexual boys were four times as likely to be bullied. That is, bullying gets comparatively better for girls but comparatively worse for boys.

Study co-researcher Joseph Robinson told Windy City Times, "Our research provides strong evidence that it gets better, and yet, there is still room for improvement."

Although this study was conducted in England, Robinson said, "It's highly probable that we would see similar patterns in the U.S. Our hypothesis about the different trends among males and females was based on prior research (mainly conducted in the US)."

Shannon Sullivan of the Illinois Safe Schools Alliance told Windy City Times, "We've long known that bullying in general [in the United States] peaks during the middle school years and tends to lessen as students get older." Thus, there is reason to believe that these results do generalize to the United States.

These results may reflect not only a change in bullying due to age but also a change due to societal increases in acceptance of LGB individuals and less of a social acceptance of bullying. As Robinson notes, there is no way to disentangle these effects; however, he does say that "since 2010 (the last year of this study), the 'It Gets Better' project has started, same-sex marriage

has become legal in several additional states, and the gay rights movement has picked up additional momentum. So I would expect to see more of an effect of the gay-rights movement on anti-gay bullying after 2010."

It is also true that many teens have not yet fully discovered their sexuality or may not feel comfortable identifying as LGB publicly, even if they would do so privately. This can introduce "noise" into the study, making it more difficult to obtain clear results. To reduce this problem, participants were only interviewed about LGB status in the last two years of the study. That is, 57 percent of girls and 52 percent of boys who later identified as LGB were bullied at age 13-14, before they had identified as such. Said Robinson, "By asking about LGB identification at later waves, the [survey] avoids some of the challenges regarding the truthfulness of responses to LGB identification questions posed of younger children ... but, of course, it doesn't quite capture identification during high school." However, as Robinson points out, "There were significant differences ... and it is certainly interesting ... that LGB identification after high school is a significant predictor of bullying during high school."

The study also stated that peer victimization is associated with suicide attempts, anxiety, psychotic symptoms and sexual risk. The authors found that higher levels of victimization explained about half of the emotional distress in LGB youth. As Robinson notes in the article, "We find that bullying during high school is related to emotional distress during young adulthood, which suggests we should focus on reducing bullying early on because these experiences during high school can have lasting consequences."

And Sullivan mentioned that it is "very important to ensure bullying prevention work inclusive of sexual orientation and gender identity is done in the K-8 years. ... School personnel need to be given the tools to intervene in the language and prevent it from happening again."

Sullivan also noted that "providing quality professional development to school personnel on addressing sexual orientation and gender identity, ensuring all school/district policies protect based on sexual orientation and gender identity and the school community knows about those policies, and having a gay-straight alliance or similar club in the school all contribute to a more positive school climate."

"There is also a bit of new research showing that curricular inclusion of sexual orientation and gender identity topics in schools also contributes to a more positive school climate."

Robinson said he is hopeful: "I think the gay-rights movement will have an impact on reducing the magnitude of the LGB-straight bullying disparity—but only time will tell."

The full study can be accessed at <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/early/2013/01/29/peds.2012-2595.full.pdf+html?sid=2305c3d7-fac7-4bf4-bfa9-e29fd6aea085>.

Howard Brown holding April 7 brunch

Howard Brown Health Center is holding its "Mad Hatter's Brunch" Sunday, April 7, 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m., at ZED451, 739 N. Clark St.

The Kinsey Sicks—often called "America's favorite dragapella beauty-shop quartet"—will provide entertainment.

Proceeds will benefit the Broadway Youth Center. Tickets are \$175-\$250 each; see www.HowardBrown.org.

'Pregnant man' speaks at Northwestern Univ.

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

About 50 people attended a talk the Northwestern University student group Kaibigan sponsored that featured LGBT and human-rights activist Thomas Beatie at Northwestern University's Swift Hall Feb. 23.

Known as the world's first pregnant man, Beatie gained national attention when his story first appeared in The Advocate. He later



Thomas Beatie. Photo by Carrie Maxwell

appeared on The Oprah Winfrey Show and Larry King Live, as well as in People Magazine and many other media outlets. Founder of the screen printing and clothing company Define Normal, Beatie is also the author of Labor of Love: The Story of One Man's Extraordinary Pregnancy.

Following introductions by Angelica Cabrera and Jermaine Dictado, co-presidents of Kaibigan, Beatie spoke about his life and work as an activist.

Beatie began by making a joke that he isn't Jon Gosselin. Then Beatie explained that he sees himself as a man who just wanted a family. He noted that fame and fortune were never his intentions and becoming an activist for the transgender community was accidental.

Then Beatie explained that during his childhood he always wanted to be like his father and that he always felt like a boy. Beatie noted that he was always a tomboy; however, after his mother committed suicide his father pushed Beatie to discard his tomboyish ways. At his father's urging, Beatie became a model and was a finalist in the Miss Hawaii Teen USA pageant.

While attending college Beatie said he discovered who he was and the words that described his gender identity. It was then that he cut his hair and changed the way he dressed. Beatie said that he felt happier and more analytical and driven following his initial surgeries: "I believe our dreams are universal. ... We owe it to ourselves to find out who we are."

In the years that followed, Beatie petitioned and won the right to have all of his legal documents changed to reflect his chosen name and his status as a male. Beatie explained that he always wanted to be a father, however, his wife Nancy couldn't bare children due to health issues. Since Beatie still had his female sex organs, the couple decided that he was the best choice to carry their children. "I felt like I was man enough to be pregnant," said Beatie.

After the birth of their first child, Susan, the couple faced a number of legal obstacles, in-

cluding how they would be listed on the birth certificate. Beatie has since given birth to two sons, Austin and Jensen and although their children are a year apart in age, Beatie noted that they act like triplets (their children share the same biological father). The couple is currently in the process of getting a divorce.

During the Q&A session, Beatie was asked about the results of his surgery; he explained that he can still have children since he didn't have a hysterectomy. As for the reaction to his story, Beatie said he was blown away by the negativity when the story first broke. When asked about his relationship with his father, Beatie explained that their relationship has improved enough that his father now refers to him as his son. People don't really take notice of him for the most part and the people who do recognize him are supportive, Beatie explained.

All proceeds from the evening went to the charity Believe International.

See www.definenormal.com/PregnantMan/Home.html for more information on Beatie. For more about Kaibigan, visit <http://groups.northwestern.edu/kaibigan> and www.facebook.com/groups/2200021994.

Law-school symposium looks at LGBT rights

BY JAMIE ANNE ROYCE

IIT Chicago-Kent College of Law hosted the LGBT Civil Rights Symposium Feb. 22 to discuss legal issues related to marriage equality and LGBT people in the workplace.

The symposium, themed "We Are Not Alone," kicked off with a performance of "Repentance," professor Henry Perritt's original short play about a gay law student who is considering going back into the closet as he enters the job market.

One of the concerns raised in the play was outing yourself in your resume by including work with LGBT organizations and legal associations.

"It's me saying very forcefully that I am a gay person interviewing for a job at a law firm, and how does that affect me getting this job?" said William Lopez, one of the actors in the play.

A panel discussion on sexual orientation employment discrimination, including the emergence of gay-on-gay claims, followed the performance. Participants were each handed a case study and panelists—including legal practitioners Hon. William Borah, Scott Gilbert, Aaron Maduff and Lopez—discussed the potential outcomes of the cases.

Because there is no federal non-discrimination legislation based on sexual orientation, and local and state legislation is spotty, many cases of employment discrimination are handled as sexual harassment cases or gender-based discrimination.

Maduff used a real-life example from the sexual-harassment lawsuit he is leading against Chicago's Spin Nightclub, quoting inappropriate sexual comments alleged by his client against the manager. That case is currently headed for trial.

A second panel of speakers discussed recent developments in the legal landscape of marriage equality. Panelists included Katharine Baker, professor at the Chicago-Kent College of Law; Karen Shelley of the American Civil Liberties Union of Illinois; and Camilla Taylor of Lambda Legal. They tackled the recent marriage equality vote in Illinois as well as the legal contract of marriage.

A reception sponsored by the Chicago-Kent LAMBDA's, an organization of gay and straight law students, closed the symposium.

Transgender youth Michael 'Makayla' Gwinn dies

BY KATE SOSIN

Makayla/Michael Gwinn—a young transgender person whose life work was in mentoring fellow LGBTQ youth, among other things—died Feb. 16. Gwinn was 23.

An active performer, makeup artist and LGBTQ youth advocate, Gwinn loved life and worked to give back to Chicago's LGBT community, said friends. Gwinn, who identified as transgender, used the names Michael, Mikayla and Jaiden as well as both male and female pronouns (a choice reflected in this article).

"He loved life," said DaMina Ross, Gwinn's foster parent. "He was multitalented. He was smart, witty, infectious personality, and he was loyal."

Gwinn was active in a number of LGBT initiatives. She facilitated workshops and discussions at Lawrence Hall Youth Services, where she formerly lived.

Kevin Pleasant, a mentor and friend to Gwinn, said Gwinn was dependable and committed to work with youth.

"He was youth advocating especially for LGBT youth," Pleasant said. "He just wanted equality for LGBT youth. He wanted them to have the same opportunities as non-LGBT youth."

Gwinn was also very involved in National Youth Pride Services (NYPS).

Frank Walker, founder of NYPS, said he was shocked to hear of Gwinn's passing.

According to Ross, Gwinn was found dead outside a residence in Ravenswood on Chicago's North Side, after a possible drug overdose.

Walker and Ross said Gwinn's life had not been easy or simple.

Gwinn was born in Waukegan and later moved to Chicago. At age nine, she entered the foster care system. When Ross met her, Gwinn was living as female in a group home with men. Ross later filed the paperwork to become Gwinn's foster parent.

Despite challenges, Gwinn succeeded both academically and professionally. She graduated from St. Gregory the Great High School and pursued an associate's degree in applied marketing from Harold Washington College. He later earned his certification as a makeup artist after attending London Eyes International Academy of Makeup. He was working as a makeup instructor at the time of his death.

Gwinn also performed at local clubs and was a member of the ball house, House of Evisu.

"I personally like how, even though all these worlds were against her, she made her way to be what she wanted," said Walker.

Ross said Gwinn had a close and supportive chosen family. He is also survived by biological siblings.

Ross remembered Gwinn as funny, charismatic, loyal and courageous.

Gwinn's passing marks the eighth death of an NYPS youth in less than a year, a stunningly high number. The deaths are believed to be unrelated, but the unusually high rate among Black LGBTQ youth in Chicago is sparking fears among advocates and youth alike.

Gwinn was friends with Paige Clay, a transgender woman whose murder last Spring garnered national attention.

Walker said that in its first nine years of operating, NYPS saw just two deaths in the organization. In the last few months alone, he has seen eight. Walker cannot make sense of those losses. NYPS has started keeping track of the number of Black gay youth who die in the United States. They receive notice of one death a week.

"The majority of them are people we know



Makayla/Michael Gwinn. Photo from National Youth Pride Services

from Chicago," Walker said. "I think eventually the mainstream media is going to have to start noticing that a lot of Black LGBT youth are dying."

Services for Gwinn are scheduled for Saturday, March 2, at Destiny Worship Center, 5510 W. Chicago Ave. A wake will be held 12-1 p.m. The funeral will follow at 1 p.m. Donations to cover the cost of services can be made through Brooks Memorial Chapel at 773-699-3323.

PASSAGES

Jackie Lane Smitherman

Jackie Lane Smitherman—a resident of Lakeview for the past 20 years—passed away suddenly at age 40 due to liver and kidney failure.

Many knew Lane at Ragin' Rajejan's video store that he managed for several years. He also worked at He Who Eats Mud on Broadway and recently at Windy City Sweets. He loved his last job very much—candy, kids and happy people were his joy.

Lane is survived by his loving partner, Leon Stevens; parents Jackie and Sharon Smitherman; and brothers Chet and Kenny of Crystal Springs, Miss.

A memorial service was held at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Lakeview on Feb. 10. Smitherman loved collecting comic books and Wonder Women items.

All who knew Lane remember his beautiful smile, kind words and love of animals. He lived a short life but is remembered by all who knew him as "the gentle giant."



Jackie Lane Smitherman. Photo from Leon Stevens

LGBTQ youth of color activists lead nationwide summit

BY MELISSA WASSERMAN

Over 40 LGBTQ youth of color, representing approximately 17 organizations, from 16 cities across the nation gathered in Chicago to share activist tactics in the Connect Our Roots organizing summit Feb. 15-17.

New York City-based organization FIERCE, dedicated to building the leadership and power of LGBTQ youth of color, assembled the three-day grassroots organizing summit. Affinity Community Services, Broadway Youth Center, Gender Just and Young Women's Empowerment Project (YWEP) worked in partnership with FIERCE, serving as the program's hosting committee.

Nathaniel Phillipps, a Las Vegas resident, traveled to Chicago to participate in the summit due to what he describes as a lack of resources for queer young people of color in Las Vegas.

"Las Vegas isn't necessarily known for being community and family-oriented and that's a problem we have," he said. "So I wanted to come here and connect with other awesome activists and organizers from across the country, learn from FIERCE's rich history about how to make life and community better for people my age in Las Vegas."

The weekend began with a panel open to the public at the Chicago Freedom School located in the south loop. The panel of nine LGBTQ youth of color organizers from FIERCE and various Chicago-based organizations led the evening's discussion with approximately 60 people, including summit participants, youth organizers from around Chicago and adult allies in attendance.

The panel featured FIERCE members Ana Conner and Lee Jimenez; Dominique McKinney, site co-director of Young Women's Empowerment Project (YWEP); Daphnie Williams, YWEP's administrative coordinator; Reyna Wences, co-founder of Immigrant Youth Justice League; Rossette, an Amigas Latinas Organizer; Veronica Morris-Moore, a member of Fearless Leading by the Youth (FLY); and Fresco Steez and Alexis, youth organizers for Affinity Community Services. Coordinator of Youth Programs at Chicago Freedom School Tony Alvarado-Rivera served as panel moderator.

"I just want to build relationships with these folks and become allies," said Jimenez, a FIERCE member since 2008. "I just think it's empowering to see a bunch of queer and trans youth of color in this space especially because we're very marginalized and we're looked at like as we don't care about these issues and



Attendees at the conference. Photo by Andre Perez

we don't take the initiative to change these issues. I think the summit proves that's not true. There's a whole bunch of queer and trans youth of color here right now that are willing to learn that and have so much knowledge about the issues that affect them and what's going on in their communities."

Each member of the panel discussed the history of their respective organizations, current campaigns each are involved with, strategies as well as sharing experiences as LGBTQ youth of color. The evening's event concluded with a performance from Chicago singer-songwriter Kokumo, an African-American transgender woman.

"There's plenty of adult spaces out there, but we really need to create a youth space where young people can actually talk," said Krystal Portalatin, co-director and co-founder of FIERCE. "I think one thing that were trying to figure out are the common grounds that we all organize from. A lot of what we talked about tonight [in the panel] was the intersectionality of our work and our identities."

Throughout the rest of the weekend, according to a summit agenda, Connect Our Roots continued to focus on youth building organizing skills and share organizing models and strategies. Participants discussed specific conditions they are facing in their regions, lead political education sessions on topics such as LGBTQ history and immigration, and conducted visionary planning to build the presence, capacity and effectiveness of LGBTQ youth organizing across the United States.

"FIERCE is really hopeful this is going to be the first step in building a national network of LGBT youth of color organizers," said Portalatin. "We're looking for some direction with some support from everybody here and to be able to do that together. Chicago is doing really amazing work and it's been really inspiring and we've been really inspired."

VALEO

AT CHICAGO LAKESHORE HOSPITAL

Chicago's Dedicated and Comprehensive LGBT Program

Valeo at Chicago Lakeshore Hospital provides comprehensive psychiatric and addiction-related treatment for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) individuals. The program offers a safe, affirming therapeutic environment for members of the LGBTQ community. The Valeo staff is comprised of well-trained, experienced gay and gay-sensitive behavioral health professionals from a wide variety of disciplines.

4840 N. MARINE DRIVE
CHICAGO, IL 60640
1-800-888-0560
www.chicagolakeshorehospital.com

MARRIAGE from cover

kids. But to have the attorney general move to intervene in the lawsuit just two days after it was filed, in order to say this law must be struck down and then to have the state attorney and the Cook County clerk hold a joint press conference just a couple weeks later to express the same thing and make their filing was a real affirmation. I think that was also helpful in creating legislative momentum.

WCT: Do these two separate campaigns impact each other?

CT: Yes, I think they do. I think legislators want to be responsible for doing the right thing. They want to be on the forefront and to say, "we took this step." And the court case provides a certain time constraint on that.

WCT: There's also mounting political pressure. It's not just about doing the right thing. In Illinois, many of the major players are backing this.

CT: Yes. Every single newspaper editorial board around the state that has opined on this issue has been soundly in support and repeatedly calling upon the legislature to do the right thing. We've had the governor, the mayor, all sorts of elected officials at every level. ... It's really been an overwhelming year in that regard.

