

WINDY CITY TIMES

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STUNNER

Trump defeats Clinton



REVERENCE FOR DELL
 People remember Rev. Gregory Dell.
 Photo by Hal Baim

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Donald Trump.
 Washington Blade photo by Michael Key



Hillary Clinton.
 Washington Blade photo by Michael Key

Dems triumph in Illinois races

BY MATT SIMONETTE AND
 GRETCHEN RACHEL HAMMOND

After months of the most turbulent electioneering in recent American history, it appeared that Donald J. Trump, as of press time, had defeated Hillary Rodham Clinton's bid to become the first female president of the United States. Associated Press called the election for Trump at about 2:30 a.m. EST on Nov. 9.

Clinton conceded to Trump at around the same time, according to reports. The New York Times reported that Trump

won 276 electoral votes, while Clinton won 218.

In Illinois, Clinton won with 55.8 percent of the vote; Trump took 39.1 percent. According to the City of Chicago Board of Commissioners, Clinton took a whopping 83.6 percent of the vote in the city, while Trump took just 12.57 percent, with just over 95 percent of precincts reporting.

What a potential Trump victory means for the LGBT community is unclear. The candidate never launched any outright attacks on the LGBT community, but he promised to appoint

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NEYSA SCOTT
 Fashion designer/poet/
 performer dies.
 Photo by Abena Sharon Dale

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TRANSREELIZATION
 Event features Wachowskis, Laverne Cox.
 Photo of Laverne Cox and Scott Ammarell
 by Gretchen Rachel Hammond

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 City celebrates Cubs' win.
 Photo by Terri Klinsky

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MICHAEL BUBLE
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 Photo by Dean Freeman

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TY ONE ON
WCT talks with out country star Ty Herndon (left) about his new CD, House on Fire.
Official head shot

ART- FELT



The SOFA CHICAGO expo featured many innovative items and exhibitions.
Photo by Andrew Davis

SHOW ME THE 'WAY'



The gay graphic novel Either Way is one item in Five Worth Finding.

CEASE AND RESIST

The National Museum of Mexican Art and The 2016 Sor Juana Festival presented "Resistencia: Remaining Resilient in Times of Adversity."

OPEN MINDS

Citywide Pride held its event "Unassuming Assumptions!," geared toward helping LGBTQ+ customers.

THAT'S SHOW BIZ

Find out the latest about Ryan Reynolds, Greg Louganis and the TV show Eyewitness.

plus **DAILY BREAKING NEWS**

"★★★★★
UNSTOPPABLY ENTERTAINING"
-THE TIMES (UK)

"GALVANIZING AND ASTONISHING"
-TIME OUT NEW YORK

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DIRECTED BY GARY GRIFFIN

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Hillary Clinton.

Washington Blade photo by Michael Key

ELECTION from cover

Supreme Court justices who would overturn the 2015 decision on marriage equality. He also appointed Indiana Gov. Mike Pence, who was at the center of the disastrous implementation of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act in 2015, to be his vice-presidential running mate. Numerous members of the community were unsettled by Trump's frequent jabs at other minority communities and his contempt for the idea of political correctness as well.

Clinton courted the LGBT community from the beginning of her campaign. Gay Chicagoans Jared Milrad and Nathan Johnson were included in the April 2015 video that announced Clinton's run; the video, themed to how Americans were changing their lives, featured Milrad and Johnson speaking about their upcoming wedding. A lesbian couple from Los Angeles was included in the video as well.

In a Nov. 3, 2015, interview with Washington Blade, Clinton promised to "have the backs" of the LGBT community.

"As President, I'll make fighting discrimination against the LGBT community a top priority—including by working with Congress to pass the Equality Act," Clinton said. "And we won't stop there. We'll also take on harassment, bullying, and violence—and youth homelessness, which disproportionately hurts LGBT kids. We'll end the harmful practice of so-called 'conversion' therapy for minors, because LGBT kids don't need to be 'cured' of anything. And we'll bring people together to reform our gun laws and keep guns from falling into the wrong hands, so that what happened at Pulse never happens again."

National races

U.S. Rep. Tammy Duckworth unseated U.S. Sen. Mark Kirk with about 55 percent of the vote and will now represent Illinois in the Senate alongside Sen. Dick Durbin; Kirk had about 40 percent. His already floundering campaign was almost completely unhinged after he made a disparaging remark about Duckworth's ethnic background during a debate. Human Rights Campaign, which made a controversial endorsement for Kirk, rescinded its support and backed Duckworth just weeks before the election. Kirk conceded to Duckworth and promised a "beer summit" to launch a cordial transition.

In October, Duckworth told Windy City Times that the LGBT community would need to be vigilant in making sure that their rights are not rolled back.

"I feel like the LGBT community may feel like the struggles have been won, but I really think the struggles are just now starting at a low level ... where those people who oppose LGBT issues, and the reality of what it means to be equal, are going to work at [a lo-

cal] level to change the system and introduce new laws," she said. "If we don't pay attention to them, they will spread across this country. It's the same as what we saw with reproductive rights—they've been going through state by state, enacting laws and regulations."

In the House, Raja Krishnamoorthi, a Democrat, takes over the 8th District seat that Duckworth vacated. He won with 58 percent of the vote; his opponent, Peter DiCianni obtained 42 percent.

Fifth District U.S. Rep. Mike Quigley (D) was among those re-elected, capturing about 68 percent of the vote and defeating Republican candidate Vince Kolber and Green Party candidate Rob Sherman. Quigley has been in office since 2009 and has been a longtime supporter of LGBT causes. He is vice-chair of the LGBT Equality Caucus and has advocated for the FDA to lift its ban on on blood donations from gay men. U.S. Rep. Jan Schakowsky (D), another longtime advocate for the LGBT community, whose husband has garnered negative publicity as of late, also defeated Republican challenger Joan McCarthy Lasonde's bid to represent the 9th District in the House with 60 percent of the vote.

In the 10th District, Democrat Brad Schneider retook his old seat from Republican incumbent Robert Dold. Schneider won with 52 percent of voters; Dold had 48 percent.

Local races

Cook County Court Clerk Dorothy Brown will keep her post, even though she lost the support of the Cook County Democratic Party after legal problems last year. Brown's opponent, Republican Diane Shapiro, maintained that the court clerk's office is woefully out of date and poorly run. But Brown nevertheless won with 66.9 percent of the vote.

Kim Foxx defeated Republican Christopher Pfannkuche to be the next Cook County state's attorney with 71.8 percent of the vote. Foxx, who will be the first African-American woman to fill that post, beat incumbent Anita Alvarez in the primaries after the office was shaken by controversy in late 2015. Foxx, who was previously chief of staff to Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle, received the backing of the Cook County Democratic Party in the primaries, as well as considerable financial backing from, among others, openly gay activist and businessman Fred Eychaner. Among her goals was a reduction in the Cook County Jail population and a more active engagement between county prosecutors and the community at large.

Karen Yarbrough ran unopposed as Cook County recorder of deeds.

Comptroller changes hands

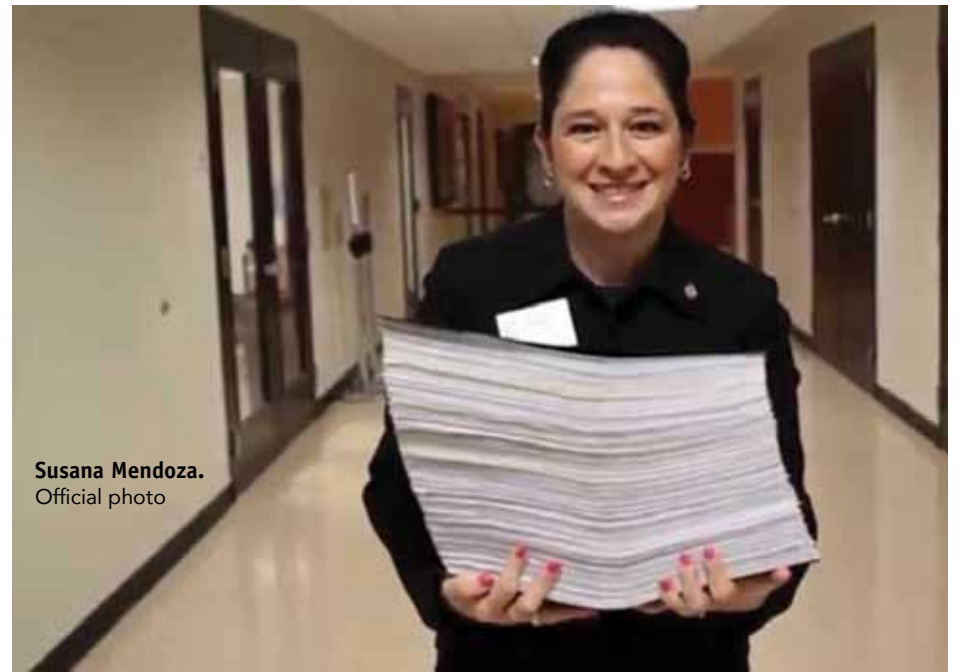
It wasn't all bad news for Democrats.

The campaign between Chicago City Clerk Su-

sana Mendoza (D) and incumbent and Illinois Gov. Bruce Rauner appointee Leslie Geissler Munger was the most expensive in this year's election and widely seen as a proxy war between Rauner and House Speaker Mike Madigan (D). Millions were spent on blistering campaign ads whether accusing Mendoza of being Madigan's willing pawn or Munger as in league with Rauner and his agenda. Mendoza took a major win with nearly 50 percent of the vote at time of publication.

land's open seat was the setting for a battle between Kane County Commissioner Cristina Castro (D) and her Republican challenger Tracy Smodilla. Castro took an almost 65 percent win.

Conversely, in the 58th District, the seat vacated by David Luechtefeld (R) was up for grabs and former Lt. Gov. Sheila Simon (D) fought a tough race against former marine Paul Schimpf to take it. In the end, Schimpf won with over 62 percent of the vote.



Susana Mendoza.
Official photo

The shape of Springfield

A number of Republican challengers set out to try and reduce the House 71-47 Democratic majority. Most of them ran on campaigns decrying the Illinois budget impasse while putting their own ideas forward to stop it. However, for the most part, voters chose to send the incumbents back but each of those legislators reelected knows they are on notice to find a resolution to the state's finances as patience is running out for what has become widely viewed as a schoolyard brawl between Madigan and Rauner that has left the state's badly needed advocacy groups, social services and education bleeding to death.

All results are at time of publication.

Democrats retained the 10th District seat vacated by Pamela Reaves-Harris (D) with a decisive 84-percent win by Melissa Conyears over Republican challenger Mark Spognardi.

In the 11th District, incumbent Ann Williams (D) was sent back for another term. Despite the "increase revenues and decrease spending" argument of challenger Gary Mandell, Williams won with 71.6 percent of the vote.

In the 12th District, incumbent Sara Feigenholtz (D) easily took the win over Gene Witt with almost 76 percent of the vote.

Popular 13th District incumbent Greg Harris ran unopposed.

In the 14th District, Arthur Noah Seigel ran as an independent against popular incumbent Kelly Cassidy (D). His attempt at winning as an outside voice between two bickering parties ultimately failed with Cassidy taking neatly 85 percent of the vote.

In the 24th District, openly gay Republican Andy Kirchoff aimed to unseat long-time incumbent Elizabeth Hernandez (D). She prevailed with 79.4 percent of the vote.

Some races were not to be such a leisurely walk for the incumbents.

In Lake County's 62nd District Sam Yingling faced off for a second time against challenger Rod Drobinski (R) with the latter racking up some major media endorsements. In another squeaker, Yingling was narrowly returned to Springfield with 52.4 percent of the vote versus Drobinski's 47.6.

The Illinois Senate was never realistically going to fall into Republican hands. However, there were two seats available to a candidate from either party.

In the 22nd District, Democrat Michael No-



Kim Foxx.
Powell Photography

In a statement following the bulk of the Illinois results, a victorious Speaker Mike Madigan wrote "Voters stated clearly that they wish to maintain a wide Democratic majority in the Illinois House of Representatives and maintain a strong check on Bruce Rauner and his anti-middle class agenda. Voters said they support the vision of the Democratic Party with the victories of Tammy Duckworth and Susana Mendoza."

Madigan went on to note that "Republicans' millions spent, coupled with the Trump headwind in downstate Illinois, created a difficult environment for many Democratic candidates. Illinois residents want strong schools, funding for domestic violence shelters and veterans' homes, and a strong middle class with good wages. I hope Republicans will finally join us to protect these priorities and help deliver the services families are counting on."

LGBTQs travel to Iowa to support Clinton

On Nov. 5, the "Hillary LGBTQ Bus Trip to Iowa" took place, with approximately 90 volunteers making the trip to the swing state, according to co-organizer Charlie Rice-Minoso.

Illinois state Rep. Sara Feigenholtz presented the event. Co-hosts included Kevin Hauswirth, Dalila Fridi, Anthony Alfano, Jamie Citron, Rob Fojtik and Rice-Minoso.

"We coordinated with Hillary [Clinton's] field office and Sara Feigenholtz happened to be there," Rice-Minoso told Windy City Times. "She thought it was such a great idea, so she sponsored our primary bus. As we started to sign up more people, we needed a second bus, and the campaign was able to cover that. People on the host committee were able to contribute funds for snacks, water and supplies—and extra supplies were donated back to the cam-

paign to other volunteers who do phone banking or other things for Hillary. Sidetrack even [loaned] entertainment like Priscilla, Queen of the Desert and Will & Grace for the ride back and forth.

"It was a really good experience. We had good representation as far as gender, ethnicity—it was really wonderful. We had a lot of first-time canvassers as well as experienced ones. The energy was great."

Volunteers, who met at Center on Halsted before traveling to Davenport, knocked on more than 2,000 doors, Rice-Minoso said. "We were told that the county we were in is one of the most influential in the state, and could actually flip the state. We really hoped we made a difference, but it was also a lot of fun."

—Andrew Davis



Volunteers who traveled to Iowa Nov. 5. Photo by Sarah Matheson

Cher stumps for Clinton

On Oct. 30, superstar Cher continued to stump for Hillary Clinton with the "Love Trumps Hate" tour that stopped in Chicago at Revel Fulton Market, 1215 W. Fulton Market.



Above: Evette Cardona, Cher and Mona Noriega. Below: Sue Hauswirth, Cher and Kevin Hauswirth

Above photo from Noriega's Facebook page; below image from Kevin Hauswirth



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DESCOVY is a prescription medicine that is used together with other HIV-1 medicines to treat HIV-1 in people 12 years and older. DESCOVY is not for use to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 infection. DESCOVY combines 2 medicines into 1 pill taken once a day. Because DESCOVY by itself is not a complete treatment for HIV-1, it must be used together with other HIV-1 medicines.

DESCOVY does not cure HIV-1 infection or AIDS.

To control HIV-1 infection and decrease HIV-related illnesses, you must keep taking DESCOVY. Ask your healthcare provider if you have questions about how to reduce the risk of passing HIV-1 to others. Always practice safer sex and use condoms to lower the chance of sexual contact with body fluids. Never reuse or share needles or other items that have body fluids on them.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

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

DESCOVY may cause serious side effects:

- **Buildup of an acid in your blood (lactic acidosis)**, which is a serious medical emergency. Symptoms of lactic acidosis include feeling very weak or tired, unusual muscle pain, trouble breathing, stomach pain with nausea or vomiting, feeling cold (especially in your arms and legs), feeling dizzy or lightheaded, and/or a fast or irregular heartbeat.
- **Serious liver problems.** The liver may become large and fatty. Symptoms of liver problems include your skin or the white part of your eyes turning yellow (jaundice); dark "tea-colored" urine; light-colored bowel movements (stools); loss of appetite; nausea; and/or pain, aching, or tenderness on the right side of your stomach area.
- **You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or serious liver problems** if you are female, very overweight, or have been taking DESCOVY for a long time. In some cases, lactic acidosis and serious liver problems have led to death. Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any symptoms of these conditions.
- **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** DESCOVY is not approved to treat HBV. If you have both HIV-1 and HBV and stop taking DESCOVY, your HBV may suddenly get worse. Do not stop taking DESCOVY without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to monitor your health.

What are the other possible side effects of DESCOVY?

Serious side effects of DESCOVY may also include:

- **Changes in body fat**, which can happen in people taking HIV-1 medicines.
- **Changes in your immune system.** Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any new symptoms after you start taking DESCOVY.
- **Kidney problems, including kidney failure.** Your healthcare provider should do blood and urine tests to check your kidneys. Your healthcare provider may tell you to stop taking DESCOVY if you develop new or worse kidney problems.
- **Bone problems**, such as bone pain, softening, or thinning, which may lead to fractures. Your healthcare provider may do tests to check your bones.