WCT: I want to talk about Iowa and that campaign. A lot of people had long seen the Midwest as flyover country for LGBT rights.

CT: There was a great sign that I saw in Iowa on the day that marriage decision was rendered. There were spontaneous rallies in numerous cities around the state, and the statewide equality group had done a great job of preparing activists for the day when it could come down and asking everyone to come out in the streets.

So these public squares filled with people with posters that they had made and one of them said "Flyover Equality." It still brings tears to my eyes to think about that because everyone in Iowa understood that that's how they were viewed.

WCT: That seems to be the case for the southern part of our state. How do you reconcile the push for marriage equality in Chicago with that of southern Illinois?

CT: It's really the same way that we responded to this challenge with respect to our marriage lawsuit. We were very careful to make sure that this was a case that was going to be for all couples in Illinois and their kids. Even though we had couples clamoring to be part of it, we didn't

Jan Dee. Photos courtesy of Dee



Camilla Taylor. Photo by Kate Sosin

go solely with couples from [the city]. In fact, of the 16 plaintiff couples in our suit, eight of them are from areas outside of the greater Chicago area.

We wanted to make sure that everyone felt included and that the concerns of downstate couples and their family members were going to be heard. Some of the most amazing and moving and heartfelt stories are coming from these downstate couples, who have so much to share, not just about the challenges they face as an out lesbian couple or an out gay couple in downstate Illinois, but also about the embrace that they're experienced from their communities.

So, we have to be careful too not to stereotype downstate.

WCT: What are the benefits and drawbacks to each of these different marriage campaigns in court and in the legislature? One of the concerns seems to be that if a marriage bill is not done right in the General Assembly, you could end up rolling back protections in the Illinois Human Rights Act.

CT: Yeah. In state legislatures, every time a marriage bill has been pushed forward, there has always been an effort by opponents, who can see that they're on the wrong side of history with this and that the legislation is likely to pass, to make opportunistic use of the fact that the legislation is moving forward in an effort to carve out exemptions to pre-existing non-discrimination protections for lesbian and gay individuals throughout the state.

As a sort of a bargain, you trade discrimination in employment in the workplace or in public accommodations like restaurants and hotels in return for the freedom to marry. That's what they ask. So when you fight for legislation providing the freedom to marry, you also have to combat the expectation that some trade must be made.

WCT: And the drawbacks to doing it in the courts?

CT: The courts take a long while. We filed this case because we confident that the law is with us, so we have a great deal of optimism about the outcome of our court case. But it does take a long while.

WCT: Something that is very much in the background of the lawsuits is the identity of Judge Sophia Hall. She is an out lesbian judge, and opponents have called on her to recuse herself from the case.

CT: The calls for a judge to recuse him or herself because of sexual orientation are ludicrous demands. We don't suggest that a divorced judge is incapable of overseeing a divorce or for that matter be particularly qualified to do so. And neither do we think that a woman is somehow required to recuse herself from a sex discrimi-

nation case. We understand that judges are required to rule on the law and we trust them to do so.

I went to law school in order to try to take cases that I thought might make a difference in people's lives. That world view only makes sense if you trust that courts actually follow the law. If you don't have the law, you can't win the case.

WCT: When do you think we will see equal marriage in every state?

CT: Things have moved a lot faster than many of us could have dreamed. When I joined Lambda Legal back in 2002, there [were] still 13 states that criminalized intimacy between people of the same sex.

We have moved with lightening speed on this issue. How long will it be before every last state? I think I'm going to see it in my lifetime. I'm certain of that. Will it be in the next 10 years? Probably.

WCT: What comes after marriage equality? What do you see as the major legal challenges for LGBT people down the road?

CT: We have a whole docket full of cases of kids who are being bullied in schools or who are trying to form student clubs on the same terms as other student clubs. ... There are employment cases that need to be brought.

We're also seeing a lot of effort from anti-gay organizations that still vastly outnumber us and have significantly more funding than we do. These anti-gay organizations are trying to create a body of law that would permit individuals or businesses to exempt themselves from non-discrimination laws simply by articulating some sort of religious description of their discrimination. We're seeing elements of that in the challenges to Obamacare.

WCT: One of the biggest critiques of the same-sex marriage movement has been that it does not apply to all LGBT people, that it will afford rights to some couples but not to LGBT people as a whole. What do you think are the next steps in terms of pursuing some of those rights for people not in couples or not interested in marrying?

CT: I think a lot of those cases are cases that we already do. They're cases on behalf of kids in schools or employees who are facing discrimination, whether they're cases on behalf of transgender people who are facing discrimination in custody disputes.

There's a whole docket of cases that I think will have broad ramifications for people outside of the marriage work.

Now that said, I think there is sometimes a misperception in the community that "Gay Inc." focuses on marriage cases to the expense of everything else and that marriage cases have no bearing on people's lives unless they get mar-

ried. Actually, when you seek the freedom to marry, you often obtain all sorts of freedoms along the way, simply by virtue of your demand that there be equality in marriage. Sometimes the lives most transformed by the freedom to marry are the lives of kids who may face incredible discrimination, not just in school but rejection at home and from churches and so on, who now get affirmation from their government that they can share in the same dream of whatever kind of family they want to have when they grow up, and that there is absolutely nothing wrong with them. I think that's the biggest value of eliminating a marriage ban.

Berrios clarifies marriage stance, plans to vote 'yes'

BY KATE SOSIN

State Rep. Toni Berrios has clarified her stance on same-sex marriage, after reports that she was wavering the equal marriage bill currently in the Illinois House.

DNA.info.com had reported Feb. 21 that a Berrios spokesperson said that Berrios would not disclose her stance on the measure until it was out of committee and she could review the final language.

That statement likely came as a surprise to many LGBT people. Berrios previously told Windy City Times that she backed equal marriage, and she has been supportive Chicago LGBT groups in the past.

Contacted by Windy City Times, Berrios said she stands firmly in support of the bill.

"I'm not undecided," she said. "I'm definitely a 'yes' vote."

Berrios said that a staffer likely declined to offer a stance on bill when Berrios could not be immediately reached for comment.

However, Berrios added that her stance is not wavering. She said she is currently working with colleagues in the Legislative Latino Caucus, urging them to vote "yes" on the Religious Freedom and Marriage Fairness Act.

She said she would also speak in favor of the bill during a full house vote if needed.

"I'm looking forward to the passage of this legislation," she said.

Momentum builds for marriage as bill heads for House

BY KATE SOSIN

Illinois's same-sex marriage bill was headed for the House after the measure passed out of the Senate on Valentine's Day. The bill was expected to be heard in committee Feb. 26.

The Religious Freedom and Marriage Fairness Act had been assigned to the House Executive Committee, its first test before it can go a full House vote.

Momentum for the measure continues to build.

Illinois Unites for Marriage, a coalition of groups supporting marriage equality, announced Feb. 24 that 23 prominent Latino leaders had signed a letter in support of the bill.

The Human Rights Campaign has also put 15 field organizers on the bill. Freedom to Marry, another national LGBT organization, is investing \$800,000 in six marriage battle states, Illinois among them.

A date has not been set for a full House vote yet, said Bernard Cherkasov, CEO of Equality Illinois.

Wed., Feb. 27

7:30 p.m.

**Michael Hainey
and Barbara Hainey
After Visiting Friends**

Friday, March 8

7:30 p.m.

**Francesca T. Royster
Sounding Like
a No-No**

5233 N. Clark
(773) 769-9299



wcfbooks@aol.com
womenandchildrenfirst.com
Parking Available
Wheelchair Accessible

GAY in the LIFE

Troy Karnoff

TEXT BY ROSS FORMAN
PHOTOS COURTESY OF KARNOFF



Age
44

Neighborhood
Rogers Park

Job title
Consultant for Arbonne

Hobbies
Volleyball and skiing

Favorite local restaurant
MorseL

Favorite movie
Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory

Favorite TV show
New Girl

Must-have for an awesome brunch
"Bottomless mimosas [laughs]; I guess I would say eggs."

When Troy Karnoff moved from Long Beach, Calif., to Chicago almost six years ago, he barely knew anyone; also, the few friends he knew, they too traveled regularly. But a brunch club ultimately brought everyone together.

The simple idea has blossomed into the Big Gay Brunch Club, formed in April 2009, in which Karnoff and friends joke around, chow down and test out local restaurants.



"This is a GLBT networking group to meet new people in the Chicago [gay] community," said Karnoff, who serves as the brunch organizer. "They are a great time, fun to mingle at, and just purely social."

And yes, several have found their significant others at the Big Gay Brunch Club. Karnoff said he knows of at least three couples that are now together after meeting at the brunch. It also has led to business opportunities for some, he said.

"The Big Gay Brunch Club has introduced me to several great brunch locations that I would have never known about and to a countless amount of new friends," said Dougie Collins of Chicago, who has eaten with the Brunch Club about 20 times, which he labeled as "Great food, great drink, zero attitude—and just a wonderful way to kick off any Sunday Funday."



They've had brunch at the House of Blues and the rooftop bar, Vertigo, at the Dana Hotel—and everyone dressed in robes for that one, provided by the hotel.

"I just posted a fan page on Facebook [for the Big Gay Brunch Club] and asked people to join. I now have over 800 members," Karnoff said. "The worst part of managing the brunch is if it gets too big."

The group gets together once a month, on a Sunday. They have dined at Kit Kat Lounge & Supper Club in Lakeview, and Tapas Las Ramblas in Andersonville is one of the group's favorite stops. Brunches range from 25 to 100-plus people.



TOYOTA
RONNIE COLOSIMO'S OAK LAWN TOYOTA

WELCOME TO THE

AUTOSHOW SHOWDOWN

AT OAK LAWN TOYOTA!

0% ON 9

DIFFERENT NEW TOYOTAS!

Dave Capelle

DAVE CAPELLE MANAGER
CAPELLE@OAKLAWNTOYOTA.COM

42 years in business where our tenured sales force makes all the difference!

"SAW THEM AT THE SHOW, NOW SEE THEM PRICED TO GO!"

1-800-NEW-TOYOTA • 1-800-639-8696

ALWAYS A GREAT SELECTION OF PRE-DRIVEN, CERTIFIED VEHICLES

GET 1.9% APR* FOR UP TO 60 MONTHS ON SELECT TOYOTA CERTIFIED MODELS

★ ★ ★ PRE-DRIVEN VEHICLES ★ ★ ★

2010 TOYOTA COROLLA LE <small>AT, CERTIFIED, LOW APR! LOW MILES, LOW PRICE!</small>	\$11,982	2006 CHEVROLET EQUINOX LT <small>FULL POWER - KEYLESS ENTRY...</small>	\$10,799
2012 TOYOTA YARIS <small>BASE, GREAT ON GAS - FULL POWER</small>	\$12,998	2008 TOYOTA COROLLA 4DR SDN S <small>AT, BLACK BEAUTY - LOW MILES - CERTIFIED</small>	\$10,969
2012 TOYOTA YARIS <small>BASE, LOADED - GREAT ON GAS</small>	\$12,999	2009 SCION XB 5DR WGN <small>AUTO, 27000 ACTUAL MILES - POWER WINDOWS AND LOCKS</small>	\$10,972
2008 TOYOTA CAMRY 4DR SDN LE <small>AT, CERTIFIED, LOW APR! STEERING WHEEL AUDIO CONTROLS, LOW MILES!</small>	\$14,623	2008 TOYOTA CAMRY 4DR SDN LE <small>AT, LOW PRICE, EXTRA CLEAN! RED HOT CAMRY!</small>	\$11,487
2009 TOYOTA CAMRY LE <small>CERTIFIED W/BLEETOOTH AUDIO CONTROLS!</small>	\$15,292	2005 DODGE DURANGO SLT 4WD <small>SNOW READY, LOW MILES & LOW PRICE!</small>	\$11,498
2010 TOYOTA CAMRY LE <small>CARFAX 1-OWNER, LOW PRICE, LOW MILES!</small>	\$15,321	2007 TOYOTA HIGHLANDER 4DR 2WD <small>AT, ALL TOYOTA QUALITY FULL POWER</small>	\$11,949
2011 TOYOTA CAMRY LE <small>HARD TO FIND COLOR, CARFAX 1-OWNER, CERTIFIED!</small>	\$16,763	2008 TOYOTA YARIS 3DR HB <small>AT, GREAT GAS SAVER - LOW LOW MILES - CERTIFIED</small>	\$12,989
2008 TOYOTA CAMRY LE <small>LOW MILES, LOW PRICE, CERTIFIED LOW APR!</small>	\$16,779	2008 TOYOTA TACOMA ACC CAB 2WD <small>AT, ACCESS CAB TRUCK W/ONLY CARFAX 1-OWNER!</small>	\$13,256
2010 TOYOTA CAMRY XLE <small>CARFAX 1-OWNER, LEATHER, FULLY LOADED!</small>	\$16,836	2006 CADILLAC DTS <small>4DR SDN, SUPER SHAPE - ALL LUXURY</small>	\$13,364
2007 TOYOTA SIENNA LE <small>LOW MILES, LIKE NEW! EXTRA CLEAN INTERIOR! STEERING WHEEL AUDIO CONTROLS!</small>	\$17,899	2007 TOYOTA CAMRY LE <small>CLEAN IN AND OUT MUST SEE</small>	\$13,532
2011 TOYOTA CAMRY SE <small>CARFAX 1-OWNER, BLUE EXTERIOR & EXTRA CLEAN INTERIOR!</small>	\$19,491	2006 JEEP COMMANDER LIMITED <small>LEATHER-LOADED - JEEPS BEST</small>	\$13,999
2012 TOYOTA CAMRY LE <small>CERTIFIED 7 YR 100000 MILE WARRANTY!</small>	\$19,714	2008 TOYOTA PRIUS <small>4DR CERTIFIED - FULL POWER</small>	\$14,972
2010 TOYOTA CAMRY XLE <small>LEATHER, BLEETOOTH, ALLOY WHEELS, WOOD-GRAINED TRIM & MORE!</small>	\$20,856	2006 MINI COOPER S 2DR CPE S <small>HOT 2-DOOR COUPE! GREAT ON GAS, EXTRA SAFETY FEATURES!</small>	\$14,984
2010 TOYOTA HIGHLANDER <small>BASE, CERTIFIED, LIKE NEW! 4WD SNOW READY!</small>	\$20,997	2006 TOYOTA TACOMA ACC CAB 4WD V6 <small>AT, ACCESS CAB 4WD V6 & CARFAX 1-OWNER!</small>	\$15,584
2008 TOYOTA CAMRY SOLARA SLE <small>HARD TO FIND CONVERTIBLE, CERTIFIED! LEATHER & STEERING WHEEL AUDIO CONTROLS!</small>	\$22,341		
2011 TOYOTA AVALON LIMITED <small>NAVIGATION, LEATHER & SUNROOF! WOOD-GRAINED TRIM INTERIOR!</small>	\$30,326		

A DEALER YOU CAN COUNT ON.

4320 WEST 95TH ST. • 1.800.NEW.TOYOTA • 1.800.639.8696

HOURS: MON. - THURS. 9AM-9PM, FRI. 9AM-6PM, SAT. 9AM-5PM

OAKLAWNTOYOTA.COM

Toyota Covers normal factory scheduled service for 2 years or 25K miles, whichever comes first. The new Toyota vehicle cannot be part of a rental or commercial fleet or a livery or taxi vehicle. See participating dealer for complete plan details. Valid only in the continental United States and Alaska. All offers valid with approved credit to qualified customers through Toyota Financial Services. Exclude tax, title, license, and \$164 documentation fee. *Finance offer available on select new 2012 and 2013 models for up to 60 months. \$16.67 per \$1,000 financed due per month. ^\$17.48 per \$1,000 borrowed financed due per month. +All lease offers are valid for 36 months with \$0 security deposit. These offers expire 2/28. *Finance offer available for up to 60 months on select certified pre-owned vehicles with credit approval. Must finance through TFS. Dealer will not honor any pricing errors in this advertisement. Please see dealer for complete details. Finance offers end 4/1/13.