The most common side effect of DESCOVY is nausea. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effects that bother you or don't go away.

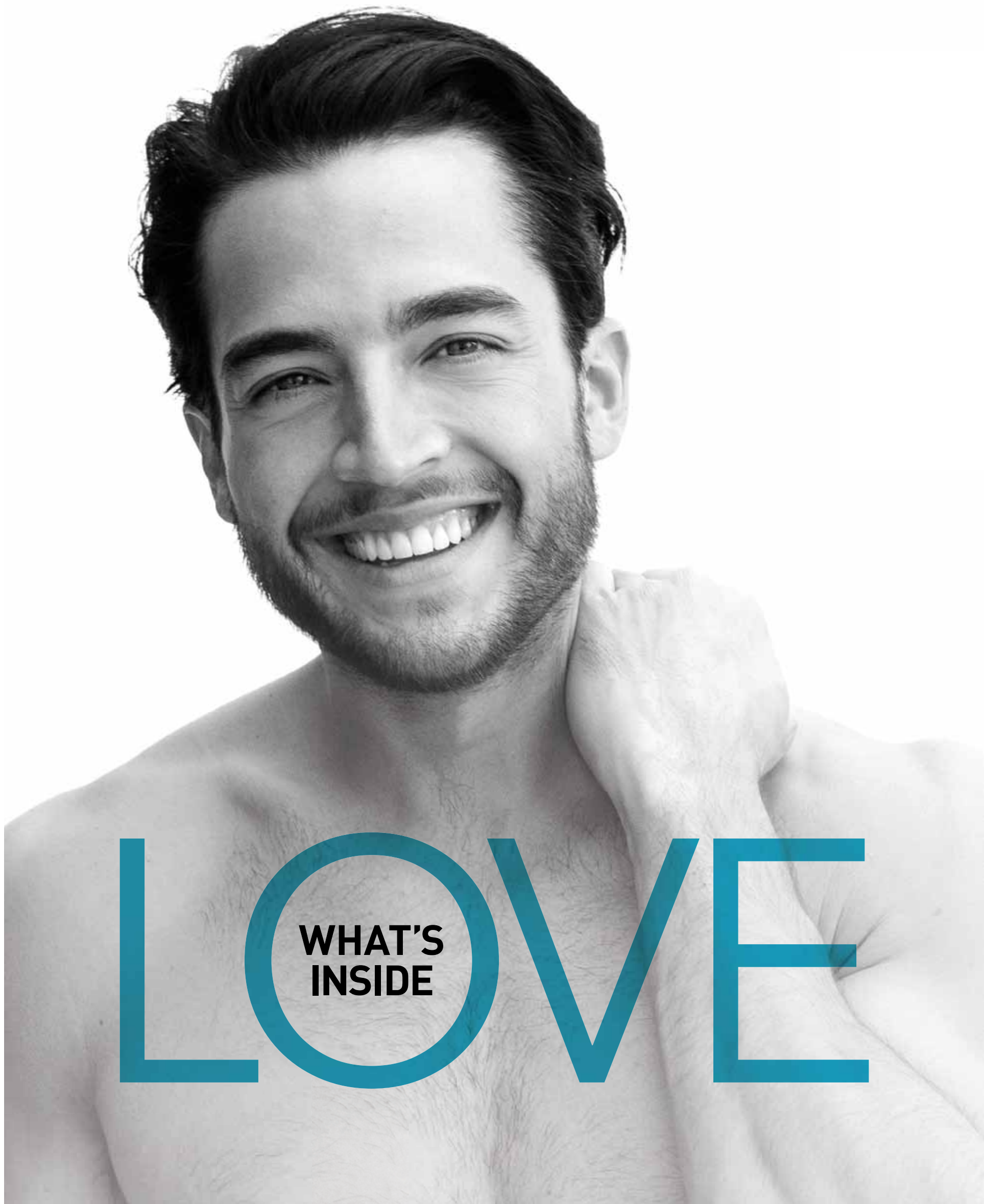
What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking DESCOVY?

- **All your health problems.** Be sure to tell your healthcare provider if you have or have had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis virus infection.
- **All the medicines you take**, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. Other medicines may affect how DESCOVY works. Keep a list of all your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist. Ask your healthcare provider if it is safe to take DESCOVY with all of your other medicines.
- **If you are pregnant** or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if DESCOVY can harm your unborn baby. Tell your healthcare provider if you become pregnant while taking DESCOVY.
- **If you are breastfeeding** (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed. HIV-1 can be passed to the baby in breast milk.

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.fda.gov/medwatch, or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

Please see Important Facts about DESCOVY, including important warnings, on the following page.

Ask your healthcare provider if an HIV-1 treatment that contains DESCOVY® is right for you.



LOVE

WHAT'S
INSIDE



(des-KOH-vee)

IMPORTANT FACTS

This is only a brief summary of important information about **DESCOVY®** and does not replace talking to your healthcare provider about your condition and your treatment.

MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT DESCOVY

DESCOVY may cause serious side effects, including:

- **Buildup of lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis)**, which is a serious medical emergency that can lead to death. Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any of these symptoms: feeling very weak or tired, unusual muscle pain, trouble breathing, stomach pain with nausea or vomiting, feeling cold (especially in your arms and legs), feeling dizzy or lightheaded, and/or a fast or irregular heartbeat.
- **Severe liver problems**, which in some cases can lead to death. Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any of these symptoms: your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice); dark “tea-colored” urine; loss of appetite; light-colored bowel movements (stools); nausea; and/or pain, aching, or tenderness on the right side of your stomach area.
- **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** DESCOVY is not approved to treat HBV. If you have both HIV-1 and HBV, your HBV may suddenly get worse if you stop taking DESCOVY. Do not stop taking DESCOVY without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to check your health regularly for several months.

You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or severe liver problems if you are female, very overweight, or have been taking DESCOVY or a similar medicine for a long time.

ABOUT DESCOVY

- DESCOVY is a prescription medicine that is used together with other HIV-1 medicines to treat HIV-1 in people 12 years of age and older. DESCOVY is **not** for use to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 infection.
- **DESCOVY does not cure HIV-1 or AIDS.** Ask your healthcare provider about how to prevent passing HIV-1 to others.

HOW TO TAKE DESCOVY

- DESCOVY is a one pill, once a day HIV-1 medicine that is taken with other HIV-1 medicines.
- Take DESCOVY with or without food.

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF DESCOVY

DESCOVY can cause serious side effects, including:

- Those in the “Most Important Information About DESCOVY” section.
- Changes in body fat.
- Changes in your immune system.
- New or worse kidney problems, including kidney failure.
- Bone problems.

The most common side effect of DESCOVY is nausea.

These are not all the possible side effects of DESCOVY. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any new symptoms while taking DESCOVY.

Your healthcare provider will need to do tests to monitor your health before and during treatment with DESCOVY.

BEFORE TAKING DESCOVY

Tell your healthcare provider if you:

- Have or had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis infection.
- Have any other medical condition.
- Are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.
- Are breastfeeding (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed if you have HIV-1 because of the risk of passing HIV-1 to your baby.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take:

- Keep a list that includes all prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements, and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist.
- Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist about medicines that should not be taken with DESCOVY.

GET MORE INFORMATION

- This is only a brief summary of important information about DESCOVY. Talk to your healthcare provider or pharmacist to learn more.
- Go to DESCOVY.com or call 1-800-GILEAD-5
- If you need help paying for your medicine, visit DESCOVY.com for program information.



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Neysa Scott.

Photo by Abena Sharon Dale

PASSAGES

Neysa Scott

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Fashion designer, poet and performer Neysa Scott passed away Oct. 16. She was 51. Cause of death was an aneurysm and a stroke.

Scott was an innovator in a number of creative realms, according to her best friend, Yaounde Olu.

"She was a fashion designer, but she was also a musician, a lead singer and a drummer, Olu said. "She was a dancer as well. One of the reasons we were friends was because she did a lot of different things, like me."

Scott was owner of Neysapeaces Poetry in Fabric, where she innovated in a number of her Afrocentric fashion designs. Chaka Khan was among those who wore her designs.

"She had a lot of skill and practically invented certain types of clothing," Olu said. "She was an unsung hero because she was the first person to make certain types of clothing that now a lot of people are; back in the day, she was the only one."

Among her creations were what Scott called the "Asymmetrical Covet," "Butterfly" and "Wings."

"She was a fashion genius," Olu recalled. "Even without clothes that she had created, she always knew how to pull herself together. She was always very beautifully attired."

Scott grew up in a creative family. "Her parents are very well-known art collectors, and there were a number of people interested in fashion in her family. But the bottom line was, she was a creative genius and fashion was just one of the things she excelled at," said Olu.

A Chicago native, Scott attended St. Ignatius College Preparatory School, where she was part of the first class that enrolled female students, as well as Howard University, where she majored in broadcast journalism.

Scott and Olu co-hosted a weekly radio program on WHPK 88.5. In a remembrance of Scott that she wrote, Olu explained the format: "If you tuned in you were privileged to jazz, poetry, magnetic chemistry amongst friends, and powerful social commentary that made you think."

"She was also interested in being a minister," said Olu. "Not necessarily a preacher. Her ministry was her poetry. She was an outstanding poet."

Scott also had been a member of the Drum Divas percussive music collective, which Olu founded. But Olu said Scott's real passion was "her" children. She took a number of them under her wing, and became an unofficial aunt or godmother to them.

"Her transition came as such a surprise to everyone who knew her, because she was so filled with life," said Olu. "She was a vegetarian, moving towards becoming a vegan, and she exercised all the time. She did all the right things."

Scott is survived by parents Nelson and Alice; brother Kenyatta; nephews Kenyatta and Nyles; niece Amber; and uncles, aunts and cousins.

Janet Reno dies at 78

Janet Reno—who then-President Bill Clinton selected to become the country's first woman U.S. attorney general—died Nov. 7 of Parkinson's disease. She was 78.

Reno was involved in some of the biggest crises in the 1990s and early 2000s, ranging from the FBI siege of the Branch Davidian compound near Waco, Texas; to Clinton's relationship with intern Monica Lewinsky; to the arrest of sheik Omar Abdel Rahman, who was connected to the 1993 World Trade Center bombings; to the saga of Elian Gonzalez, a 6-year-old boy who federal agents seized and returned to his father, who took the family to Cuba.

Reno was born in Miami in 1938, and graduated from Cornell University in 1960 and Harvard Law School in 1963. Her father was a police reporter for the Miami Herald, while her mother was an investigative reporter for Miami News, which no longer exists.

After leaving the attorney general's office, Reno ran for governor, but lost the nomination.

Appeals court rules on lesbian couple's legal fees

BY MATT SIMONETTE

The Illinois First District Appellate Court, on Oct. 28, upheld a Cook County Circuit Court decision awarding more than \$68,000 in legal fees to a lesbian couple who claimed they were harassed by their condominium's owners association.

Cook County Record first reported the story on Nov. 1.

The Chicago Commission on Human Relations awarded those fees to Pat Gilbert and Vernita Gray after Gilbert filed a March 2001 complaint with the Commission, alleging that 7355 South Shore Drive Condominium Association and its president, Shelley Norton, tried to prevent her from purchasing a unit because she was white and a lesbian. Gray filed an additional complaint that month alleging anti-gay comments by Norton.

The case languished for many years in part due to the first hearing officer's poor health. A subsequent hearing officer said he did not



Vernita Gray.

Photo by Hal Baim

need to rehear testimony, and eventually rejected Gilbert and Gray's racial discrimination claims; he did, however, accept the women's other discrimination claims.

The condominium association maintained that it had been denied due process and tried to get the ruling on the legal fees overturned. A Cook County court affirmed the Commission's decision in February 2014.

Justice Robert E. Gordon issued the Oct. 28 order. Gray passed away in March 2014.

Cook County Record's story is at <http://bit.ly/2fejYV6>.

a Night at the World's Fair
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SIDE-TRACK

MillerCoors

Comcast, Center host reception for Pride collection and ERGs

BY GRETCHEN RACHEL HAMMOND

Neither the pouring rain nor game seven of the World Series between the Chicago Cubs and the Cleveland Indians was enough to deter a large crowd of people from visiting the state-of-the-art Comcast Studio Xfinity corporate flagship store in Chicago's Old Town neighborhood Nov. 2.

With the Center on Halsted as a co-sponsor and conducted in partnership with the LGBT Chamber of Commerce of Illinois, the event offered networking, an education on Xfinity's new LGBT collection of films and television series as well as a panel on the benefits of employee resource groups (ERGs).

"Our mission is about building community," Center on Halsted CEO Modesto Tico Valle said. "Our work is about diversity, an inclusive voice reaching the Chicago area and making sure our programs are relevant and reflective of our community."

Valle went on to note a number of new programs the Center on Halsted has adopted in the organization's new strategic plan "that takes us to the South and West Sides of Chicago and a youth homeless initiative that ensures diversity, inclusion, geographic reach and relevance are all part of our work."

Diversity and inclusion are ideals ingrained into both Comcast's corporate culture and, as of June 2016, its programming.

As described by Comcast Executive Director of Multicultural Product Development Jean-Claire Fitschen, those who enjoy Comcast's services can now access the Xfinity LGBT Film and TV Collection "an LGBT community-informed and driven showcase of over 500 films and shows entirely focused on featuring positive and authentic stories and very entertaining LGBT-character driven storylines."

Those who own the new Comcast voice-activated remote control can simply say "Pride" or any terms such as "Gay and Lesbian" or "transgender" into their device to access a collection of award-winning and international LGBT films, coming-out stories, television programs and a best-of-the-web feature for free.

Fitschen noted that Comcast's LGBT and allied-focused employee resource group OUT "has grown to nearly 3,000 members. OUT engages people at all levels of the organization and, as a result, have a unique opportunity to inform our business strategy."

A panel moderated by Center Chief Operating Officer Kim Fountain and featuring inQUEST Consulting CEO and founder Scott Hoesman and Center Director of Trans Relations and Community Engagement Vanessa Sheridan focused on how LGBTQ civil rights have been accelerated and can be further achieved through the work of the business community and, in particular the growth of ERGs.

"Even at the start of our movement, there were [business] leaders who said 'I'm going to take a risk, I am going to stand behind the LGBTQ community and we're going to support this movement,'" Fountain said. "All along, ERGs have been a part of that engagement."

Hoesman emphasized three levels of ERG performance.

"Many organizations start with simple networking," he said. "Level two is about how we move from networking to professional development. Step three means that now ERGs are focused on business results. It's no longer enough for us, particularly in the LGBTQIA ERG space, to focus on flags, food and famous people. The mission is to get into business."

Sheridan noted that ERG trans inclusion is often dependent upon each organization.

"I don't believe you can have full social equality until you first have economic equality," she said. "I don't believe you have economic equality until you provide people with employment opportunities. It's incumbent upon the LGBQ people in our ERGs to wrap themselves the T members, because the T is often silent, and help bring them into full equality. My hope is that we can then move from full equality into equity. That is where we are going to make some progress and an impact."

For more information on the Comcast LGBT film and TV collection, visit corporate.comcast.com/comcast-voices/comcast-launches-the-lgbt-collection-in-celebration-of-pride-month.



Comcast's Jean-Claire Fitschen.
Photo by Hal Baim



From left: Tracy Baim, Michael Frerichs, Mary Morten, Owen Daniel-McCarter, David Munar, Greg Harris and Brad Edwards.
Photo by Hal Baim

State treasurer hosts LGBTQ History Month event

Illinois state Treasurer Michael W. Frerichs hosted an LGBTQ history month event Oct. 22 at the State of Illinois building in downtown Chicago. GayCo, Lakeside Pride singer Brandon Strawn and Richard Streetman were among the performers.

Victory Salvo, founder of The Legacy Project, gave a presentation on his agency's work preserving LGBTQ history. Newscaster Brad Edwards was emcee for the event.

Frerichs spoke of his commitment to an LGBTQ-inclusive government in Illinois.

The treasurer also presented awards to longtime LGBTQ community advocates state Rep. Greg Harris, Mary Morten, David Munar, Owen Daniel-McCarter and Tracy Baim.

Photo from <https://twitter.com/ILTreasurer>.

Lake View nightclub closes

LKH Management, as operator of Seven Nightclub and other brands located at the corner of Belmont Avenue and Halsted Street, announced that Oct. 31 was the last day of operations at this location. At this time, the owner of the location is beginning the process of exploring other options for this real-

estate location going forward.