VIEWPOINTS

WINDY CITY
TIMES

VOL. 28, No. 21, Feb. 27, 2013

*The combined forces of Windy City Times,
founded Sept. 1985, and Outlines newspaper,
founded May 1987.*PUBLISHER & EXECUTIVE EDITOR
Tracy Baim

ASSISTANT PUBLISHER Terri Klinsky
 MANAGING EDITOR Andrew Davis
 BUSINESS MANAGER Ripley Caine
 DIRECTOR OF NEW MEDIA Jean Albright
 ART DIRECTOR Kirk Williamson
 SENIOR ACCOUNT MANAGERS: Terri Klinsky, Amy Matheny, Kirk Williamson, Chris Cheuvront
 PROMOTIONAL SUPPORT Cynthia Holmes
 NATIONAL SALES Rivendell Media, 212-242-6863
 SENIOR WRITERS Kate Sosin, Bob Roehr, Rex Wockner, Marie J. Kuda, David Byrne, Tony Pergrin, Lisa Keen, Yasmin Nair, Erica Demarest
 THEATER EDITOR Scott C. Morgan
 CINEMA WRITER Richard Knight, Jr.
 BOOKS WRITER Yasmin Nair
 SPORTS WRITER Ross Forman
 ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT WRITERS
 Mary Shen Barnidge, Steve Warren, Lawrence Ferber, Mel Ferrand, Jerry Nunn, Jonathan Abarbanel
 COLUMNISTS/WRITERS: Yvonne Zipter, Jorjet Harper, Meghan Streit, Charles Dewey, Carrie Maxwell, Billy Masters, Tyler Gillespie, Sarah Toce, Dana Rudolph, Sally Parsons, Melissa Wasserman, Jamie Anne Royce, Matthew C. Clark, Joe Franco
 SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHERS Mel Ferrand, Hal Baim, Emmanuel Garcia, Tim Carroll, Ed Negron, Susan Mattes

CIRCULATION

CIRCULATION DIRECTOR Jean Albright
 DISTRIBUTION: Ashina, Allan, Dan, John, Renee, Sue and Victor
 WEB HOSTING: LoveYourWebsite.com (lead programmer: Martie Marro)

Copyright 2013 Lambda Publications Inc./Windy City Media Group; All rights reserved. Reprint by permission only. Back issues (if available) for \$5 per issue (postage included). Return postage must accompany all manuscripts, drawings, and photographs submitted if they are to be returned, and no responsibility may be assumed for unsolicited materials. All rights to letters, art and photographs sent to *Windy City Times* will be treated as unconditionally assigned for publication purposes and as such, subject to editing and comment. The opinions expressed by the columnists, cartoonists, letter writers, and commentators are their own and do not necessarily reflect the position of *Windy City Times*. Publication of the name, photograph, or likeness of a person or organization in articles or advertising in *Windy City Times* is not to be construed as any indication of the sexual orientation of such person or organization. While we encourage readers to support the advertisers who make this newspaper possible, *Windy City Times* cannot accept responsibility for advertising claims.

(773) 871-7610 FAX (773) 871-7609
 e-mail: editor@windycitymediagroup.com or Andrew@windycitymediagroup.com

www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com
 podcast: WindyCityQueercast.com

WINDY CITY MEDIA GROUP,
 5315 N. Clark St. #192, Chicago, Illinois 60640
 U.S.A.
 (MAILING ADDRESS ONLY)

Windy City Times Deadline every Wednesday.
 Nightspots Deadline Wednesday prior to street date.
OUT! Resource Guide ONLINE
 www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com
 www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com
 www.WindyCityQueercast.com
 www.QueerTVNetwork.com

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

 Community Marketing, Inc.



REV.
IRENE
MONROE

It's time for a queer-friendly pope

Just hours after Pope Benedict XVI announced his unexpected resignation, a bolt of lightning struck St. Peter's Basilica.

Many say it's unequivocally a sign from God.

If so, I'm hoping it's an Amen moment signaling the end of an oppressive era of LGBTQ bashing as the church now moves forward.

"With the pope's impending resignation, the church has an opportunity to turn away from his oppressive policies toward lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Catholics, and their families and friends, and develop a new understanding of the ways in which God is at work in the lives of faithful and loving people regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity," said the LGBT Catholic group Equally Blessed in a statement.

This pope has used his papal authority to hold back the tides against modernity. And the early signs were there long before Benedict became pope. The reaction by many religious progressives to the election of then Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger in April 2005 as Pope Benedict XVI had been tempered by either their faith to keep hope alive or by an apologetic acceptance in deference to Pope John Paul II.

If the Catholic Church was looking for a religious leader who embraces the world—as it is today—Pope Benedict XVI a.k.a. Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger was not the man.

Benedict used his authoritarian and "Rottweiler" persona of church doctrine to maintain an ecclesiastical lockdown on the churches progressives.

For example, just last year he publicly bashed, not surprisingly, a group of U.S. "dissident" nuns

for "focusing its work too much on poverty and economic injustice, while keeping 'silent' on abortion and same-sex marriage." This rogue group of Catholic sisters were not only undermining the Church's teaching on the priesthood and homosexuality, but they were also brashly promoting "certain radical feminist themes incompatible with the Catholic faith."

Benedict pushed back against the tide of progressive theologies by upholding a rigid orthodoxy of millennium-old church doctrines and creeds.

Case in point, Benedict suppressed the growth of liberation theologies in Third World countries, the emerging face of the Catholic Church, for their supposedly Marxist leanings that exposed classism. However, Liberation theology combines Christian theology with political activism on issues dealing with human rights and social justice. Liberation theologies emphasize the biblical themes that God's actions on behalf of the enslaved, the poor, the outcasts like women, people of color, and LGBTQ people, just to name a few, are a central paradigm for a faith that embraces the world—as it is today—from an engaged and committed stance that does justice.

It is liberation theologies that have given women, people of color, LGBTQs, developing countries a voice. And it's liberation theologies that allow us all—churched and unchurched, believer as well as atheist—to stand in the truth of who we are.

Benedict's venomous attacks on LGBTQ people has been unrelenting.

Just this past December, the pontiff's Christmas sermon denounced same-sex marriage, advocating it would destroy the "essence of the human creature." In previous sermon anti-LGBTQ diatribes during his tenure as pope Benedict has stated that marriage equality is a "manipulation of nature," and a threat to world peace.

The pontiff doesn't equivocate his stance on us with the theological qualifier to "love the sinner but hate the sin." Instead, Benedict takes his stance to a level that invites LGBTQ-bashing justified in the name of God.

"Although the particular inclination of the homosexual person is not a sin, it is more or less a strong tendency ordered toward an intrinsic

moral evil," Cardinal Ratzinger stated in a 1986 Letter to the Bishops of the Catholic Church on Pastoral Care of Homosexual Persons.

On the Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith website, directed by then Cardinal Ratzinger, he wrote: "Those who would move from tolerance to the legitimization of specific rights for cohabiting homosexual persons need to be reminded that the approval or legalization of evil is something far different from the toleration of evil."

Benedict believes that evil is born into a person and that it is part of their ontological makeup; therefore, when you remove the bad seed, you ostensibly remove the evil. And many religious conservatives feel that since you cannot remove LGBTQ people from society, then society must either restrain or deny them their civil rights.

And one clear way to do that is to call that group of people "evil" or state that they contribute to, if not create, evil in the world.

St. Augustine argued that evil arose from the original sin committed by Adam and Eve. And St. Thomas Aquinas said that evil derives from man's abuse of God giving us the choice of free will. However, it wasn't until the 18th century that philosopher Jean-Jacques Rousseau stated that evil was not an intrinsic nature found in man, but instead it was caused by the corruption and constraints of a society. And I side with Rousseau.

Evil exists in its various machinations because of systems, regimes, presidencies and, yes, the Vatican, which allow it to give birth unchecked. As a system whose wheels churn on the absence of goodness, evil reduces people to objects of sin and targets of hatred, thus denying them their basic human needs. And its strength to maintain human suffering is proportionate not only to its political and capital clout, but also to the strength of its religious ideological underpinning.

The problem with evil is not only how it diminishes human life, but also how it denies the suffering it causes.

It's time for a queer-friendly pope. And the bolt of lightning striking St. Peter's Basilica is no clearer sign.

problems arise when religious groups want exemptions that go beyond protecting the church door and extend into the public sphere of commercial transactions and social services.

We especially are watching out for proposals to exempt marriage "celebrations." Marriage "celebrations" often means wedding receptions, not just solemnization ceremonies done in a church. So if a bill includes this language, a religiously affiliated agency that rents out space to people of all faiths and backgrounds for wedding receptions can deny gay and lesbian couples the chance to rent that space. This type of discrimination usually is unlawful under human rights laws like the one in Illinois, which says organizations that offer goods or services to the public may not discriminate on a series of grounds including race, religion, national origin, marital status, disability, age, sex or sexual orientation.

Another type of religious exemption that can harm LGBT people allows a religious organization to not "recognize" a same-sex couple's marriage. This is particularly alarming when we consider what can happen in religiously affiliated hospitals when visitation or decision-making depends on one's legal status. Just imagine needing emergency care, being taken to the nearest hospital, and having your spouse kept from your bedside because the hospital refused to respect your legal marriage.

A third example concerns social services. The government provides funding to many organizations that provide adoption services, addiction recovery, hunger relief, senior services, and help for those who are homeless. Usually, if an organization receives public funds to provide ser-

vices like this, it cannot discriminate on various bases including sexual orientation. Allowing an exemption for religiously affiliated agencies could have broad implications, such as blocking children who need families from placement with eligible same-sex couples and putting those who need shelter at risk of rejection because they are gay.

It is exciting to see our allies in legislatures across the country standing up for the freedom to marry. We are working vigilantly with them to protect our core nondiscrimination policies in the process.

If you feel you have been discriminated against based on your sexual orientation, gender identity or HIV status please contact our Legal Help Desk at www.lambdalegal.org/help.

Jenny Pizer is the senior counsel and director of the Law and Policy Project for Lambda Legal.

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



JENNY
PIZER

ASK LAMBDA LEGAL

Religious exemptions

Q: I live in Illinois and have been eagerly waiting to see if we become the next state to win marriage. I was reading about an issue with religious exemptions. Can you tell me what that means?

A: In addition to Illinois, Colorado is considering a civil-union bill and Rhode Island and Hawaii are reviewing marriage measures. As we work toward equality for same-sex relationships across the country, we are having to resist suggestions in some states that new exemptions should be created from current state nondiscrimination laws.

The proposed exemptions we are seeing are clauses in bills designed to allow religious organizations to discriminate against same-sex couples who are getting married or entering a civil union, or have done so. Religious belief and expression are already protected by our federal Constitution and every state constitution, so exemptions in bills are not necessary to protect the freedom of clergy and houses of worship to decide whose marriages they will solemnize. The

GOINGS-ON

WINDY CITY TIMES' ENTERTAINMENT SECTION



Photo by Macall Polay

BOXED OFF

Mia Wasikowska (above), Nicole Kidman and Matthew Goode star in the movie *Stoker*. See page 17.

DISH

French twist.
Page 18Photo of coq au vin
at Brasserie 54 by Andrew Davis

THEATER

'Saints' and sinners.
Page 15Photo from *25 Saints*
by Michael Brosilow

SPORTS

On a roll.
Page 22Photo of Lori Danko
by Mariah Carson

SCOTTISH PLAY SCOTT

WCPA sings for a cause,
greet new leader

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

I've been singing with the Windy City Gay Chorus for 10 years and writing freelance for Windy City Times for nine years. In that time, I've rarely written in these pages about Windy City Gay Chorus and its umbrella organization, Windy City Performing Arts (WCPA), unless I disclosed up front that I was a dues-paying member.

Despite past pressure from some WCPA members for increased coverage, I felt it was a journalistic conflict of interest to use my newspaper connections to highlight a Chicago chorus I sang with over others. So why am I throwing my ethics out the window for this feature on the upcoming WCPA concerts titled "A Flood of Hope" at Ebenezer Lutheran Church on Saturday, March 2?

The answer, in part, is due to the fact that the performances are Hurricane Sandy Relief Concerts to benefit the storm-damaged Ali Forney Center for Homeless LGBT Youth in New York City. The other reason is to highlight the arrival of the new WCPA Artistic Director Paul Caldwell, who will conduct both the Windy City Gay Chorus and the women's ensemble, Aria, in "A Flood of Hope."

"Gay organizations like Windy City Performing Arts are particularly well-suited both to assist and to celebrate important issues in the gay community," said Caldwell about making his introductory WCPA conducting foray into a benefit for LGBT youth. "Music gives us such a wonderful opportunity to do that. It is sort of an opportunity missed if we don't direct at least some of our efforts that way."

Caldwell, a South Carolina native who still has

the drawl to prove it, comes to Chicago's oldest gay choral organization with many years of conducting and composing experience. Locally, Caldwell previously conducted the Chicago Children's Chorus in the early 1990s and he has been artistic director of the Youth Choral Theater of Chicago for the past dozen or so years. Caldwell is also known for his choral collaborations with composer Sean Ivory that have been performed from Australia's Sydney Opera House to Carnegie Hall in New York.

Like many people inspired by the "It Gets Better" project to encourage struggling LGBT youth to live for a better tomorrow, Caldwell felt it was important for him to be more out and open about his life as a gay man. Caldwell made a very well-produced *It Gets Better* online video featuring himself and members of the Youth Choral Theater, and he now makes it a point to come out as gay whenever he travels to guest conduct ensembles and at competitions throughout the country.

Realizing that he had previously never programmed a concert solely for an LGBT organization before, Caldwell was also inspired to be more involved directly with Chicago's gay community.

"When the position with Windy City Performing Arts came open, I thought that would be a good way for me to do it," said Caldwell. "I'm thrilled to be here and I think it's a period of great growth and great excitement—building on a tradition that is really legendary and imbuing that tradition with new energy."

Now WCPA has seen its share of many leadership struggles, with more than five different choral directors rotating in and out to lead the



Paul Caldwell. Photo by Dane Tashmina

organization over the past decade. WCPA has also seen fluctuations in membership, with many long-term members and followers of the chorus often bemoaning how the chorus has never been as populous as its heyday in the 1980s.

"You have to make sure that the people in the room are having a good time, said Caldwell when asked about membership retention. "Particularly with volunteer choruses, people are choosing to give their leisure time to this activity and if they don't feel like a burden in their life has been lightened a bit week after week, then there isn't much reason for them to keep doing it."

Caldwell still feels that LGBT choruses have important work to do, even if some of the original founding principles for many have been changed through the years.

"It's a time when many gay choruses are re-examining their purpose—because when the gay chorus movement started, it was all about having a place where people could be out and proud," Caldwell said. "The world has changed enough that it isn't as absolutely immediately urgent and necessary as it was at that time. Now there are a lot of choruses that people can sing in and be out and nobody cares."

However, Caldwell feels that LGBT choruses are particularly poised to celebrate the advancements made in terms of equality efforts toward gay marriage and other issues important to the community.

"Not that long ago, this was unthinkable and the cause has been moved forward by leaps and bounds," said Caldwell. "For any member of the LGBT community who ever sang in a high school or college course, there is a place waiting for you at WCPA."

Caldwell admitted that he's still getting his bearings with WCPA, but he still feels there is plenty of good it can still do for both its members and audiences. A major goal is "having the organization be a part of the larger community and creating a situation where the world is a better place because the gay chorus exists."

"A Flood of Hope"—which the Windy City Gay Chorus and Aria will perform—takes place at 5 and 8 p.m. Saturday, March 2, at Ebenezer Lutheran Church, 1650 W. Foster Ave. The concert is a Hurricane Sandy relief concert to benefit the Ali Forney Center for Homeless LGBT Youth in New York City. General admission tickets are \$20; see www.windycitysings.org. Discounted tickets of \$15 for seniors and \$10 for students and kids will be available at the door.



Crime Scene: A Chicago Anthology. Photo by Cesario Moza

DOUBLE REVIEW

Crime Scene: A Chicago Anthology

Conception and Direction: Anthony Moseley
At: Collaboraction at Flat Iron Arts Building, 1579 N. Milwaukee Ave.
Tickets: 312-226-9633 or www.collaboraction.org; \$15-\$25
Runs through: March 10

Counterfeiters

Playwright: Aaron Weissman
Co-songwriter: Annie Prichard
At: Dog & Pony Theatre Company at Collaboraction Octagon Theatre, 1579 N. Milwaukee Ave.
Tickets: 773-360-7933 or www.dogandponychicago.org; \$25
Runs through: March 16

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

Violent crime and historical troubles in the U.S. economy are respectively explored in two world premiere revues currently playing at Chicago's Flat Iron Arts Building. Collaboraction is interpreting the facts of Crime Scene: A Chicago Anthology, while Dog & Pony Theatre Company has minted the musical revue Counterfeiters.

Of the two, Crime Scene is more successful at laying out its intent up front. Crime Scene is the brainchild of Collaboraction artistic and executive director Anthony Moseley, and he starts the show off with a great staging device of having the audience mill about on top of a map of Chicago. It's as if to imply that we all part of the city and need to play our part to help stem the growing tide of murders and violence in the city (the show even has a moderated talk-back session after each performance to help foster dialogue in that direction)

Crime Scene is drawn from interviews, online comments, news pieces, which give the show a mish-mashed and fragmented feel in the drive to present so many varying stories and opinions. But the meat of the production is the telling of three real-life Chicago crime scenes: the mistaken 2000 murder of Orlando Patterson, the 2012 murder of aspiring rapper Joseph Coleman (Lil Jojo) and the violent 2010 baseball bat-attack of Natasha McShane and Stacy Jurich.