Seven Nightclub, longtime home of Spin Nightclub, served as a cornerstone and entrance to the community for many years. Mark Liberson, president of LKH, said in a statement, "While we are sad to see this transition, we are excited for the continued investment in our community by this location's longtime owner Dave Gassman, including his new development occurring on the east side of Broadway between Grace and Sheridan."

"We are confident that Dave will continue to invest in our community, as so many business owners (including LKH) continue to do, and that it will remain a vibrant destination that will continue to serve as a cornerstone of the community for a longtime to come."

Affinity offering free HIV testing

Affinity Community Services will continue offering free HIV/AIDS testing, taking place at its Hyde Park location on the first and third Wednesday of each month at 1-3 p.m., in collaboration with Center on Halsted.

Affinity is a social-justice organization that focuses on health and wellness, leadership development and community building for Black lesbian, bisexual and transgender women as well as LGBTQ youth of African descent in the Chicago metropolitan area.

See Affinity95.org.

Trans United Fund reacts to exposé

Trans United Fund responded to a recent press article about a strategy session among movement leaders and ongoing disagreement between national LGBTQ organizations about whether state-level non-discrimination measures should emphasize public accommoda-



Angelica Ross.
Photo by Matt Simonette

tions protections for transgender people.

Alison Gill, vice chair of Trans United Fund as well as an attorney and legal strategist, said, "First and foremost, Trans United supports the position of organizations like Lambda Legal and the ACLU—state legislative efforts to prevent discrimination should not cut public accommodations protections for trans people in the hope of easier passage."

"Trans communities need to be a part of these conversations from the beginning—the most fundamental issue here is not which tactic or when, but who defines the overall goals and strategy of movement advocacy."

Angelica Ross, one of the founding members of Trans United Fund added, "First and foremost, I do believe that we need to be uncompromising on the issues of public accommodations. But this is an issue that's about more than including public accommodations tactically, it's about centering the individuals that are most impacted strategically."

"As a Black trans woman and a leader in Trans United Fund, I bring my own lived experience and my connection to a community whose lives are literally on the line. We need our voices to be included—on goals, on strategy, and on tactics."

See <http://transunitedfund.org>.



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Rev. Gregory Dell.
WCT file photo

Community recalls LGBTQ ally Rev. Gregory Dell

BY GRETCHEN RACHEL HAMMOND

When people attended one of Rev. Gregory Dell's services at Lakeview's Broadway United Methodist Church (BUMC), no matter what their race, sexual orientation, gender identity, economic background or level in society, the first thing they heard was, "We don't just tolerate you, we celebrate you."

On Oct. 30, Dell passed away in Raleigh, North Carolina. He was 70 years old.

After Dell was diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease and retired in 2007, his successors at BUMC, Rev. Vernice Thorn and eventually Rev. Lois McCullen Parr took up their own version of Dell's welcome.

"We are Black, Brown, white, tan—all the colors of God's creative rainbow," Thorn and McCullen Parr told BUMC's congregations. "We are lesbian, gay, bisexual, asexual and straight. We are intersex, trans, male, female, gender nonconforming. We're living with illness, in recovery, with addictions. We're living in many different economic locations, many different spaces in our lives, many different ages with many different kinds of families. It's important to us to name who we are because we believe the truth that we're named first by God. We claim these identities as beloved for all who are here and we're here to praise the God who made us. Welcome, beloved community."

In every word, it was true to the ministry at BUMC Dell built over 22 years using the bricks and mortar of compassion and dignity.

He created an island of inclusion there that was surrounded by what he once called "stormy and unpredictable seas" and the light from its steeple arched toward heaven attracted the unwanted, disenfranchised and those who simply wished to celebrate their faith in harmony with each member of the "beautiful rainbow," as Dell called the accumulation of humanity that was both in his congregation and his community.

"Even those who are most hateful and most frightened are still caught by their own identity to be expressing love in ways that are most meaningful and consistent with their own identity," Dell asserted during a 2007 interview with Tracy Baim for ChicagoGayHistory.com. "Don't violate the nature the character and nature that God gave you. It is something to be treasured, loved and expressed."

What Dell has bequeathed to the generations to follow him extends far beyond the walls of BUMC.

It has been taken into the world by each of the people who heard his sermons or were counseled by him and has also steadily grown

the ranks of the Reconciling Ministries Network, which today boasts more than 33,000 people in 802 communities who "mobilize United Methodists of all sexual orientations and gender identities to transform our Church and world into the full expression of Christ's inclusive love."

"Because of the work he was constantly doing himself, he taught me how to do my own work around my identity," Thorn told *Windy City Times*. "He helped me discover some of my own challenges around being a Black woman. He taught me how to create my own identity and my own voice and he gave me space to do that. He would step back and push me forward."

"Greg's ministry and teaching inspired us," McCullen Parr said. "In every fiber of his being, Greg really believed in the love of God having the kind of power that can overcome earthly power. Greg helped the reconciling movement. It is huge and much of that growth is because of Greg. His witness has made a difference both transforming one person and in the larger story of the movement for inclusion."

Lambda Legal Midwest Regional Director Jim Bennett joined BUMC in 1996. It was there that he met his now-husband Terry.

"I always feel close to Greg in the church," Bennett said. "He always believed that the church was a reflection of whatever was going on in the community. He intentionally wanted diversity in the pulpit. So many of the members who are still there are members who went there specifically for Greg, and that ministry survives."

Scott McGowan attended Dell's services and remembered him as "a beacon on love and inclusion."

"Greg's sermons were awe-inspiring, blending scripture with current events and person[al] experience then bringing it home to the scripture," McGowan wrote to *Windy City Times*. "I used to think of them as the trifecta sermons and looked forward to all three parts."

Amy Matheny was not actively searching for a church when she met Dell and first heard him preach in 1998.

"It's the house that Greg built," she said of BUMC. "I don't know people who were not changed by meeting him; the people in the neighborhood, the 12-step recovery groups and the volunteer groups that met in that church. The About Face Theatre group began some of their earliest rehearsals back in 2000 in the [BUMC] basement. When I met Greg, it gave a clear signal to me that I wanted part of my work to be about bringing conversations about any spirituality to the LGBT community."

Dell was born in South Side Chicago's Blue Island neighborhood in 1945. The family relocated to the suburb of Midlothian and, with a United Methodist Church a block away from their home, Dell received his earliest spiritual education as a Methodist.

It was in that church that Dell also learned about the world its pastor envisioned—so very different from the one around him.

"Growing up in that predominantly almost all-white environment in which there was a lot of racism, it was an interesting dynamic to have a pastor of the church which we were attending be so strong on civil rights," Dell said. "I became convinced after listening to him that the gospel, that which was giving life to people, was really expressed in the civil-rights movement and its insistence on justice and fairness for all people regardless of their identity. Injustice in any form was injustice in all of its forms."

It was a belief that would be inscribed into Dell's life and career.

As a student at Illinois Wesleyan University in the tumult of the early 1960s, Dell fought for increased Black enrollment and protested South African Apartheid. It was also where he met his wife Jade and began a relationship with her that Bennett recalled as a "beloved fixture in the [Lake View] neighborhood."

Dell always made sure that the victims of injustice were heard through his voice even when it meant his own arrest on numerous occasions. He saw it as a duty rooted in the history of the UMC.

"Its national position as a denomination has been pretty strongly on the side of worker's rights, women's rights and others," Dell said.

In 1983, when a pastor at Wheadon United Methodist Church in Evanston, Dell turned the church into a sanctuary for refugees fleeing El Salvador and asked members to do the same with their homes.

"The sanctuary program became a very powerful force in our congregation," he told *The New York Times* at the time.

Three years later, Dell was arrested after he chained himself to the doorway of the office of the UMC's pension board to protest their business connections in South Africa.

When Dell took an appointment as the pastor of BUMC in 1995, he faced a monumental task. It was one that he never expected.

"The church was not in very good shape," he recalled. "It was torn apart by internal dissension. All of the marks of institutional strength were eroded or eroding. In fact, my wife and I talked about leaving after the first three months but we were convinced to stay. I think that turned out to be a wonderful opportunity. We had a beautiful building in a wonderful neighborhood and we had a core of people that were very excited about the possibility of a ministry that was fully inclusive. It was reborn very quickly after we came there. If it hadn't been for the diversity of people who were committed to an expression of faith that was different than mainstream, it would not have happened."

Most people have never forgotten the first Dell sermon they attended.

"He was about the responsibility of a church to be in service with its community," Bennett said. "He kept talking about the corner of Roscoe and Broadway that we were on and how our responsibility was to serve the neighborhood. He defined it as an LGBT neighborhood that was struggling with issues of race that had some of the wealthiest people and the poorest and we had a responsibility to address that. I was sold and it was very easy to start coming back. Greg had an ability to very consciously declare what the church was. Everyone felt welcomed. Everybody felt like they belonged."

"I had never heard anybody in a Methodist Church talk the way he did. He sounded like what my God would talk like," Matheny recalled. "He talked about the fact that we were all invited to God's table and, even if we think we don't belong at the table to take communion, we do. He said, 'We all feel broken, we all feel unworthy but we take communion and it

makes us whole.' I burst into tears and started going every Sunday."

"You could tell, when he was talking about anything, that justice was always a first priority for him," Thorn said. "My first experience with justice ministry was through Greg. He really had a heart for justice. They were not just words for him. It was his way of life. Everything was about justice and equity for him. He used his privilege as a straight, white man to challenge oppression and inequity all the time. He encouraged people to claim their ability and their voice. He knew that it was real because he lived it every day."

"He understood intersectionality long before people were talking about intersectionality," McCullen Parr added. "He always saw the connection between racism, sexism, heterosexism and homophobia, poverty and war. He was a brilliant person who read all the time. He saw the ways in which these things were connected to one another and that, when power was abused, it led to oppression."

But behind Dell's passion for the work, his love for his community and his unwavering belief in the unlimited potential for change that his church could have on it was a sense of humor and an easy-going manner which put everyone at ease.

So his congregation came to know Dell as they would a loyal and cherished friend.

McGowan recalled Dell's love of summer tomatoes and martinis.

Matheny said that Dell's enjoyment of both flying and scuba diving ensured that "to the depths of the oceans to the highest skies, he was there."

Thorn remembered his fierce appetite for fried chicken.

"We used to have a potluck every Wednesday



The 1998 protest by Fred Phelps and his Westboro Baptist Church drew 2,000 people to circle and protect Broadway United Methodist Church, 3338 N. Broadway. Photo by Tracy Baim

night before Bible study," she said. "Me and Greg would go out and get fried chicken. There would always be a fight at the end as to who would get that last piece of chicken. I would often look at him and say 'don't even think about it.'"

Thorn met Dell in the summer of 2001 when she was interviewing for a student pastor position at BUMC.

"I come from a pretty conservative background when it comes to church," she said. "Greg met me at the door in Bermuda shorts and sandals and I said, 'I'm here to meet with the pastor.' It became a long-standing joke with us."

"He had the ability not to take himself too

seriously," McCullen Parr asserted. "He was funny as all get out. His sense of humor and the twinkle in his eye. Everyone who knew Greg could tell you about that expression. He had the ability to take meaningful things seriously and maintain a sense of humor and a lightness about himself personally."

"He wasn't a loud, boisterous personality," Matheny said. "But he didn't sugarcoat anything."

Bennett said that Dell looked up to politician and activist Sargent Shriver, a man who once noted that, "It is well to be prepared for life as it is, but it is better to be prepared to make life better than it is."

They were words that seemed at the core of Dell's personal mission to serve others even if it came into conflict with UMC doctrine.

Dell was no stranger to speaking out against UMC policy. Both before and after his own trial for marrying a same-sex couple, he protested UMC conferences about the church's position on the LGBT community, once arm-in-arm with the daughter of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the grandson of Mohandas K. Gandhi.

Dell was arrested on at least two of those occasions.

"It was a strong word to our church but also to the society that this is not just some small little issue that can be marginalized around the edges," Dell said "This is a central issue of justice, human rights, and fairness for all people. It was a way of saying that the voice of the lesbian gay, bisexual transgender communities and their supporters will be heard even if the church doesn't want it to be heard."

Once Dell began to transform BUMC in the late '90s, members of the LGBT community like Bennett and Matheny were drawn to a new spiritual home; eventually at least a third of its membership were gays and lesbians.

"There was a rainbow sticker on the church sign," Bennett said. "I knew the Methodist rules against the LGBT community so I was sort of intrigued. It was the first week I had moved to Chicago and, when I heard Greg preach, it was amazing."

"The denomination's policies at that point were really focused more on excluding folks from ordination and not providing denominational support to those groups that were promoting the acceptance of homosexuality," Dell said. "In 1996, the denomination passed a piece of legislation that prohibited clergy persons from celebrating holy unions. It wasn't clear whether that was binding"

Dell had presided over same-sex holy unions for at least 18 years before he arrived at BUMC. He continued the practice 32 times at BUMC before August 1998, when the UMC judicial council sent down a prohibition against same-sex holy unions that was explicit in its restrictions to all member of the clergy.

"One of the things that so impacted my life was when we were doing premarital counseling with a same-gender couple," Thorn said. "One of the partners said [to Greg] 'I don't understand how you can put your livelihood at stake just to marry us.' Greg burst into tears and said 'I can't do anything different. My religion says that I'm to serve all people. I can't serve some and not others.'"

Dell went ahead with his 33rd same-sex union for two men Keith and Carl on Sept. 19, 1998.

It led to what Windy City Times Publisher and Executive Editor Tracy Baim would call in her book *Out and Proud in Chicago* "one of the most powerful events of the 1990s."

In October 1998, UMC Chicago Bishop C. Joseph Sprague read an article about Keith and Carl's union in Windy City Times and filed a complaint with the church against Dell stating that "[Dell] did knowingly, as a stated act of conscience and pastoral ministry, fail to uphold the Order and The Discipline of The United Methodist Church."

Dell wrote a letter to BUMC's members. "People have asked me if I regret the interviews that led to the article or if I regret the article itself," he said. "My response has been that, for over 35 years, I've been involved in



Rev. Gregory Dell (left) with Ald. Tom Tunney on a panel in 2005. WCT file photo

justice work where we have been desperate for media coverage. However, this is one time when its welcome was not without ambivalence. I'm glad for the witness it has made in the gay/lesbian/bi and transsexual community and in the church. The service and the article apparently were words of real hope and good news to a lot of folks who had not only given up on the church and in some cases the faith, but in some cases on themselves. Nothing can erase the importance of that. Keep Jade and me in your thoughts and prayers."

While Dell's congregation rallied around him, unfortunately Fred Phelps and the Westboro

Baptist Church also took an interest in his case and arrived at BUMC one Sunday morning in late November 1998 to engage in their brand of vitriolic, hate-filled pickets.

"Some people said the best way to react was to ignore it," Dell told the Chicago Tribune. "But we've got a very substantial gay community here (and this comes at a time) very close to what happened to Matthew Shepard. So, the one option not available was ignoring it."

"Greg grounded himself in the kind of love that would [emulate] Jesus when he said 'love your enemies,'" McCullen Parr recalled. "He

knew how to do that in a way that was quite a powerful witness; to love people into being their best selves."

But Dell was not alone.

"Dell's supporters from the Lakeview Action Coalition and dozens of religious organizations surrounded the church with a 'Circle of Care' estimated to number at least 2,000 to confront the eight picketers consisting of Phelps and his family across the street," Williams Burks wrote in *Out and Proud Chicago*.

"All these churches from every denomination encircled our church so we could have our service," Matheny recalled. "Jewish, Catholic, it was incredible. They were arm-in-arm the entire service. We were surrounded by people who knew our home was being attacked."

"Dell noted at the time that Phelps' actions show that 'the power of evil is real,'" Burks wrote, "and he remarked on the difference between using the Bible as 'an instrument of injury' and 'a source of healing.' Church member Brian Savage called that Sunday 'the most overwhelming day of my life.'"

Dell's trial began at 9:30 a.m. on March 25, 1999, at First United Methodist Church in Downers Grove, Illinois.

Bishop Jack Tuell of Washington presided.

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Project Fierce Chicago's LGBTQ youth home rehab is underway

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

Project Fierce Chicago (PFC) launched publicly in April 2013 and is the brainchild of Cassandra Avenatti. Prior to the organization's launch, Avenatti brought four other people onboard as co-founders.

PFC is, according to its website, "a grassroots collective of radical social workers, youth advocates and other community members who are working together to establish community-driven, identity-affirming housing in Chicago. Project Fierce's mission is to reduce LGBTQ youth homelessness in Chicago by providing transitional housing and support services to LGBTQ-identified young adults."

Last year, they purchased a four-flat home in North Lawndale on the West Side and be-



Project Fierce House renovations.