Performance-wise, the ensemble is very strong as they take up multiple characters and eventually raise up their voices to sing ensemble member Victoria Blade's song "Let Hope Rise," perhaps a too hopeful conclusion to a very bleak and often jolting show. Also strong is the multimedia-filled production design featuring the

work of Liviu Pasare and John Wilson.

Whether Crime Scene does inspire audiences to take action remains to be seen, but it's nice to see that the artists of Collaboraction creatively react to problems in their own community.

As for Dog & Pony's Counterfeiters, it really needs a better thesis introduction upfront to inform audiences what they're in for: a disparate vaudeville revue of poetry, songs and sketches by playwright Aaron Weissman and songwriter Annie Prichard to explore historical questions of what is real and isn't in terms of U.S. monetary policy and practice.

Though a lot of design work has clearly gone into Counterfeiters, ranging from the creative period and often androgynous costumes by Catherine Tantillo to the cozy cabaret set of Grant Sabin, it's all stylistic window dressing for a script that's focus is pulled in too many different directions. And unfortunately, it feels like the talented actors are having more fun performing Counterfeiters than the audience will have watching them.

CRITICS' PICKS

Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg, Lyric Opera of Chicago, through March 3. Commemorate the bicentennial of Richard Wagner's birth with out director Sir David McVicar's beautifully realized co-production that emphasizes how the arts are vital to a community. This operatic romantic comedy may last five-and-a-half hours, but it's all extremely worth it. SCM

Julius Caesar, Chicago Shakespeare Theater at Navy Pier, through March 24. The classroom classic gets a sexy new Twitter-and-SmartPhone makeover from guest director Jonathan Munby, with the most spectacular assassination scene since Jerome Hines played Boris Godunov. MSB

Sunset Boulevard, Drury Lane Theatre, Oakbrook Terrace, through March 24. There may be some casting quibbles, but director William Osetek delivers a solid production of Andrew Lloyd Webber's 1990s musical inspired by Billy Wilder's classic 1950s film about a dethroned and demented Hollywood queen of the silent screen. SCM

Wine in the Wilderness & Florence, ETA Creative Arts Foundation, through March 3. Although less well-known today than her contemporary, Lorraine Hansberry, Alice Childress provides keen commentary on grassroots-level race relations in the mid-20th century. MSB

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge and Morgan

SPOTLIGHT



Why should queer revues only play in the LGBT-friendly neighborhoods of Boystown or Andersonville? See how the popular monthly revue **Making Out with Wes Perry and Friends** plays in The Hideout when the title host invites acts like Seth & Kellen, TV SCREAMS, Superhuman, burlesque performer Mister Junior, vogue-dancer Nic K, alternative drag artist Jüdi Blüüm and many more performers to contribute their talents. Making Out with Wes Perry and Friend plays 8 p.m. Sunday, March 3, at The Hideout, 1354 W. Wabansia Ave. Tickets are \$5 online or at the door. Call 773-227-4433 or visit www.hideoutchicago.com for more information. Photo courtesy of Wes Perry

THEATER REVIEW

City of Dreadful Night

Playwright: Don Nigro
At: The Den Theatre, 1333 N. Milwaukee Ave.
Tickets: 773-398-7028;
www.thedentheatre.com; \$25
Runs through: March 16

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

What must be understood about the cinematic genre dubbed "film noir" is that its defining works were made cheaply and quickly, their trademark chiaroscuro scenography and minimal text arising in response to low budgets and restrictive shooting schedules. What must be understood about the literary form known as parody is that, unlike spoof—where the ridicule is immediately apparent—this brand of comedy is often all but indistinguishable from the target of its mockery, with only a few selected analogisms tipping us the wink. Playwright Don Nigro's museum-grade pastiche of classic Hollywood noir falls squarely into the latter category.

The story involves Gus, a possible gangster, who suspects that his girl friend, Anna, is two-timing him. His solution is to hire Tony, his war-damaged boyhood chum to spy on the lady, whose haunts include a diner replicating Edward Hopper's famous painting, Nighthawks. In that scenario, we have all the

motifs necessary for its characters' fall, not from lofty heights, but—to paraphrase Dennis Lehane—from the curb to the gutter of a cruelly cynical urban-American dystopia.

Henry Behel's decor invokes the asymmetrical compositions associated with noir's iconic images, as does Cat Wilson's lighting, which favors knife-edged shadows cast by venetian blinds or men lurking in doorways. Matthew Isler, Justine C. Turner and Sam Guinan-Nyhart deliver their laconic speeches with appropriately frozen-lipped impassivity. There's even a video-projected roster of production credits in the ranking order and style of the period. Why, if it weren't for language forbidden by the Hayes Code, or dialogue taking reciprocal stichomythia to absurd extremes ("She went to the zoo," "What did she do?" "She looked at the animals!" "Why would she look at animals in the zoo?"), we'd almost think we were watching the real thing.

Therein lies the factor that elevates parody over mere burlesque. As Tony's shell-shocked memory gradually revives, and Ben Hertel's seemingly innocent counterman is slowly revealed to be other than he appears, we are gradually drawn in by the serpentine trail of discoveries unspooling before us. We may giggle at wordplay heavy on atmosphere but light on content—"cherry pie" is particularly fraught with significance—in the early scenes, but as reversals come faster and identities are exposed, so riveting is the suspense that we sit in rapt silence right up to the tarnished-romantic denouement.



City of Dreadful Night. Photo by Joe Mazza

THEATER REVIEW

25 Saints

Playwright: Joshua Rollins
 At: Pine Box Theater Company
 at the Greenhouse, 2257 N. Lincoln Ave.
 Tickets: 773-404-7336;
 www.pineboxtheater.org; \$25
 Runs through: March 31

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

Three handguns, a claw hammer, an industrial-strength necktie and a box of kitchen matches are needed to murder all seven of the low-life desperados in Joshua Rollins' follow-up to his 2011 hard-boiled thriller, *A Girl with Sun in Her Eyes*. This doesn't mean that audiences are expected to keep count of the homicides during the course of the show, but it does raise suspicions that the author may have inventoried his arsenal before starting his script.

Our setting is a woodland cabin in the Appalachian mountains, whose cozy decor is immediately interrupted by violence bursting through the door as clean-cut Charlie, disabled-vet Tuck and sexy-babe Sammy proceed to brutally beat an already-wounded police officer unconscious, later hiding the presumed-dead body in an heirloom chest. Unsurprisingly, drugs are involved in the altercation—Charlie and Tuck's brother has abandoned his methamphetamine business, leaving girl friend Sammy indebted to his buyer—who happens to be the county sheriff. Ah, but if her rescuers can deliver one more shipment of the illegal substance, the crooked arm of the law will free them to live the idyllic seaside life in Virginia Beach. Uh-huh.

Tracy Letts didn't invent rural-noir, but his seminal country-pulp *Killer Joe* certainly shares responsibility for the abundance of white-trash-capitalist dramas proliferating since its premiere in 1990. Rollins takes the literary form to new levels of efficiency, however, packing the requisite intricate plot reversals, grand-guignol spec-



25 Saints. Photo by Michael Brosilow

tacle and minimal character backstory into a bare 70 minutes. Helping to camouflage the seams in this well-stitched yarn is a cast well-trained in microcosmic acting, performing under the direction of Susan E. Bowen, that includes Caroline Neff as the self-styled damsel-in-distress, Molly Reynolds as the criminal operation's flinty matriarch, and the formidable Danny Goldring as the lawman on a mission to improve the lives of the people in his economically depressed region through pharmaceutical intervention (whoever said that lurid sensationalism didn't have its sociologically-significant elements?).

The all-star technical team likewise strives for, and mostly achieves, the heightened realism of comic-book melodrama, its tone set by Ryan Bourque's imaginative fight design within the production's intimate space. Contemplative playgoers may lament the preponderance of machinations over motives, but fans of the Quentin Tarantino/Robert Rodriguez school of frontier justice will find their morality vividly demonstrated in this over-the-top parable.

THEATER REVIEW

Same Sex, Different Gays

Playwrights: Beverlee Bailey, Jason Geis, Brad Kemp, Brett Mannes, Amy Rose Ramelli and Patrick Serrano
 At: pH Comedy Theater, 1515 W. Berwyn Ave.
 Tickets: 1-773-961-8214;
 www.whatishp.com; \$15
 Runs through: March 30

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

Specializing in improv and sketch comedy for a decade, pH Comedy Theater recently set up permanent quarters in Andersonville across from Ranalli's pizzeria and kitty-corner from one of Chicago's queerest Starbucks. Fittingly, they are celebrating their new 'hood, in a way, with an LGBTQ musical revue. *Same Sex, Different Gays* has many of the ingredients necessary to cook up an airy soufflé of a show—but for several reasons this soufflé falls flat.

The problem is not the concept of the show, which squeezes 15 original songs into a one-hour running time. The ideas for the pieces are good, the lyrics are clever and offer some unexpected twists, and the tunes are varied and solid (although it's unclear whether Brad Kemp wrote all the music or only some of it). Casual sex is treated in "One Night Stand," the pleasures of gay parenting in "Stay At Home Dad," the burn-out factor of long-term relationships in "At First (love is a joy)" and the absurdity of dating in, well, the acerbic "Absurdity of Dating." There's even a through-line for two characters who meet as the "Least/Most Attractive @ Orgy," proceed tentatively to love in "Wait, I Thought" and close the show with a gay wedding.

So what's holding this show back? Well, generally speaking the performers of an improv-based revue double as the writers but that's not the case here. Only two of the six performers (four



Part of the cast of *Same Sex, Different Gays*. Photo by Bev Bailey

men, two women) also are among the writers and it shows. In some cases the glitch is technical—a song not in the best key for the performer's range, for example—but more often the performer simply seems awkward or tentative in his/her characterization, not fully in the skin of the character. Improv, under the best of circumstances, depends on the acting chops of the performers and their ability to perform outside their comfort zones ("play the fear" is the improv rule).

Also, not all cast members are equally capable singers as they need to be in an all-singing musical revue. On that score, too, several songs need to end with greater finality or a bigger finish—what folks in the music biz call a "button." That's a fix director Beverlee Bailey and musical director Brad Kemp ought to be able to do before the run is over. Perhaps, too, they can find a few simple ways to add more visual pizzazz to the rather plain staging.

The opening-night audience was heavy on couples—guys, women, mixed—and of an age that definitely was Andersonville and not Boystown. With a very modestly priced ticket (and you can BYOB from Ranalli's), *Same Sex, Different Gays* is a good fit for dinner and a show in A'ville.

Presented by the Oak Park Area Lesbian & Gay Association

**An unconstitutional proposition
 An unprecedented decision
 An unforgettable evening**

The American Federation for Equal Rights & Broadway Impact's




a compelling drama brings to life one of the major civil rights issues of our time

Proceeds to support the fight for equal marriage rights in Illinois & the American Federation for Equal Rights

Artistic Partners
 16th Street Theater
 Circle Theatre
 Oak Park Festival Theatre

Presented by



Oak Park Area Lesbian & Gay Association

**ONE NIGHT ONLY
 Staged Reading
 Sunday, March 10, 2013
 7:30 p.m.**

Performed at
 Arts Center of Oak Park
 200 North Oak Park Avenue
 Oak Park, Illinois 60302

**a new play by
 DUSTIN LANCE BLACK**
 screen writer of the
 academy award-winning feature film, *Milk*
 and the film, *J. Edgar*

**CHRONICLING THE FEDERAL TRIAL
 FOR MARRIAGE EQUALITY**

directed by
ANN FILMER
 artistic director of
 16th Street Theater

Featuring
 Megan Cavanagh
 From Logo's
Exes and Ohs
 & Marla Hooch in
 Penny Marshall's
A League of Their Own


Supported by
 Visit Oak Park
 Community Relations
 Commission of
 Oak Park
 Wednesday Journal of
 Oak Park-River Forest
 oakpark.com
 and

WINDY CITY
 MEDIA
 GROUP

Tickets May Be Purchased @
opalga.org
oakparkfestival.com

Or by visiting The Oak Park Visitors Center
 1010 Lake Street, Oak Park, Illinois 60303


A CAUTIONARY TALE FOR OUR TIMES



WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S

JULIUS CAESAR

DIRECTED BY
 JONATHAN MUNBY










chicago
 shakespeare theater
 on navy pier theater

NOW PLAYING

312.595.5600 • chicagoshakes.com

PRODUCTION SPONSOR
 BEST PORTION FOUNDATION

MAJOR 2012/13 SEASON SUPPORTERS
 AmericanAirlines








Jax Jackson makes history on Goodman stage

BY TRACY BAIM

Jax Jackson made history this year when he became the first openly transgender actor to perform on stage with the Goodman Theatre. I first met Jax in 2008 when he starred as Greta in *Hannah Free*, a film I produced. *Hannah Free* starred Sharon Gless as Hannah, and Jackson played Greta. The film was written by Claudia Allen and directed by Wendy Jo Carlton, who also directed Jackson in her next film, *Jamie and Jessie Are Not Together*.

So I was excited when I found out Jackson, who moved to New York two years ago, would be in Chicago to perform in *Teddy Ferrara* at The Goodman Theatre. What follows is an email interview with Jackson.

Teddy Ferrara runs through March 3. See <http://www.goodmantheatre.org/season/teddy-ferrara>.

Windy City Times: Please tell us about your theatrical education, especially how it relates to what you are doing now in New York and Chicago.

Jax Jackson: I went to school here in Chicago—at The Theatre School at DePaul University, and got my BFA in acting. I'm intensely privileged to have this education, for many reasons. I had a supportive family that encouraged

my pursuit of a career in the arts, I was able to learn and grow in a big urban environment where I could have a variety of experiences, and I got some of the best acting training that the Midwest has to offer.

The program at DePaul offers a variety of methods for training the voice, body and mind to be flexible enough to create a variety of characters, and healthy enough to sustain a lifelong career in theater. Because of this training I am able to perform confidently onstage alongside actors who are much, much more experienced than I am and who have worked with more prestigious companies than I have ever dreamed of.

WCT: You played a lesbian in two feature films show in Chicago, *Hannah Free* and *Jamie and Jesse Are Not Together*. What were those experiences like?

Jax Jackson: I love Chicago. For both queer people and actors, there are huge and intersecting communities here full of loving, supportive people. It certainly isn't perfect, but I've noticed that in both the theater and the queer worlds there are critical conversations that are starting to happen around race, class, sexuality and gender. These are the kind of conversations that create space for films like *Hannah Free* and *Jamie and Jessie Are Not Together* to be made. Both films were funded in no small part by in-



Liam Benzvi as Gabe, Patrick Clear as the school president, and Jax Jackson as Jaq in *Teddy Ferrara*. Photo courtesy of The Goodman Theatre

vestors who wanted to see a film that reflected their experience and through Kickstarter [and IndieGoGo] campaigns. On set for both films, I felt a broad freedom to create knowing that we were so supported by the community. As for playing a lesbian, I identified as a lesbian for most of my high school years, so it wasn't too far to reach to find that in myself.

WCT: Previously you identified as a queer actor and used the pronoun "she." What has changed for you over these past couple of years?

Jax Jackson: I'm still queer, still an actor. I prefer the pronouns he/him/his or they/them/their. I started hormone therapy, and am seeing a doctor at a clinic for the LGBTQ community in NYC who is understanding and knowledgeable about my identity and is working with me to personalize my treatments so that I transition slowly, which is my preference.

I don't want to just say that my gender has changed. That would be a rather boring couple of years if that were the only thing that happened! I think that going through the process of questioning gender has sparked a kind of internal revolution. I took for granted how many structures enforce a binary gender system. I'm not just talking about bathrooms and Barbies! When you don't fit in that binary you start to see just how ingrained it is, from schools to prisons, hospitals, yoga studios, retail clothing stores, movies and billboards, even my IMDB profile still says "Actress" on it because they gendered me when I got my first film role.

When I began to comprehend how surrounded we are by this droning enforcement of "male OR female", I started to extend that thought to other privileged ways of existing. I began to understand just how much the systems that are built for binary-gendered people are also built for able-bodied people, white people, English-speaking people, straight people, monogamous relationships or what have you. I don't think that it's wise to work toward inclusion of marginalized identities into these false dichotomies, so I have found myself engaging in groups working toward building new structures founded on self-determination.

WCT: When did you start to think about issues of gender identity?

Jax Jackson: When we made *Hannah Free*, I identified as a queer and femme woman. I was also in a heterosexual relationship. It can be difficult to feel included in the queer community when you're invisible to it, so playing a queer role and working with an amazing cast and crew that mostly consisted of people in the community was incredibly affirming for me. This affirmation allowed me to reconnect to feelings I had put off when I was a genderfucking teenager in favor of pursuing acting, which, as I understood it at the time, was a profession that required one to be as normative as possible, like a blank canvas.

All I have ever known for sure since I was a very small child is that I wanted to be an actor, and I was almost sure that coming out trans would be the end of my career. But as feelings of dysphoria that I had actively sought to shut down became harder to ignore, I finally had to

ask myself the question: "Which is more important, being an actor or being myself?" And I found this to be a stupid question, because they're the same thing. So I started seeing a therapist to figure out the best way to come out to friends and family, and to make a decision about medical transition.

WCT: What was the process for you in finding out about Goodman's world premiere of Christopher Shinn's *Teddy Ferrara*?

Jax Jackson: A mutual friend of Chris Shinn and I saw a reading of the play in L.A. and called me up to ask how I knew Chris. I said I knew of his plays, but had never met him in person, and my friend said, "Really? Cause he wrote you in a show that's going to be at the Goodman." I worked harder on that audition than I've ever worked in my life. I did not want to give the Goodman any reason to cast a cisgender person in a transgender role!

WCT: This play takes a very complex look at sexuality and gender identity. Rather than a good vs. evil approach, it actually shows the nuances of characters, LGBT and straight. Did you have any hesitation in taking on this role?

Jax Jackson: At first I had to struggle with this being one of the first major theater productions that features a transgender man as a character, and he's not portrayed as the nicest most perfect most bestest guy ever. I was afraid that people would see this character and conclude that all transgender people are outrageous and aggressive. But I read the play and knew I wanted to be a part of it. I appreciate that the characters we'd normally see as victims or heroes have major flaws, and that those we would ordinarily think of as the villains of the piece have moments of truth and clarity.

I think that if people come away thinking that people within the LGBTQ community are sometimes nasty to each other, well, there's some truth in that. If their conclusion is that all trans people are terrible all the time, then in my opinion, that's an irresponsible way of viewing a piece of theater and might have more to do with their own confirmation bias than it has to do with me or the character Chris Shinn wrote.

WCT: What is most demanding about doing this stage production? How does it compare to other plays and film work you have done?

Jax Jackson: If anything, this production may be the easiest time I've had acting yet. The Goodman takes such great care of its actors, and getting paid to act means I don't have to get distracted by a day job for a while. It's extremely freeing to focus in and be all about the play, the process, the role. It's a role that is very close to my experience, which has made for a very simple characterization process, but can sometimes be a challenge. Having to face my own flaws and recreate them every night is part of the job.

WCT: Do you have any projects coming up?

Jax Jackson: Yes—this summer in NYC I'll be in a musical, *Lesbian Love Octagon*, playing a trans man who was a member of a rather incestuous lesbian community prior to transition, and now struggles to find his identity within that world.

CULTURE CLUB

SWEET CHARITY

Book by Neil Simon, Music by Cy Coleman, Lyrics by Dorothy Fields
Based on an original screenplay by Federico Fellini, Tullio Pinelli and Ennio Flaiano
Produced for the Broadway stage by Fryer, Carr and Harris
Conceived, Staged and Choreographed by Bob Fosse
Directed by Artistic Director Michael Halberstam
Musical Direction by Doug Peck
Choreographed by Jessica Redish

Performed at 325 Tudor Court, Glencoe

NOW PLAYING!

WRITERSTHEATRE.ORG | 847-242-6000

2012/13 Season Sponsor
BMO Harris Bank

Corporate Sponsor
Northern Trust

WT
WRITERS'
THEATRE

KNIGHT AT THE MOVIES

BY
RICHARD
KNIGHT, JR.

Stoker; The Jeffrey Dahmer Files; notes

Does anyone believe for a second that Nicole Kidman could have given birth to Mia Wasikowska? No more than that Lana Turner would spawn Sandra Dee, Joan Crawford would whelp Ann Blyth, Olympia Dukakis would give birth to Cher, or that Cher would go into labor and bring forth both Winona Ryder and Christina Ricci. These mother-daughter movie combos are no less believable than at least three-fourths of the plot contrivances in South Korean director Park Chan-wook's English language debut, *Stoker*.

But the movie, based on an original script by Ted Foulke—the pen name of Wentworth Miller, the hottie former star of TV's *Prison Break*—like all great melodramas, doesn't waste a second on nonsense like logic or reality when it comes to casting or its highly theatrical approach. This is Grand Guignol Writ Large—I mean Hush, Hush Sweet Charlotte/Whatever Happened to Baby Jane? large. The only missing element is the balls-to-the-wall scenery-chewing in the acting department. And that's a quibble with a dark little thriller as enthralling and tremendously entertaining as this one is. That's also not to imply that *Stoker* is camp *a la* *The Wicker Man* or *Orphan*; rather, it has moments that repeated viewings will quickly come to be seen through that beloved lens—in the way that there are over-the-top moments in *Carrie* and *The Exorcist* or *The Birds* that can be taken this way.

From the get-go, we are dropped firmly into the hermetically sealed world of India Stoker (Wasikowska). It's immediately apparent that this strange girl—with her jet black, straggly, inky hair, wrinkled dress and out-of-date saddle shoes—is an odd duck. There are bits of Rima the bird girl, Shirley Jackson's wild, forest-foraging teenage heroine Mary Katherine Blackwood of "We've Always Lived in the Castle" and a dash of Norman Bates thrown in for good measure in India. And, naturally, once we see the watchful, antisocial, dowdy India interacting with glamorous mother Evelyn (Kidman), there's more than a hint of *Carrie White*, too.

India's sullen behavior is understandable at first. Her beloved father (Dermot Mulroney) has died in a car accident and the family's creaking, old-money mansion is filled with post-funeral guests, including Matthew Goode as the Uncle Charlie that India never knew she had. India is suspicious of this Uncle Charle, an impossible dreamboat with his confident smile who drives a fancy Jaguar and has quickly dazzled her drunken mother with his charm. She's seen him arguing with the old family retainer, who has inexplicably disappeared after the funeral, and there are other things about him that don't add up, either.

Yet Uncle Charlie tries hard to connect with India. (He's a link to Joseph Cotton's character in Hitchcock's *Shadow of a Doubt*.) Slowly, he seems to be favoring her over Evelyn's drunken attempts at seduction. The competition between mother and daughter subtly kicks into high gear (*a la* *Mildred Pierce*) after India and Uncle Char-



Matthew Goode in *Stoker*. Photo by Macall Polay

lie share a piano duet that gets increasingly hot-to-trot. (By the way, has anyone ever experienced a sensual piano duet in real life?) The murderous plot twists—a little bit of Hitchcock here, a little bit of Almodovar there—then begin to increase as Chan-wook tightens the screws.

Wasikowska and Goode are the center of the picture (with Kidman taking what is essentially a supporting part) and they're a very creepy duo (increasingly so as Miller's script takes them in several unexpected directions). But *Stoker* is really Chan-wook's movie (in much the same way that *A Single Man* was Tom Ford's). Every shot is perfectly composed; every breath, gulp and rustle of a skirt is emphasized (the movie's a sound effects engineer's dream); and every music cue is perfectly selected. You're aware the entire time that you're in a carefully captured movie world. Yet with someone as talented as Chan-wook in control, his talents overriding the gaps in Miller's script, *Stoker* ends up such stylish entertainment that one willingly cedes control and surrenders to the director's florid vision.

The Jeffrey Dahmer Files, which played at a batch of gay indie-film festivals last year, is now available OnDemand and will soon be broadcast on the cable channel of its distributor, IFC.

Director Chris James Thompson eschews the biographical details of the infamous gay serial killer's story and instead opts for a more subtle style. On-camera interviews with Dahmer's neighbor in the Milwaukee apartment building where the majority of the killings took place; the police detective who took his confession; and the medical examiner are interwoven with scenes of actor Andrew Swant as Dahmer, who goes about picking up some of those he murdered and purchasing the seemingly benign objects—the blue barrel, a suitcase, etc.—he used to store the remains of his victims.

The sparseness of Thompson's approach initially adds to the creepiness and ghoulishness inherent in Dahmer's infamous crimes but ultimately frustrates, while the uninitiated might want to do some research first as background details on Dahmer's life aren't included. The reenactments have a subtle power—suggesting much about the banality of evil and the bleak solitude of Dahmer's urban existence. However, although the three interview subjects are com-

elling camera presences, they don't offer any real insight or opinions about Dahmer, as each details his or her involvement with him.

I laud Thompson's refusal to indulge in the distasteful and gory approach one would expect from the material but neither does he offer a viewpoint or feature someone with any sort of psychological insight into Dahmer's nature, which—given the unprecedented nature of his disturbed subject—eventually seems downright loony. Ultimately, one doesn't expect or want subtlety or restraint when dealing with the story of Jeffrey Dahmer.

Film notes:

—Out writer-director Dee Rees's 2011 *Pariah* is screening as the next installment in Sharon Zurek's Dyke Delicious monthly series on Tuesday, March 5, at Columbia College's Hokin Hall, 623 S. Wabash St., at 7:30 p.m. and on Saturday, March 9, at Chicago Filmmakers, 5243 N. Clark St., at 8 p.m. As usual, the latter screening will be preceded by an hour of social interaction. The gorgeously shot *Pariah* (one of my top 10 films of 2011) is the moving, coming-of-age, coming-out story of a 17-year-old African-American butch lesbian butting heads with her family (especially her mother) as she is about to graduate from high school in Brooklyn.

—**Cinema Q III**, the annual Cultural Center LGBT film series, is back for the third year beginning Wed., March 6, and continuing on subsequent Wednesday evenings through March 27. The series, which is co-sponsored by The Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events, The Legacy Project, Queer Film Society and Reeling, takes place in the Claudia Cassidy Theater in the Chicago Cultural Center, 78 E. Washington St., at 6:30 p.m. Admission is free. This year's line-up focuses on the lives of LGBT seniors with some selections celebrating their pioneering efforts and others centered on the unique challenges faced by the LGBT elderly.

The mini-fest kicks off Wed., March 6, with the 2011 rowdy road dramedy *Cloudburst*, which was adapted by out writer-director Thom Fitzgerald from his stage play. The film follows the exploits of the hilariously profane Stella (Olympia Dukakis) and Dotty (Brenda Fricker), her sweet but equally tough partner, as they head to Canada to legally wed after being together for 31 years. The unedited version will be shown. The screening is co-sponsored by Center on Halsted.

The series also includes *To Die Like a Man* (March 13), *Living with Pride: Ruth Ellis @100 and T'Aint Nobody's Bizness: Queer Blues Divas of the 1920s* (March 20) and a 15th-anniversary screening of *Gods and Monsters* (March 27). A post-screening discussion will accompany each movie. Windy City Times, Time Out Chicago and ChicagoPride.com are media co-sponsors for Cinema Q III. http://www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/dca/supp_info/cinema_q.html

Check out my archived reviews at www.windycitymediagroup.com or www.knightatthemovies.com. Readers can leave feedback at the latter website.

Oscars: Surprises, Bond, music

The Oscars seemingly had something for everyone this year.

For those who are into the awards themselves, director Ben Affleck's political thriller *Argo* lived up to its favorite status and won three honors, including best picture, at the 85th Academy Awards. Another favorite was Daniel Day-Lewis, who made history with his third best-actor statue, this time for Steven Spielberg's *Lincoln*. Among those he thanked was out playwright Tony Kushner, who penned the script.

Jennifer Lawrence made her first Oscar win a memorable one (for *Silver Linings Playbook*) as she stumbled up the steps on her way to accepting the award. "You guys are just standing up because I fell and you feel sorry for me," she said. Also, Anne Hathaway won Best Supporting Actress for *Les Misérables* while Christoph Waltz (in a mild surprise) took Best Supporting Actor for *Django Unchained*, edging four others who had already won Oscars, including Robert DeNiro.

Another upset occurred when Ang Lee won Best Director for *Life of Pi*. Steven Spielberg had been favored for *Lincoln*.

The night was also heavy in music, with Dame Shirley Bassey, 76, singing the title song to the 1960s James Bond movie *Goldfinger*. Adele (who won for Best Original Song) also performed a Bond tune: the title song from last year's *Skyfall*.

However, music fans had plenty of other options, including Catherine Zeta-Jones re-visiting her Chicago performance of "All that Jazz"; the cast of *Les Misérables* serenading the crowd with a medley from the movie; and past Oscar winner Jennifer Hudson showcasing her powerhouse voice in "And I Am Telling You I'm Not Going" from *Dreamgirls*. Also, Barbra Streisand took to the Oscars stage for the first time in 36 years to perform "The Way We Were" following the "In Memoriam" tribute.

Surprise presenter First Lady Michelle Obama appeared via satellite to award Best Picture honors (courtesy of an introduction from Jack Nicholson)—possibly as a response to former President Bill Clinton being part of this year's Golden Globes.

The night's host was Seth MacFarlane—who had been best known as the creator of TV's *Family Guy*. He mixed comedy and music, with an opening montage that featured everything from Channing Tatum and Charlize Theron dancing together to MacFarlane singing with the Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles.

—Andrew Davis

Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events - The Legacy Project - Queer Film Society - Reeling present:

cinemaQIII

A film series celebrating LGBT movies

This series contains mature subject matter. Viewer discretion advised.

Wednesdays @ 6:30 p.m. Free Admission

Sponsored by:

City of Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel

CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF DCASE CULTURAL AFFAIRS & SPECIAL EVENTS

QUEER FILM SOCIETY

reeling

CENTER ON 3656 N. HALSTED

WINDY CITY TIMES

Time Out Chicago

AFFINITY.

PRIDE

CHICAGO PRIDE.COM

Chicago Cultural Center
Claudia Cassidy Theater | 78 E. Washington

3/26 *Cloudburst*
3/13 *To Die Like a Man*
3/20 *Living with Pride: Ruth Ellis @100 & T'Aint Nobody's Bizness: Queer Blues Divas of the 1920s*
3/27 *Gods and Monsters*

the DISH

WEEKLY DINING GUIDE IN WINDY CITY TIMES



Coq au vin at
Brasserie 54.
Photos by Andrew
Davis

Brasserie 54

BY JOE FRANCO

I really detest chain restaurants. In fact, I'd rather die of hunger than ever be caught in whatever horrific splendor of the suburbs you might want to name. You could say that when restaurateurs begin opening multiple locations all over the city I become highly skeptical of the food.

However, Stephan and Nicole Outrequin Quaisser, who have opened two other French restaurants in Chicago, seem to be immune from strip-mall chicken-finger blandness with **Brasserie 54**, which is a petit bijou in Andersonville that stays true to its French pedigree.

The ambience itself feels like a vintage Paris metro station, with subway tile, maps of Paris and photos of the Parisian sites most Americans would recognize. I will say the lighting could use a boost. The ambience is très charmant but just a tad on the dark side. Having been to Paris a number of times, I can say that rarely do Parisians eat in the dark. I get the whole "vintage electric light bulb" thing that everyone is doing but I think we can manage an atmosphere dim enough that I look fabulous in it, but not so dim that I am unsure if I am eating a chicken leg or a finger.

We started with roasted endives and a warm crab salad. The endives were delicious, covered in melted cheese and bacon and roasted to perfection. They were almost sweet and that is quite the feat since, normally, dandelions are less bitter. The crab salad was a perfect small-plate salad and since both my dining companion and I are crab snobs, we were happy to discover Brasserie 54 used actual crabmeat and not some compressed whitefish from the Sea Queen. The vinaigrette was house-made and added just enough flavor to the frisée and Boston bibb lettuce.

I nearly always order the special and that night it was coq au vin—which was just lovely. The wine reduction was just at the point of caramelization so the sauce was slightly thick but



Warm crab salad (above) and brick chicken (below) at Brasserie 54.



not sticky. The meat of the chicken fell off the bone. The additions of bacon, mushrooms and shallots gave the chicken just enough flavor to make it pop but did not overpower, as shallots are wont to do. My dining companion ordered the brick chicken. This is chicken, marinated for what must be weeks, then roasted under a towel-wrapped brick until just done. I can very highly recommend this dish. The skin was crunchy and the chicken was so juicy that I daresay I do not believe I have ever had chicken quite this good before. I know. I know. It's chicken. But seriously—this was that good.

Our server used her gypsy mind power and made me order dessert even though I gave up sweets for Lent. She must be a lawyer by day because she suggested the rice pudding: "It really is barely a dessert. It's just rice! So you're not really breaking Lent!" Yes. Thank you for damning my eternal soul but allowing me to eat the delicate rice pudding Brasserie 54 offers. This is not your diner's rice pudding. Served warm, the rice is actually cooked with a stick of cinnamon so the taste is not overpowering and is evenly distributed throughout the dish.

Andersonville was once the home of Swedish pioneers who landed in their long boats along the shores of the gayest beach north of Florida, and who wanted a Swedish neighborhood. What they got was the eclectic blend of all that is good. Brasserie 54 is a must-try for anyone in Andersonville.