Photo by Jacqueline Boyd

gan clean-up shortly afterward and renovations about two weeks ago.

"Breaking ground on the renovations is the culmination of community effort and intention," said Jacqueline Boyd, PFC co-founder and rehab manager of the home renovations. "Over the years people have given what they could so this home could be purchased and developed. We as the Project Fierce Core are honored to shepherd this idea to fruition and appreciate the continued support of our donors and volunteers. This home has the potential to offer a resting place for LGBTQ + identified young people who may have run out of options.

MBGLTACC in Chicago in Feb.

The Midwest Bisexual, Lesbian, Gay, Transgender, and Ally College Conference (MBGLTACC) will take place Feb. 17-19, 2017, at Chicago's Navy Pier, and will kick off with #BlackLivesMatter co-founder Patrisse Cullors.

Cullors, an openly queer performance artist from Los Angeles, started the Twitter hashtag #BlackLivesMatter (with Alicia Garza and Opal Tometi) in response to George Zimmerman's 2013 acquittal in the fatal shooting of Florida teenager Trayvon Martin.

The 2017 MBLGTACC will mark the 25th anniversary of the first conference and will center on the theme of "United in Solidarity." Approximately 2,500 people are expected to attend.

For more information or to register for the conference, visit <https://mblgtacc.org>.

The housing shortage in Chicago is truly dire, I've had young people waiting for three years to secure housing. The environment Project Fierce seeks to establish is designed to meet the needs and support the strengths of young people."

Their goal is to have the renovations finished by the summer 2017 and residents moved in shortly thereafter.

"I love to work on jobs that are good for the community," said Second Chance Renovations General Contractor David Figueroa. "I like to be a part of organizations who's focus is to make a difference, not only in the community, but in our world. What Project Fierce is doing is vital for the LGBTQ community. Also, they are great to work with. I am grateful to them for giving us the opportunity to complete their project and as an added bonus it gives our guy's work so they can provide for their families and stay off the streets."

"We are a radical organization that does not seek out or accept government or state grants," said PFC Project Administrator Gaylon Alcaraz. "Our focus on re-envisioning how restorative justice looks is unique and to take money from those entities would harm the youth we serve."

Alcaraz added that the organization has paid out \$25,000 for construction work and had site visits with several foundations where PFC leaders walked them through the property and showed them the designs. The total rehab budget is \$60,000.

To raise additional funds, PFC will be hosting multiple house parties and Alcaraz is in the process of writing grants to various foundations that support LGBTQ homelessness and housing.

"We will have design renderings at the fundraiser and hope to meet our fundraising goals that afternoon," said Boyd. "I'm excited to share our vision after all the hard work and effort by PFC volunteers over the past year with the Breakfast N Beds attendees. For those who cannot attend, we encourage them to donate on our website.

See <http://projectfiercechicago.org/> for more information.

On Sunday, Nov. 13, PFC will be holding its 3rd Annual Breakfast N Beds fundraiser at 1-4 p.m. at the Segundo Ruiz Belvis Cultural Center, 4046 W. Armitage Ave. To purchase tickets visit https://www.flipcause.com/secure/cause_pdetails/MTE40DA.

AVER's Veterans Day dinner Nov. 11

The Chicago Chapter of the American Veterans for Equal Rights (AVER) will hold its annual Veterans Day Dinner Nov. 11 at Ann Sather Restaurant, 909 W. Belmont Ave.

The featured speaker will be Bridget Altenburg, a founding member of Knights Out, a group of LGB West Point students and graduates who formed during the fight to repeal the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy. She is currently COO of the National Able Network. The national anthem will be performed by Dean Ogren and "America the Beautiful" by Trish Keporos, the 2014 Windy City Gay Idol winner.

AVER is a national organization supporting and advocating for the rights of LGBT veterans of the armed forces.

Open bar and silent auction begin at 6:30 p.m., and dinner is at 7:30 p.m. with the program to follow. Tickets are \$35 and can be purchased at the door; call 773-752-0058 or visit AVERChicago.org for more information.



Volunteers celebrate after pulling up carpet at the Project Fierce House.

Photo by Torie McMillan



Mark Tendam.

Photo by Hal Baim

Gay alderman throws hat into Evanston mayoral race

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Evanston Sixth Ward Ald. Mark Tendam, in October, announced that he would be running for mayor of the city in the 2017 elections.

Were Tendam to win, he'd be the first openly gay person to fill that role. He's currently running against two others, Ald. Brian Miller (9th) and businessman Steve Hagerty, to replace the current mayor, Elizabeth Tisdahl, who is stepping down after two terms.

Tendam, a graphics designer, was first elected alderman in 2009 and said that he is looking for a role where he'll have an even larger impact.

"The Sixth Ward is probably not the most challenging of all the wards," Tendam said. "Still, it's the the responsibility of the ward alderman to bring improvement to businesses and services, and the street-scaping in our business district, safe crossings for schools and things like that. Water control is a also big issue in the Sixth Ward as well. But if I can extend my services to the entire city, without having to place ward issues first, I'd like that opportunity."

The Evanston mayor's formal powers are fairly limited, he added, noting that that they fill the roles of "ambassador, leader, organizer, and connections with state legislators. All those add up to the need for a person can work within the system, not so much chasing the money but getting in front of it."

He said that homelessness in Evanston is the issue that "really makes my head spin." Tendam has extensively participated in a citywide program wherein Evanston churches take turns opening as shelters for persons experiencing homelessness.

Additionally, he spoke of the need for good jobs in the city, adding, "No one should have to go to work all day and then come home and go out again, and still be threatened with losing their lease or home. No one should work that hard without making ends meet and having health care needs met as well. A lot of our ills in this community can be solved with decent jobs."

Being openly gay on the Evanston city council has been a "non-issue," he said. "I don't think it has hurt me in any way. It may have helped me in some ways, in terms of our whole attitude toward diversity and inclusion. ... You talk to most people in Evanston and they'll know of the gay couple on their block and say, 'We're proud of them.' That's Evanston—that's why we live here."

Housing available for HIV-positive young adults

El Rescate, an initiative of the Puerto Rican Cultural Center (PRCC), provides transitional housing to youth ages 18-24 who are struggling with housing stability and identify as LGBTQ or are HIV+.

They are providing immediate enrollment for eligible individuals who are living with HIV regardless of sexual orientation or gender. Residents can live at El Rescate for up to two years or until they turn 25. In addition to housing, in-house case management support aims to work together with the resident to secure needed supportive services including, but are not limited to:

- Linkage to HIV Medical Care and Treatment
 - HIV Non-medical Case Management
 - Linkage to Mental Health Care and Treatment
 - Psychosocial Counseling and Substance Abuse Treatment
 - AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP)
 - Public Assistance (i.e., cash assistance and/or food stamps)
 - Job Search and Placement
 - Enrolling in educational programs as well as tutoring and mentoring
 - Life-skills training; and more
- Contact M Echeverria at 872-829-2662 or mecheverria@prcc-chgo.org.

MillerCoors hands out checks to 12 LGBTQ organizations

BY GRETCHEN RACHEL HAMMOND

The \$35,000 reward of a three-month MillerCoors Great Cents campaign run in 21 bars across the City of Chicago was reaped by over a dozen LGBTQ advocacy organizations at the MillerCoors Chicago Loop headquarters Oct. 25.

Representatives from Affinity Community Services, AIDS Foundation of Chicago, Care for Real, The Center on Halsted, Chicago House, Fred Says, Heartland Health Outreach, Howard Brown Health, Kaleidoscope, The Legacy Project, Test Positive Awareness Network (TPAN) and the Youth Empowerment Performance Project (YEPP) were each on hand to pick up their checks.

They may have been oversized for the cameras but, no matter the dollar amount written upon them, each check was representative of direly needed funds with the Illinois state budget impasse bleeding the hearts of many non-profit advocacy groups dry.

MillerCoors has made a corporate-wide commitment to those working to help LGBTQ individuals that was not only reflected in the Oct. 25 reception, but the \$30,000 in matching funds the company raised while responding to victims of the Orlando Pulse Nightclub massacre through their Beers for a Cause event and the additional \$50,000 donation MillerCoors added to that total.

"This is our fifth year doing Great Cents," MillerCoors Community Affairs manager Michael Nordman said. "We've given over \$150,000 over the five years of the program in Chicago and we're looking into expanding into other cities."