Jane's restaurant
The Perfect Setting for your
Commitment Ceremony

janesrestaurant.com
1653-55 W. Cortland • 773-862-5263

CLASSIFIEDS

ARTISTS

CALL FOR ARTISTS: SKOKIE ART GUILD'S 52nd ANNUAL ART FAIR. July 13th & 14th, 2013. Fine art. Prizes and awards. Held on the Village Green, 5211 W. Oakton St., downtown Skokie, IL. APPLY NOW. For applications or information: skokieart@aol.com or 847-677-8163. www.skokieartguild.org (7/3/13)

CLEANING SERVICES

CHESTNUT CLEANING SERVICES: We're a house cleaning service for homes, small businesses and small buildings. We also have fabulous organizational skills (a separate function at a separate cost that utilizes your assistance) for what hasn't been cleaned in many months or years due to long-term illness, depression, physical/mental challenges, for the elderly, if you have downsized and more. Depressed about going home to chaos? We can organize your chaos, straighten out your chaos, help you make sense of your chaos and finally clean what is no longer chaos. Can we help you? Bonded and insured. **Chestnut Cleaning Service: 312-332-5575. www.ChestnutCleaning.com (11/20/13-52)**

CLEANING SPECIAL: 1BDR \$50, 2BDR \$60. You provide the cleaning supplies. Strong work ethic, pride; do it right or not at all, thorough, complete, genuine, reliable and trustworthy. **Call or text Rodrigo Garcia 773 953 3342. References available. (3/6/2)**

COUNSELING

LIVING WELL MINISTRIES

LOVE FROM THE CENTER OF WHO YOU ARE

Life Coaching • Ceremonies
Office & Phone Appointments

Rev. Jacki Belile, CEC
Nurturing Pride & Faith for 20 Years
773-655-4357
www.livingwellministries.net

COUNSELING AND CLINICAL HYPNOTHERAPY: Providing help to individuals and couples in our community since 1987. I specialize in relationship issues, spiritual issues, childhood trauma, and recurrent patterns that inhibit potential. **Starla R. Sholl, LCSW, PC, 773.878.5809, www.starlasholl.com (8/21/13-26)**

SOLUTION FOCUSED COUNSELING Solution focused counseling in warm & affirming environment by licensed psychotherapist. Wounded self-esteem, body image issues, career counseling and relationship challenges. BCBS PPO & Aetna. Sliding Scale. Lakeview, close to CTA & Parking. **Dr. John Moore. (773) 704-5300. www.johndmoore.net (2/20/13-13)**

HAULING

(773) 775-1291
Ask for Jim

A-AFFORDABLE HAULING
"We load and haul away just about anything"
Cleaning out:

- Estate Clean outs
- Basements
- Furniture
- Garages
- Hot Tubs
- Storage units
- Remodeling Debris

Free Estimates / Senior Discount

aaffordablehauling@gmail.com
www.a-affordablehauling.com

HOME IMPROVEMENT

WINTER IS A GREAT TIME TO GIVE YOUR BATHROOM OR KITCHEN A FACELIFT! We also do Painting, and Home Repairs. "A" rating with Angie's List, A+ with BBB. Licensed-Bonded-Insured, One year Warranty. Free Estimates! **Andy OnCall 773-244-9931www.getany.com (8/1/13-52)**

MASSAGE

FIRST-CLASS ASIAN MALE MASSEUR. London-trained and qualified. Over 25 years of worldwide experience and 100% attuned to your needs. Satisfaction assured. **Please call Dennis at 773-248-9407 (7/3/13-26)**

SPIRITUALITY



Reviving
The Spirit...
Renewing
The Life...

Atonement Episcopal Church
5749 N. Kenmore
www.ChurchOfTheAtonement.Org
Sundays at 11 A.M.

WINDOW TREATMENTS

WONDERING WHAT TO DO WITH THOSE WINDOWS?: Call me! I take care of it all from design through installation, customizing to your needs. **JOSEPH RICE Interiors, Inc.** Full Decorating Services with a specialty in window treatments for over 25 years. **773-271-2361. www.JosephRiceInteriors.com (5/29/13-26) s.com (12/29/12-26)**

REAL ESTATE

TOWNHOME FOR SALE

COMPLETE RENOVATION with the finest quality materials. Pristine Fee Simple Townhome w/3bedrms plus great room, 2 full bathrooms and 2 half bathrooms. State-of-the-art kitchen w/ss & granite. Lux master suite beautifully appointed. Offered at \$899,000. Call Julie for a private viewing. **Julie Chesne, Realtor Prudential Rubloff. 773 807-8580. http://www.rubloff.com/property/chicago/08275183.cfm (3/6/13-2)**

BUSINESS/BUILDING FOR SALE

7000 N. CLARK AREA TAVERN WITH REAL ESTATE, 4 am and public place of amusement licenses. Eleven units in 3 brick adjoining buildings. 100 x 100 property with driveway and 3 car garage. 995,000. Richard at 773-671-1273 (4/3/13-13)

TWO BEDROOMS FOR RENT

EDGEWATER COMMUTER ADVANTAGE. You'd be happy to come home to. Walk to beach and park, redline and buses or go shopping. Spacious bedrooms with walk in closets. Formal dining room. Big kitchen with new floor and sink. \$1300 with heat. Parking \$80. Plus laundry, storage, video intercom, patio and yard. **IT'S YOUR MOVE... 773-706-6065. (3/6/13-3)**

VERY NICE VINTAGE 2BDRM FOR RENT. First floor of very well kept building. Approx 1100 sq ft 2brdm apt with beautiful hardwood floors throughout. Newly renovated bathroom, mini blinds, enclosed porch. Building is owner occupied with shared laundry facilities in basement w/large storage room. No pets. **\$1475/mo extra \$85 would include garage space. 312 296-6301. danapetkunas@hotmail.com (3/20/13-4)**



Complete renovation with the finest quality materials. Pristine Fee Simple Townhome w/3bedrms plus great room, 2 full bathrms and 2 half bathrms. State-of-the-art kitchen w/ss & granite. Lux master suite beautifully appointed.

Offered at \$899,000

Call Julie for a private viewing.

Julie Chesne, Realtor
Prudential Rubloff
773 807-8580
2657ngreenview.rubloff.com

TELEVISION

Stars dish on 'Celebrity Apprentice'

BY JERRY NUNN

The Apprentice is more popular than ever with its change of format a few seasons ago into a celebrity version that boosted ratings. With the new all-star version debuting on NBC, past competitors now return to make even more money for their charities.

What started as The Apprentice where regular people competed for a chance to work for Trump has now morphed into a random group of stars who have their careers revitalized while raising money for a good cause on public television.

The cast this season consists of Team: Plan B with Trace Adkins, Stephen Baldwin, Gary Busey, Dee Snider, Marilu Henner, Penn Jillette and Lisa Rinna. Team: Power consists of Lil John, Bret Michaels, Claudia Jordan, La Toya Jackson, Dennis Rodman, Omarosa and Brande Roderick.

Windy City Times talked to the mogul Donald Trump himself along with Jackson and Michaels before the big debut.

Windy City Times: Hello, everyone. Is this the most dramatic season yet of Apprentice?

Donald Trump: Well, I'll speak first. I think it's certainly one of the most dramatic seasons. We have brought back, including Bret and La Toya, some of the people that everybody really likes because it's an all-star season and amazing things happen. La Toya and Bret, go ahead.

La Toya Jackson: It's very dramatic and very exciting. There is so much going on. You will see a lot of confrontations. It's going to be a blast, you'll love it. You will simply love it, everyone will.

Bret Michaels: I have found that as being there the first time it was something I really wanted to do. I had an absolutely great time and coming back obviously it is extremely dramatic and you'll just have to watch because it will keep you riveted.

WCT: What is Joan Rivers' role on the show? She's a judge now?

DT: Yes, she will be a judge. Don and Ivanka and Eric are judges. What we'll do is put Piers on in a little bit and the conflict between Omarosa and Piers which is just a continuation of what happened previously on the show, the conflict is as good, as smart, as tough, as mean as anything that we've ever had on the show.

But Piers is a judge with me and he sits by my side, replacing Ivanka a couple of times and likewise with Joan. We have some amazing evenings. So, in other words, I have taken some of the past winners and made them judges to replace my children for a couple of shows.

WCT: Were there other people you wanted for the show? Lisa Lampanelli would have been a great choice.

DT: Well, Lisa would have been great and she [wouldn't have] because she just went, I mean, she was very recent so we didn't do that. But Lisa was great; she did a fantastic job and—what is even more important—was very nice to me afterwards. Even during her comedy where she destroys people, she has been very nice to me so that's great. Lisa was just up so we got everybody we wanted.

WCT: Were you surprised that Penn Jillette came back after not fitting in with Clay Aiken last season?

DT: Well, he actually does very well; we've shot much of it and he does very well. He did very well the first time. No I wasn't surprised. It has been extremely good for him and for his brand and for his show in Las Vegas and I wasn't surprised.

It was very easy to get everybody to come back. It's actually very easy to cast the show because everybody really wants to be on it.

Whether it's Piers Morgan or Joan Rivers or Trace Adkins or so many others, so many have

done so well for themselves and their brand. They have made a lot of money and they have also made a lot of money on the show itself for charity. So I wasn't surprised to see him come back at all, no.

WCT: Do you feel like you had an advantage, Bret, after winning your original season?

BM: Here is the absolute truth. I actually felt like I had probably a major disadvantage. I call it the Super Bowl Syndrome—when a team comes back that has won it everyone is gunning for them.

I loved everyone who was on it and, listen, as a lifelong diabetic; it's a great opportunity for charity. I wanted to do it. But no doubt when you're coming back they're going to firing for you and you've just got to be strong and do the best you can.

WCT: Were you tougher on the contestants this time since they had been on the show before, Mr. Trump?

DT: No; I think they became a lot smarter [and] they understand the system better. We have a couple that did very well that, frankly, I wasn't expecting as much from and I think they have learned the system a little bit. So it wasn't that I was expecting more, I think they have become much smarter.

I actually think that it made for a very exciting show. I think almost every one of them really have learned so much. It's really a strong show, amazing show.

WCT: Will this be the final season of Celebrity Apprentice?

DT: It's the number-one show on Sundays. We'll see. You never know what's going to happen. Certainly it has been doing very well in the ratings as you know and so I would anticipate that it would continue onward.

We have had 15 copies of Celebrity Apprentice, or The Apprentice, as I say. I guess there was another one last week, it was called The Job and that was just terminated I understand. But 15 copies and this is our 10th year, it's our 13th season. So it has been a great success and it continues to do very well.

WCT: I heard from my friends at World of Wonder that La Toya has a new reality show.

LJ: Yes, it's called Life With La Toya and it airs in April on the Oprah Winfrey network.

DT: I'll be watching. That's good, La Toya, good.

LJ: It's wonderful. You guys are going to love it.

Celebrity Apprentice All-Stars debuts Sunday, March 3, at 8 p.m. on CT on NBC.

Read the entire interview online at www.Windy-CityMedia-Group.com.



La Toya Jackson. Photo courtesy of NBC

MUSIC

Imagining paradise with Levi Kreis

Levi Kreis.
PR photo

BY JOE FRANCO

Levi Kreis had started making and producing his own music since 2005. "I started the Broadway gigs mainly because I needed groceries and was tired of eating Ramen every night," Kreis told Windy City Times.

However, by 2010, Kreis was not only no longer eating Ramen but was also looking for a place to put his 2010 Tony Award for Best Featured Actor in a musical for his portrayal of Jerry Lee Lewis in Million Dollar Quartet. Since then, Kreis' music could be heard on NBC, CBS, FX and the CW. But this year, Kreis is releasing a new compilation of music that was ranked by Billboard magazine in the top three of fan-funded music.

Windy City Times: Hi Levi! Are you excited about your new album? I believe it's dropping June 20, no?

Levi Kreis: I am very excited for the release of "Imagine Paradise" and, yes, it's set to release on June 20. Some tracks will be made available earlier on iTunes, though.

WCT: Now, I had the chance to listen to some of the tracks before speaking with you and I'd describe it as funk/disco/ gospel. Is that an accurate description or would you add to that?

LK: No, I think that's a very accurate description of my sound. People have always struggled about where to place my music. Some people have also called it "new disco" and thought the sounds were more reminiscent of the late '70s and early '80s. I also like to consider some of the work to be like classic R&B. I borrowed from the sounds of the LGBT community—those sounds that propelled our earliest movement for equality.

WCT: What about the inspiration for the tracks? Where did all of that come from? You have some complex lyric combinations on your album.

LK: Nearly the entire album is an amalgamation or an homage to my fans that funded this album with my own sound. Billboard ranked Imagine Paradise in the top three fan-funded albums of the year. Each track is nearly a custom-written theme song for one or more of the major donors who helped get my album off the ground through the Kickstart Campaign.

The lyrics as well as the themes are more intimate. I got the opportunity to speak directly to my fans and from their stories of love, heart-break and struggle; I developed 12 tracks that are absolutely a deliberate nod to the LGBT community and those individuals' stories.

WCT: I'm not familiar with the Kickstart Campaign. Does it work like Indiegogo?

LK: It's almost exactly like Indiegogo. There are some differences but I'm not sure what they are. This method of self-funding gave me a unique opportunity to go beyond what a signed artist might get to do. I had to think about connecting the donors' experiences to my own. I found myself getting to speak with my mentors who were there in the '60s, '70s and '80s and finding out what they were faced with—what they were fighting for. With many LGBT people today, we have lost our roots and I got to not only find them but also define them.

WCT: Did you learn anything from your experiences with your mentors?

LK: The brilliance of hearing one another's stories is that we find, or at least I find, that my story and their story may unfold differently but they are still the same story. We are all connected by that same human condition—by those same narratives.

WCT: You're sounding more metaphysical and spiritual in your philosophy toward music.

LK: I've been a metaphysical practitioner for a number of years now and I found that as my spirituality has grown I am able to more deeply look at the intention of language and find that as an album passes through me, it also deepens. I wouldn't say I want to move into a "spiritual genre" but my music is becoming deeper. The trouble then that others have is "where to put Levi." I'm not a gay dance diva. I don't sing "let's get soaking wet."

WCT: When does your first single drop here in the United States?

LK: "So Much Better" will be available on March 4. It's already all over the UK right now. The story behind that song is really based on accepting that which one cannot change. It was dedicated to one of my backers. This was not so much words to a fan but words between friends.

WCT: So if I want to see you in action, when and where can I do that? You must have a tour coming up.

LK: I do! I actually open the tour right here in Chicago on March 2 at Davenport's on North Milwaukee. I have a number of other shows booked but another big one is March 30, when I play my hometown of Knoxville, Tenn. This is my first time being in my hometown performing as myself. It scares me a bit to know that my family will be seeing me as I am, with no pretense. I think it scares many people to just be themselves, especially in front of their oldest friends and family.

For more information on Levi Kreis, his new album and his upcoming tour, visit www.levi-kreis.com.

calendar

Brought to you by the combined efforts of

WINDY CITY
TIMES

nightspots

CHICAGO
PRIDE.COM

Wed., Feb. 27

Training on culturally competent care for older LGBT adults The LGBT population is at risk for increased health disparities and suffers from poorer health outcomes relative to non-LGBT people. No cost. Professional registered nurses will receive 6 CE contact hours. 9am-4pm, 773-572-5123, Jesse Brown VAMC (Prescription Room), 820 S. Damen Ave., www.howardbrown.org

CALOR confidential HIV and STI testing Every Wednesday without charge, regardless of age, ability to pay or residency. The process, from completing the consent paperwork to getting the results, takes 45 minutes. Counselors are available to review the results and provide referrals, as necessary. 12pm-4pm, CALOR, 3220 W Armitage Ave., www.calor.org

From the Oscar Winning Films collection From the Music Box Theatre 70mm Festival collection. Purchase advance tickets online, \$9.25 each or \$70 for a festival pass. 1:30pm, Music Box Theatre, 3733 N Southport Ave., www.musicboxtheatre.com

Band of Sisters Moving, informative, inspiring, funny account of the spirit and intellectualism of these courageous nuns, at the core of social justice efforts in the U.S. since the 1960s: civil rights, rights of women, LGBT rights, immigration reform, homelessness, hunger, health care, environmental justice, etc. Doors open at 6pm; 6:30pm, Gottlieb Hall, Merit School of Music, 38 S. Peoria St., www.bandofsis-

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

The Gay Divorcee Follow one woman's journey through her break up as she turns to her musical divas and great gay break-up songs...for guidance and strength. Featuring songs by Melissa Etheridge, Janis Joplin, Pink, Adele, Cher. 8pm-9pm, 773-278-1830, Davenport's Piano Bar and Cabaret, 1383 N Milwaukee Ave., www.davenportspianobar.com

Thursday, Feb. 28

Rich and Famous by John Guare When Bing Ringling's show is a flop, producer backs out and girlfriend leaves, he embarks on phantasmagoric odyssey to the people and places that shaped him. Directed by guest artist Nate Silver. 7pm-8:30pm, 773-340-2543, The Den Theatre, 1333 N. Milwaukee Ave., www.jackalopetheatre.org

Froot Loops: A Benefit for Broadway Youth Center An evening of comedy featuring Ever Mainard and Sapna Kumar. In lieu of cover, please bring toiletries, undergarments, bus cards, gift cards, or other donations for the kids. Doors open at 7pm; show starts at 8:30. 7pm-11pm, Parlour on Clark, 6341 N Clark St., www.parlouronclark.com

Iowa Jurist Marsha Ternus After more than 17 years on the high court, Ternus, who lost her seat over a ruling on same-sex marriage, will speak on The Politicization of Justice. \$10. 7pm, 630-617-3390, Elmhurst College, Founders Lounge of the Frick Center, 190 Prospect Ave., Elmhurst,

<http://www.elmhurst.edu/campusmap>;
Tickets: www.elmhurst.edu/tix

Sweet Charity How many times can a girl make the same mistakes? Through March 31. 8pm, Writers' Theatre, 376 Park Ave., Glencoe, www.writerstheatre.org/boxoffice/production?id=0088; Tickets: <http://boxoffice.printtixusa.com/writers/eventcalendar?m=2&y=2013>

Friday, March 1

Equality Illinois First Friday Networking Social Join Equality Illinois PAC for the super-popular monthly First Friday Networking Social. A big crowd always comes out for First Friday, so please stop by for the fun, cocktails, and prize drawings. For a \$10 donation to the Equality Illinois PAC, you receive two drink tickets and a ticket for a door prize drawing. 6pm-9pm, Sidetrack, 3349 N Halsted St., <http://eqil.org/events.html>

Wax Trax! Showcase Music and video from Chicago's legendary Wax Trax! record label with DJs Greg Haus and Jenamax. Followed by Cosmix. 9pm, Berlin Nightclub, 954 W Belmont Ave, Chicago, <http://www.berlinchicago.com>

Saturday, March 2

Depression & Bipolar Support Alliance (LGBTQ) Weekly, peer-led support group for members of the LGBTQ community with mood problems such as depression or bipolar disorder. Free. Community Room; 11am-12:30pm, 872-216-3272, Howard Brown Health Center, 4025 N. Sheridan Rd., www.dbsa-glbtc-chicago.com/

Stephen Colbert to host "gglassquerade" Lookingglass Theatre Company's "gglassquerade," celebrating 25 Years of ensemble collaboration, transformation and invention. Host Stephen Colbert, of Comedy Central's The Colbert Report, will be presented with the Lookingglass Civic Engagement Award. 6pm, 773-477-9257ext.116, The Four Seasons, 120 E. Delaware Pl., www.lookingglasstheatre.org

So Very Alive: Performing Feminist and Queer Utopias, Futures and Dreams Nine radical Chicago-based performance-art

acts address the possibilities for transformation, the beauty of resilience and survival, and illuminate glimmers of liberation that exist in the world. 6:30pm-10pm, 630-379-2498, Rumble Arts Center, 3413 W. North Ave; see <http://rumblearts.com>

Chicago Takes Off: Neo Noir Chicago Takes Off: is a burlesque "style" show that features professional dancers in energetic, choreographed performances engaging audiences in a celebration of life—all in support of Test Positive Aware Network's HIV/AIDS programs and services which benefit more than 25,000 individuals through our prevention, outreach, and direct care services and programs. 7:30 and 10:30 p.m., Park West Chicago, 322 W Armitage Ave., www.chicagotakesoff.org

9 to 12 No Tap Bowling League LGBT Bowling on the first Saturday of the month from 9 to 12 pm. Bowling takes place at River-Rand Bowl (on River Road just north of Rand Road). Leagues begin at 9pm and substitute bowlers are welcome and encouraged to come out to the lanes. 9pm, River Rand Bowl, Des Plaines, <http://www.facebook.com/pages/9-to-12-bowling/150981275086?fref=ts>

Same Sex, Different Gays: Musical Tales of Relationships Written by a team of three gay men, one lesbian, and two straight folks, this satirical but honest look at ins, outs, tops and bottoms of gay and lesbian relationships. 9:30pm-10:30pm, 773-961-8214, The pH Comedy Theater, 1515 W. Berwyn Ave., <http://whatisph.com/samesex.php>

Sunday, March 3

P!nk Brunch pre-show party One person will win tickets to P!nk Truth About Love. Brunch cocktails and midday meal. Madam X performing as the artist P!nk, music videos and sing-alongs, and one lucky guest will win two tickets to the concert. 11am-



'NEO'-THERMAL

Saturday, March 2

TPAN's burlesque extravaganza "Chicago Takes Off: Neo Noir" will be at the Park West.

Photo by Kat Fitzgerald

3pm, Kit Kat Lounge & Supper Club, 3700 N Halsted St., <http://kitkatchicago.com>

Beckie Menzie, Celebrate Me Home Cabaret singer/keyboardist/ songwriter, award winning concert artist who has appeared at America's top venues including Jazz At Lincoln Center, Birdland, and Town Hall in NYC, and Chicago's Auditorium Theatre and The Park West as well as concert halls across the country. Menzie's Carnegie Hall debut was in Michael Feinstein's Now & Then series. \$23; 2pm, 773-381-4551, Mayne Stage, 1328 W. Morse Ave., Chicago, Tickets: <http://www.maynestage.com>

Turn to page 21

Get calendar online  WindycityMediaGroup.com ChicagoPride.com



Auto show marks first for 2013

The public portion of the 2013 Chicago Auto Show ran Feb. 8-18.

This was the first time since 1998 that the show was open to the public on a Saturday. Show organizers decided to shift the dates for 2013 to take advantage of the Presidents Day holiday.

The Chicago Auto Show's black-tie benevolent event, First Look for Charity, took place Friday, Feb. 8, and raised \$2.2 million. "It's a move our charities have asked for and it will, no doubt, increase attendance at one of Chicago's most popular charity events," said 2013 Chicago Auto Show Co-Chairman Kurt Schiele in a statement.

For the eighth straight year, consumer voters proclaimed their favorites in five categories in the Chicago Auto Show's "Best of Show" balloting.

In voting conducted over the 10-day public run of the nation's biggest auto show, winners in the contest's five categories were:

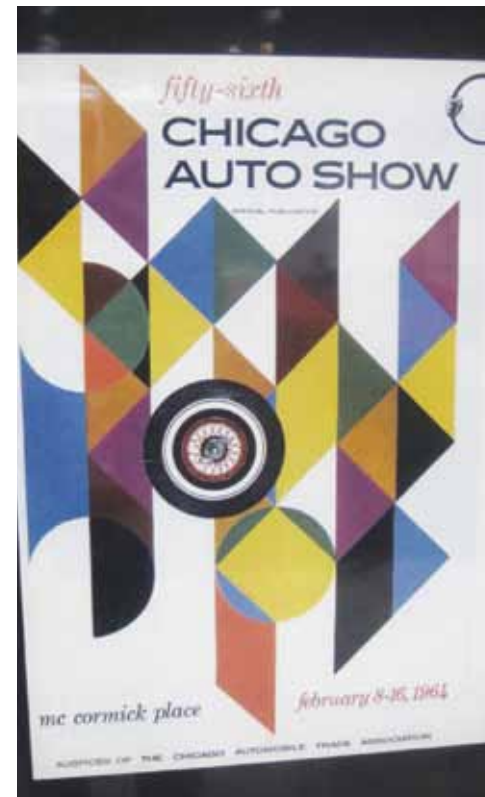
- Best All-New Production Vehicle: 2014 Chevrolet Corvette Stingray (36 percent of vote)
- Best Concept Vehicle: Chevrolet "Turbo" Camaro (27 percent of vote)
- Best Green Vehicle: Fisker Karma (24 percent of vote)
- Best Exhibit: Jeep (27 percent of vote)
- Vehicle I'd most like to have in my driveway: 2014 Chevrolet Corvette Stingray

GM holds LGBT Auto Show briefing

On Feb. 17, General Motors (GM) hosted the LGBT press at a Chicago Auto Show briefing. Joe LaMuraglia, GMC communications manager, stressed two aspects of GM's operation.

He said that, first, it's a gay-friendly company. Both LaMuraglia and Kevin Kelly, PR representative for the electric vehicle team also in attendance, are out on the job and comfortable with their work situation. Secondly, LaMuraglia extolled GM's environmentally friendly, "green cars": the electric Chevy Volt and the Cadillac ESL.

Marty Padgett of High Gear Media; Ben Timmons, associate web editor at Automobile Magazine; and Casey Williams of Gaywheels.com also spoke. All praised of the 2014 Corvette, which they said delivers muscle-car power at a "reasonable" \$75,000 price. They also noted the Cruze diesel, the Ford Atlas, and the Mercedes concept car are worthy of attention. Text by Chuck Kramer



BILLY MASTERS

Many people who work in the entertainment industry are delusional—but not me. I have no illusions about where I rank in this business we call “show.” I’m somewhere in the lower middle, which is lucky for you. If I were any higher, I’d be too busy to write this column week after week for almost two decades.

My place in the pecking order was clearly illustrated this week. When Whoopi Goldberg or Billy Crystal are asked to host the Oscars, they call Bruce Vilanch to write some jokes. When my good friend Gioia Bruno from Expose was asked to host “80s Fest” at the Sunset Cove Amphitheatre in Boca Raton, Fla., she asked me for some material. See? I’m exactly like Bruce Vilanch—just slightly younger, thinner ... and poorer.

For several years, I’ve considered Clive Davis to be a crazy old man. Successful, yes, but nutty as a fruitcake. How right I was. This week, he revealed that he is bisexual. He claims to have opened himself up (in more ways than one) to a man after two failed marriages. Although he now admits to being in a relationship with a man for seven years, he doesn’t consider himself gay: “Do I feel I could have been similarly attracted to a woman? The answer is yes.” By the way, I think I could do a great job hosting the Oscars. But no one’s asked me!

What does Clive want to do next? “I always wanted to produce a Broadway show, and I’ve never done it,” he said. “I’m hopeful we will pre-

so—on two different actors. You may remember Max and Charlie Carver as the twins on Desperate Housewives. Toward the end of the show’s run, the boys were starting to mature quite nicely. Apparently, they’ve continued on this journey. Their shirtless pic poises the twins to inherit the mantle of the Brewer Twins, the Hall Twins and the Visconti Triplets. Of course, we’re more than happy to double your pleasure and double your fun on our website.

Usually when we have an item about Boy George, it’s something that makes us cringe even whilst typing. But not this week. The former fatty has revealed his new svelte self at the Brit Awards in London. He credits losing one-third of his girth to Freer Nutrition, portion control, five-hour gaps between meals and “bursts of exercise all day.” But he hasn’t lost his sense of humor. He tweeted, “I love that the size of my ass is trending worldwide!”

I’m now going to combine two topics that really have no business being together—gay porn and Andy Dick. Just when you think career options are thin, Andy pops up on Two Broke Girls playing with puppets. Days later, I get a press release from the prolific Michael Lucas (sigh ... time was I’d always hear from him on my birthday). In his latest oeuvre, Lucas promises to deliver some lascivious laughs. Kings of New York finds some porn stars trying to become real stars in NYC. Surely, the quickest way to achieve this goal is to enlist the aid of Andy Dick, Lady Bunny and Derek from The A-List: New York. Given the presence of bona fide skin stars like Adam Killian, Landon Conrad and Mitchell Rock, I am sure that the sexual content does not suffer one iota.

And this is an almost ideal perfect segue into our “Ask Billy” question. Kent in Indianapolis writes: “I ran across a video of Craig Chalmers (who appeared on a UK talent show) doing a porn film under the name of Ryan Ryder. Needless to say, it has affected his legit career. But he’s VERY well-endowed. What do you know about him?”

Craig was one of my favorites on the show Any Dream Will Do, where Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber attempted to find a lead for his West End revival of “Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat.” While Craig was quite dreamy (sporting almost a mannequin-like perfection), he was also very entrenched in a cabaret style and came off robotic. But, I remember having a huge crush on him. Who would have thought that the size of my crush would equate the size of his appendage? But there he is—in some straight porn making me jealous of a girl (something I’m sure Clive Davis would understand). Once word got out of his porn career, Craig’s legit gigs dried up. But he was philosophical about it, saying, “I’m not ashamed of it. I’m being well paid and I’m comfortable with doing it.” Not as comfortable as you’ll be when you see every inch of Craig on BillyMasters.com.

When the line between porn and reality stars is being blurred, it’s definitely time to end yet another column. Because these columns are filed days before you read them, the Oscars haven’t even happened yet. But while William Shatner can go back to the past, I can see into the future. I feel that some guy will be in a kilt. I am sure Babs will show off her shoulders while singing “The Way We Were” for the “In Memoriam” segment. I’d bet that Dame Shirley Bassey will stop the show while in a gold gown singing “Goldfinger.” And I wouldn’t be surprised if someone didn’t trip on their gown. But I’m sure all that and more will turn up on www.BillyMasters.com, the website with foresight! If you’d like some other predictions, write to me at Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before Russell Crowe learns how to sing on key (I told you I was psychic). Until next time, remember, one man’s filth is another man’s bible.



Billy gives us the skinny on Boy George (above).

pare and finalize everything this year to bring My Fair Lady next year to Broadway with a stellar cast. I don’t want to jinx myself, but we’re in discussions with two magnificent performers and a wonderful director to do that.” Who are the two performers? Anne Hathaway and Colin Firth. Of course, Anne is committed to doing a Broadway musical based on the life of Judy Garland—but we haven’t heard about that for four years.

Many people will tell you that only good-looking people will make it in showbiz. This does not explain the prolific careers of Gerard Depardieu or Andy Dick (who we will get to in a minute). But it certainly does explain the casting on many other shows—particularly those targeting the younger audience. Take MTV’s minor hit, Teen Wolf. Once Colton Haynes announced his departure (but not before BillyMasters.com presented his attempt to make a porno), viewers swore they’d stay away when the new season began. Then came word that when the show comes back June 3, it will sport a familiar face and tor-

HereMedia
Palm Springs
Cocktail Challenge
WED, MARCH 6TH 8PM

Come watch your favorite Sidetrack & community bartenders shake it up at the 4th Annual Palm Springs Summer Splash Cocktail Challenge. Watch 'em create Palm Springs inspired cocktails & meet some fabulous new people. **NO COVER PLUS THERE'S SURE TO BE SOME SWAG!**

Come support your favorite bartenders as they compete against one another to stir up their best signature cocktails and win a trip to sunny Palm Springs, CA.

Join
GRAB
for a fun-filled night!

f t
/SidetrackBar

SIDETRACK
3349 N. Halsted
SidetrackChicago.com

CALENDAR from page 20

Making Out with Wes Perry and Friends Underground comedy show with a queer twist. Improvisation, sketch, and standup comedy with storytelling, performance art and drag. Doors open at 7pm, tickets \$5 online or at the door. 8pm, The Hideout, 1354 W. Wabansia Ave., www.hideoutchicago.com/event/224965

Monday, March 4

i2i new API Coming Out Group! Open to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning, and queer APIs. Adoptees, hapas and multiracial folks welcome too. First Monday of every month. Free. Snacks. More info: chicagoi2i@yahoo.com; 6pm-7:30pm, Asian Human Services, 7th flr conference room, 4753 N. Broadway

Papa, Can You Hear Me? (Songs of Fathers and Sons) Father. Signor. Pere. Michael Kingston has played them (Pippin, The Light In The Piazza, and La Cage Aux Folles to name a few.....). In his cabaret debut, “Papa” is joined by “sons” Patrick Tierney (La Cage Aux Folles) and Pavi Proczko (The Light In The Piazza) as they explore the father/son/family relationship. \$12./2 Drink Minimum. Reservations recommended. 8pm-9:15pm, 773-278-1830, Davenport’s Piano Bar and Cabaret, 1383 N Milwaukee Ave, www.davenportspianobar.com

Tuesday, March 5

Drag Race with Frida Lay Chicago’s only amateur drag contest, hosted by Frida Lay! A hit at Roscoe’s since its premier in 2000. 9pm, Roscoe’s, 3356 N Halsted St, www.roscoes.com

Wed., March 6

Women’s Empower Hour with Megan Walls Growth-seeking women, question and answer discussion with Certified Leadership and Personal Development Coach and Owner of Conscious Connection, to discuss the secret to navigating personal and professional transitions. 11:30am-1:30pm, 312-640-2300, Metropolitan Capital, 9 E. Ontario St. www.metcapbank.com

Palm Springs Summer Splash Cocktail Challenge Palm Springs, Calif., is seeking the best bartenders at top clubs across North America, including Sidetrack in Chicago. Palm Springs is challenging bar-

tenders to stir up Palm Springs inspired cocktails as part of the 4th Annual Palm Springs Summer Splash Cocktail Challenge. 8pm-10pm, 773-477-9189, Sidetrack, 3349 N Halsted St., www.palmspring-cocktailchallenge.com

Thursday, March 7

Queer Contra Dance Chicago Contra dance is a form of folk dance, similar to square dancing, but with lines of dancers rather than squares. In our gender-free version, instead of typical male-female gender roles, dancers determine their own role as a leader or follower. 6:30pm-9:30pm, www.lcfd.org, St. Luke’s Lutheran Church of Logan Square, located at 2649 N. Francisco Ave, peter@petermcdowell.com

American Veterans for Equal Rights (AVER) gay veterans Monthly meeting. 7pm, 773-472-6469, Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted St., www.aver-chicago.org

Indigo Girls in Concert with The Shadowboxers Out lesbian duo well-known and award winning since their 1989 first hit, “Closer to Fine.”; 8pm, North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd. Skokie, Tickets: www.northshorecenter.org

Friday, March 8

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater Ten performances through March 17. Robert Battle, Artistic Director, leads a 21-city tour, with both new and traditional pieces. Tickets \$32 - \$92 available online, by phone or box office. 7:30pm-9pm, 312-341-2357, Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University, 50 E Congress Pkwy., www.auditoriumtheatre.org; Tickets: http://ticketmaster.com/auditorium

Sunday, March 10

Chicago HER / HRC Va ~ Va ~ Vaudeville Titillating comedy, burlesque beauties hosted by Gwen La Roka, hilarious Chicago comedian as seen on the TBS Just for Laughs Festival. \$15. 6:30pm, Mayne Stage, 1328 W. Morse Ave., Tickets: http://action.hrc.org/site/calendar?id=112021&view=detail

Dustin Lance Black’s New Play, “8” One night-only reading of a play chronicling the historic trial in the federal constitutional challenge to California’s Prop. 8, written by Dustin Lance Black. Featuring Megan Cavanagh. “8” info@opalga.org; 7:30pm, Arts Center of Oak Park, The Ernest Hemingway Museum, 200 N. Oak Park Ave., Oak Park, www.opalga.org

Lesbian grandmother leads roller-derby team

BY ROSS FORMAN

Lori Danko was a skateboarder growing up, claims to secretly be an artist, and someday wants to give stand-up comedy a shot. She is a roller derby standout, the captain for the Double Crossers of Windy City Rollers fame under the moniker Busty BraBender, plus, she's the mother of two daughters and grandmother of one.

"I feel young, healthy and strong, but have come accustomed to living with Icy Hot and ice packs as a daily norm," Danko said, laughing.

After all, she's 41 now and only started in roller derby three years ago.

"I had not been on roller skates for at least 20 years when I decided I was going to try out," for the Windy City Rollers, she said. "I had a few friends who were playing and they convinced me to try. There was a person who also said, 'It is hard, and not for everyone; you could be a volunteer.' I was furious [with the comment]; I was determined [to make it]."

"Frankly, that woman was right in some ways. I have watched more women come and go, but I have also watched women dig in and push themselves harder than they ever knew they could. If you had told me [years ago that], when I turned 38, I would try-out for a sport where I got knocked down hundreds of times, [then just] get up and keep going, and love it, I would have laughed in your face. Now, 3 1/2 years later, I am still playing with all my heart and soul.

"I have been injured, succeeded, lost, cried, laughed and, at the end of the day, I have learned so much about myself. Roller derby presented an opportunity to play a competitive sport as an adult. It helped me learn how strong I am, and how much stronger I can be. I learned

that roller derby is a big family, and whatever city you visit, the roller derby team there becomes your family, too."

Danko moved from Grand Rapids, Mich., to Chicago in August 2011. She now lives in Wicker Park and is a nurse at Illinois Masonic Hospital.

"I love working [at Illinois Masonic]; they have embraced me and that I play roller derby with open arms," Danko said. "The diversity of the staff [at Illinois Masonic] is valued and welcoming, and you can truly see that when you walk in the door."

Danko is in a relationship with Sindy Ning, who she tagged as, "the most amazing and supportive person on earth, and with a great sense of humor." Danko added, "I am openly gay, but don't really love 'terms' placed on people. We are all human and, at the end of the day, that is how I treat everyone. If we could all open our hearts and minds to the love all around us, this world would be such an amazing place."

Danko, who graduated from the University of Detroit-Mercy, is the much-tattooed leader of her derby team. Her skin art include a black cat and cheetah print on her left upper arm in honor of her cat that died in a house fire in 2005. She also, on her left inner upper arm, has the quote 'the rule I play by' with the numbers 2.2.2 tattooed. "This is a rule for roller derby, meaning, 'the team with the most points win.'"

In high school, Danko played soccer, swam competitively and also ran cross country.

So why roller derby?

"It's a complicated answer," she began. "I discovered at [age] 38 that I was an athlete, that I was capable of anything—like the runner who starts jogging, then runs a 5K [race] and ultimately becomes a marathon runner. That



Lori Danko during competition. Photo by Heyman Neisschott

runner discovered something about themselves, something inside themselves."

Danko did, too.

"Playing for Windy City Rollers is tough," she said. "Most people don't know that we don't get paid. Instead, we go out every month and promote our own events. Most of us have full-time jobs, and a large number of the skaters have children. The training to play this competitively also requires lots of training. Windy City Rollers offers opportunities to train seven days a week. My typical schedule is skate three or four days a week, daily workouts [in a gym], and Crossfit. I train like every other athlete, including [focusing on a healthy] diet."

Danko said the highlights of her Windy City

Rollers career jumping the apex during a game last season and landing it, plus winning against Hells Belles in the charity bout.

"I have played all positions [in derby], but prefer to be a blocker. I love to hit hard, and love when other skaters hit you and it doesn't move you at all," she said.

So what's with the derby name, Busty BraBender?

"I had a hard time finding a name as [the first name], no one [understood] and another [potential name] was already taken by another skater," she said. "A teammate made comments [that] when I hit them in the chest, it bent their bra, or broke their bra, so BraBender was born."

ADVERTISEMENT



*When experience counts...
In service to the community for over 30 years.*

The Law Offices of
Roger V. McCaffrey-Boss & Associates

A SHORT SALE CAN HELP SELL YOUR HOME

Q. I have been trying to sell my house as I can't afford the payments anymore. My realtor suggested that I do a "short sale." Will it benefit me?

A. A short sale is a sale of real estate where a lender takes less than the amount owed on their note/mortgage and in exchange releases their lien on the property. Anyone can attempt a short sale. However, an attorney usually has better results in dealing with lenders than a person acting for themselves. In completing a short sale, the seller of the real estate is able to convey the real estate without having the full amount necessary to payoff the liens on the property.

Step one is contacting the lender. Call the lender and request the department that handles short sales. Large lenders can have many departments and require many phone calls to locate the proper person. Make sure you get names and phone numbers for follow up and future reference.

Typically the lender knows the market conditions and fair market value of the real estate. You will have to convey your problem, e.g. "It's been in on the market for six months and this is the first and only firm offer." The lender may ask you for comparables or a market analysis, which you can get from the real estate broker.

Next the lender will want a copy of the contract to know the transaction and to be sure that it is legitimate. It is also possible that the lender will request a copy of the listing agreement so that they can be sure there is nothing shady about the commission percentage and relationship with the broker.

The lawyer should prepare a draft closing statement for the lender. The lender will want know, to the closest dollar, the amount of money they can expect from the closing. Too know this your lawyer will have to do a draft closing statement with every known amount (taxes, title fees, attorney fees, tax stamps, etc.) except the lender's payoff figure. The payoff figure should be the NET amount left over. You will not get any of the proceeds.

Most importantly request a Waiver of Deficiency: This is not an automatic. The lender may be happy to give you a short sale depending on the parameters of the market. However, don't assume it's also a waiver of possible deficiency on the loan. You should request it. The lender may require a financial statement to substantiate the rationale for a waiver of the deficiency.

If approved, the lender will prepare a letter for the title company listing its requirements from the closing. Also, a closing letter with a range of acceptable amounts for the lender is best, though not always something they will agree to do.

Finally, make your contract contingent on lender approval. This protects you as seller from claims by the buyer.

- Bankruptcy • Wills, Trusts & Probate
 - Real Estate Closings • Civil Unions
- 19 S. LaSalle, Suite 1500, Chicago, IL 60603

312-263-8800

RVMLAWYER@AOL.COM

We are a debt relief agency. We help people file for bankruptcy relief under the bankruptcy code.

Bowling for a cause

BY ROSS FORMAN

The 16th annual Strike Out Hunger is scheduled for Saturday, March 30, as more than 150 will converge at River Rand Bowl in Des Plaines for the 9 To 12 Bowling League's fundraiser for Vital Bridges Center on Chronic Care, a program of Heartland Health Outreach.

Organizers are hoping to raise at least \$5,000 as the event pushes toward \$100,000 raised over the years.

"It's a fun, exciting event that I absolutely love," said Jack Marunde, president of the predominantly gay suburban bowling league. He has bowled in the league for seven years and participated in this annual fundraiser for the past four years.

"It's a great time to hang out with friends and help a worthwhile cause."

The event features three fun games of bowling, food, music, and a raffle—and the bowling alley usage fee is donated by River Rand Bowl. Plus, Wapaghetti's, a local restaurant, donates pizza, and a local DJ donates his time and equipment, Marunde said.

One of the raffle highlights is a three-night trip to Belize.

Still, "the highlight is the bowling," said Marunde, 44, who lives in East Village and carries a bowling average of 131.

"This is the primary charity that [the league] really cares about."

Heartland Health Outreach is a subsidiary of Heartland Alliance for Human Needs & Human Rights, the leading anti-poverty organization in the Midwest.

For nearly 25 years, Vital Bridges has helped men, women, and children impacted by HIV and AIDS. Vital Bridges has three food pantries in the city of Chicago and one in Elk Grove Village. They also have a home-delivered grocery service, and continue the home delivered meal service.

Sports shorts

Bank of America Chicago Marathon officials say online registration will remain closed until at least Feb. 28, according to ChicagoBusiness.com. Officials are working with Active.com to resolve the technical problems that muddled the first few hours of sign-ups Feb. 19. The group will announce an "equitable plan" at 3 p.m. Central Time on Feb. 28 about how and when it will reopen registration.

Ronda Rousey won the first women's bout in UFC (Ultimate Fighting Championship) history Feb. 23, beating openly lesbian Liz Carmouche on an armbar with 11 seconds left in the first round of their bantamweight title fight at UFC 157, according to CBSsports.com. Rousey (7-0) defended her belt with her signature move, forcing Carmouche to tap out after bending back her arm.

Danica Patrick, who made history by becoming the first woman to win a Sprint Cup pole and to lead a lap in the Daytona 500, finished eighth in the race, USA Today reported. "Only 13 people including me have led Daytona and Indy. That's a cool stat for me," Patrick said. Jimmie Johnson won his second Daytona 500 as cars ran single-file the last two laps.

'Normal Heart' on HBO in '14

HBO announced that it will adapt the Tony-winning Larry Kramer play *The Normal Heart*, according to Deadline.com. The movie will star Julia Roberts and Mark Ruffalo in the key roles, along with out actor Matt Bomer (*White Collar*).

Glee creator Ryan Murphy will direct the film, which will feature Roberts as Dr. Emma Brookner, the paraplegic physician who treats several of the earliest victims of the disease. Ruffalo portrays Ned Weeks; Bomer plays Felix Turner, a reporter who becomes Weeks' lover. *The Normal Heart* will run in 2014.

Jay-Z, Timberlake at Soldier Field July 22

Musicians Jay-Z and Justin Timberlake will perform at Chicago's Soldier Field Monday, July 22, as part of their "Legends of the Summer" tour.

The tour will begin July 17 in Toronto at the Roger's Centre and continue through Aug. 16 in Miami at Sun Life Stadium. Tickets for all dates except New York go on sale to the public Thursday, Feb. 28, at LiveNation.com.

Fans can visit <https://www.facebook.com/events/214486305358371> to RSVP for early access to presale tickets available Feb. 27.



Justin Timberlake. PR photo

Singer Kristen Ford in Chicago March 5, 11

Singer Kristen Ford will perform at two venues in Chicago.

Ford will be in Tuesday, March 5, at Uncommon Ground, 3800 N. Clark St., at 8 p.m., and Monday, March 11, at Red Line Tap, 7000 N. Glenwood Ave., at 8 p.m.

Ford has been described as "a genre-hopping singer-songwriter from Boston." For more, see www.KristenFordMusic.com.

CONNEXIONS MAKE IT YOUR BUSINESS

Ray J. Koenig III and Clark Hill PLC



Ray is a legal authority on all of his practice areas, which include probate, trusts, guardianship, estate planning, and elder law, including the litigation of those areas. He is a longtime advocate for and member of the LGBT community, and is involved in several charitable groups, community associations, and professional organizations. Ray is a member of Clark Hill PLC, a full-service law firm consisting of a diverse team of attorneys and professionals committed to our clients and our communities.

Tel: 312.985.5938 | Fax: 312.985.5985
rkoenig@clarkhill.com | clarkhill.com



CLARK HILL

ARIZONA ILLINOIS MICHIGAN WASHINGTON DC

i1010
CUSTOM FRAMING
 Framing Chicago's art since 1991.
 All work done on premise.
 1478 W. Berwyn - 773.784.3962

Deborah A. Murphy CPA

Accounting
 Tax Services
 Financial Consulting
 Business Planning

773-404-8401
 2155 W. Roscoe
 1 South
www.debmurphy.com

Susan O'Dell, PhD

Down to earth, change oriented therapy

I see individuals, couples, children & families for crisis and ongoing work.

I also offer wellness support for persons living with chronic illness, including cancer and HIV-AIDS, their partners and families.

773.262.7010
 1422 W. THOME AVENUE, CHICAGO IL 60660

Discounts as big as a house. Or condo. Or apartment.

Linda Kuczka, Agent
 954 W Webster
 Chicago, IL 60614
 Bus: 773-975-9111
www.lindakuczka.com

See just how big your savings could be. Your savings could add up to hundreds of dollars when you put all your policies together under our State Farm® roof.

GET TO A BETTER STATE™
 CALL AN AGENT OR VISIT US ONLINE TODAY.

State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company, State Farm Indemnity Company, Bloomington, IL
 1103155 11/11

Dr. Edward J. Fajardo

Licensed Clinical Psychologist

4633 N. Western Ave., Suite 203
 Chicago, IL 60625
 (312) 623-0502
EJFajardo@aol.com

Specializing in
 Gay-Affirmative Psychotherapy

PARKVIEW PET SUPPLIES

EST. 1921

5358 N. Broadway
 Chicago, IL 60640

773-561-0001

*Sensible Food
 Sensible Prices*

TRANSGENDER LAWYER

Joanie Rae Wimmer

EMPLOYMENT LAW •
 POLICE MISCONDUCT •
 DIVORCE •
 NAME CHANGE •

"Joanie obtained the first award in favor of a transgender person under the Illinois Human Rights Act."

—The award in favor of cab driver Venessa Fitzsimmons totaled \$104,711.00—*Fitzsimmons v. Universal Taxi Dispatch, Inc.*, ALS No. 09-0661

(630) 810-0005 or (630) 880-5005
www.joanieraewimmer.com

JOSEPH RICE INTERIORS, INC.

CHICAGO
 (773) 271-2361
www.josephriceinteriors.com
 Specializing in Drapery Treatments

FIELDS FRIENDS AND FAMILY PRICING*



\$1,000
VOLKSWAGEN
CONQUEST
BONUS CASH
ON ALL
FIATS

DID YOU KNOW?

- RATED "TOP SAFETY PICK" FROM THE INSURANCE INSTITUTE FOR HIGHWAY SAFETY
- NAMED CONSUMERS DIGEST "BEST BUY" FOR 2012
- AWARDED "MOST INNOVATIVE ENGINE TECHNOLOGY OF THE YEAR"
- NAMED "2011 TOP 10 GREEN CAR" BY KELLEY BLUE BOOK
- FIAT 500 IS ONE OF THE MOST AWARDED CARS IN ITS CLASS, HAVING EARNED MORE THAN 15 US AND 80 INTERNATIONAL AWARDS FOR EXCEPTIONAL DESIGN AND PERFORMANCE

**0% APR FINANCING AVAILABLE
FOR UP TO 60 MONTHS ON NEW FIAT MODELS**

OR UP TO **\$1,500** CONSUMER CASH ALLOWANCE[†]



**\$500 USAA Consumer
Cash Incentive**



**\$500
Military Bonus**

**COMPLIMENTARY SERVICE
LOANERS AND CAR WASHES
ALL SERVICES
PERFORMED ON SITE**



Fields FIAT of Highland Park
250 Skokie Valley Road
Highland Park, IL 60035
(847) 579-6900 / fieldsfiatofhighlandpark.com



Simply more.

Photos are for representative purposes only. Vehicles shown may differ from actual vehicles to be sold. Offers expire 2/28/2013. Tax, title, license and documentation fee not included. All offers subject to credit approval. US Military Bonus and USAA Consumer Cash Incentive cannot be used in conjunction. Offers exclude Abarth model and cannot be combined together or used in conjunction with any other special offers, rebates or cash allowances. Please see dealer for details *Offer only valid on 2013 models. †Offer only valid on 2012 models. 60 month financing offered at \$16.67 per month per \$1,000.00 financed.