"We work with different retail accounts to identify the nonprofits they want to work with," Nordman added. "We also recognize great organizations that we already partner with. These groups are doing the work on the ground. For MillerCoors having our corporate headquarters here in Chicago, it's important for us to have a local presence and work with groups that are actually improving the lives of LGBTQ people whether direct service organizations or those who are organized on advocacy and rights for a community that we support."



Left: Imani Rupert-Gordon of Affinity. Right: Executive Director of Heartland Health Outreach Ed Stellon with Vital Bridges' Lori Cannon. Photos by Gretchen Rachel Hammond

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Lambda Legal making the case for equality

Castillo-Pennycuff housing project meeting Nov. 15

A community meeting on the Castillo-Pennycuff housing project will take place Tuesday, Nov. 15, at Concord Music Hall, 2047 N. Milwaukee Ave., at 6:30 p.m.

Logan Square residents, politicians and other stakeholders gathered May 21 at Congress Pizzeria, 2033 N. Milwaukee Ave., to learn about a new affordable-housing development, intended to be welcoming for LGBT individuals. The project has been guided by the office of Ald. Proco Joe Moreno (1st Ward).

The complex, to be named The John Pennycuff Memorial Apartments at Robert Castillo Plaza, will be financed through the use of funds from the existing Milwaukee-Fullerton Tax Increment Finance (TIF) district as well as Chicago Housing Authority funds, tax credits and private funding. The development is slated to have 88 units, according to officials.

Castillo, a longtime activist for both LGBT rights and affordable housing, attended the open house. Pennycuff, his husband, was equally active in those causes and passed away in 2012.

What is TRUVADA for PrEP (Pre-exposure Prophylaxis)?

TRUVADA is a prescription medicine that can be used for PrEP to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 infection when used together with safer sex practices. This use is only for adults who are at high risk of getting HIV-1 through sex. This includes HIV-negative men who have sex with men and who are at high risk of getting infected with HIV-1 through sex, and male-female sex partners when one partner has HIV-1 infection and the other does not.

Ask your healthcare provider if you have questions about how to prevent getting HIV-1. Always practice safer sex and use condoms to lower the chance of sexual contact with body fluids. Never reuse or share needles or other items that have body fluids on them.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

What is the most important information I should know about TRUVADA for PrEP?

Before taking TRUVADA for PrEP to reduce your risk of getting HIV-1 infection:

- ◆ **You must be HIV-negative.** You must get tested to make sure that you do not already have HIV-1 infection. Do not take TRUVADA for PrEP to reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 unless you are confirmed to be HIV-negative.
- ◆ **Many HIV-1 tests can miss HIV-1 infection in a person who has recently become infected.** If you have flu-like symptoms, you could have recently become infected with HIV-1. Tell your healthcare provider if you had a flu-like illness within the last month before starting TRUVADA for PrEP or at any time while taking TRUVADA for PrEP. Symptoms of new HIV-1 infection include tiredness, fever, joint or muscle aches, headache, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhea, rash, night sweats, and/or enlarged lymph nodes in the neck or groin.

While taking TRUVADA for PrEP to reduce your risk of getting HIV-1 infection:

- ◆ **You must continue using safer sex practices. Just taking TRUVADA for PrEP may not keep you from getting HIV-1.**
- ◆ **You must stay HIV-negative to keep taking TRUVADA for PrEP.**
- ◆ **To further help reduce your risk of getting HIV-1:**
 - Know your HIV-1 status and the HIV-1 status of your partners.
 - Get tested for HIV-1 at least every 3 months or when your healthcare provider tells you.
 - Get tested for other sexually transmitted infections. Other infections make it easier for HIV-1 to infect you.
 - Get information and support to help reduce risky sexual behavior.
 - Have fewer sex partners.
 - Do not miss any doses of TRUVADA. Missing doses may increase your risk of getting HIV-1 infection.
 - If you think you were exposed to HIV-1, tell your healthcare provider right away.
- ◆ **If you do become HIV-1 positive, you need more medicine than TRUVADA alone to treat HIV-1.** TRUVADA by itself is not a complete treatment for HIV-1. If you have HIV-1 and take only TRUVADA, your HIV-1 may become harder to treat over time.

TRUVADA can cause serious side effects:

- ◆ **Too much lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis),** which is a serious medical emergency. Symptoms of lactic acidosis include weakness or being more tired than usual, unusual muscle pain, being short of breath or fast breathing, nausea, vomiting, stomach-area pain, cold or blue hands and feet, feeling dizzy or lightheaded, and/or fast or abnormal heartbeats.
- ◆ **Serious liver problems.** Your liver may become large and tender, and you may develop fat in your liver. Symptoms of liver problems include your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow, dark "tea-colored" urine, light-colored stools, loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, and/or stomach-area pain.

- ◆ **You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or serious liver problems** if you are female, very overweight (obese), or have been taking TRUVADA for a long time. In some cases, these serious conditions have led to death. Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any symptoms of these conditions.
- ◆ **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** If you also have HBV and take TRUVADA, your hepatitis may become worse if you stop taking TRUVADA. Do not stop taking TRUVADA without first talking to your healthcare provider. If your healthcare provider tells you to stop taking TRUVADA, they will need to watch you closely for several months to monitor your health. TRUVADA is not approved for the treatment of HBV.

Who should not take TRUVADA for PrEP?

Do not take TRUVADA for PrEP if you already have HIV-1 infection or if you do not know your HIV-1 status. If you are HIV-1 positive, you need to take other medicines with TRUVADA to treat HIV-1. TRUVADA by itself is not a complete treatment for HIV-1. If you have HIV-1 and take only TRUVADA, your HIV-1 may become harder to treat over time.

Do not take TRUVADA for PrEP if you also take lamivudine (EpiVir-HBV) or adefovir (HEPSERA).



What are the other possible side effects of TRUVADA for PrEP?

Serious side effects of TRUVADA may also include:

- ◆ **Kidney problems, including kidney failure.** Your healthcare provider may do blood tests to check your kidneys before and during treatment with TRUVADA for PrEP. If you develop kidney problems, your healthcare provider may tell you to stop taking TRUVADA for PrEP.
- ◆ **Bone problems,** including bone pain or bones getting soft or thin, may lead to fractures. Your healthcare provider may do tests to check your bones.
- ◆ **Changes in body fat,** which can happen in people taking TRUVADA or medicines like TRUVADA.

Common side effects in people taking TRUVADA for PrEP are stomach-area (abdomen) pain, headache, and decreased weight. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effects that bother you or do not go away.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking TRUVADA for PrEP?

- ◆ **All your health problems.** Be sure to tell your healthcare provider if you have or have had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis virus infection.
- ◆ **If you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.** It is not known if TRUVADA can harm your unborn baby. If you become pregnant while taking TRUVADA for PrEP, talk to your healthcare provider to decide if you should keep taking TRUVADA for PrEP.
Pregnancy Registry: A pregnancy registry collects information about your health and the health of your baby. There is a pregnancy registry for women who take medicines to prevent HIV-1 during pregnancy. For more information about the registry and how it works, talk to your healthcare provider.
- ◆ **If you are breastfeeding** (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed. The medicines in TRUVADA can pass to your baby in breast milk. If you become HIV-1 positive, HIV-1 can be passed to the baby in breast milk.
- ◆ **All the medicines you take,** including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. TRUVADA may interact with other medicines. Keep a list of all your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist when you get a new medicine.
- ◆ **If you take certain other medicines** with TRUVADA for PrEP, your healthcare provider may need to check you more often or change your dose. These medicines include ledipasvir with sofosbuvir (HARVONI).

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.FDA.gov/medwatch, or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

Please see Important Facts about TRUVADA for PrEP including important warnings on the following page.



Have you heard about

TRUVADA for PrEP™?

The **once-daily prescription medicine** that can help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 when used **with safer sex practices**.

- TRUVADA for PrEP is only for **adults who are at high risk of getting HIV through sex**.
- You **must be HIV-negative** before you start taking TRUVADA.

Ask your doctor about your risk of getting HIV-1 infection and if TRUVADA for PrEP may be right for you.

visit start.truvada.com

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IMPORTANT FACTS

This is only a brief summary of important information about taking TRUVADA for PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis) to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 infection. This does not replace talking to your healthcare provider about your medicine.

MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT TRUVADA FOR PrEP

Before starting TRUVADA for PrEP to help reduce your risk of getting HIV-1 infection:

- **You must be HIV-1 negative.** You must get tested to make sure that you do not already have HIV-1 infection. Do not take TRUVADA for PrEP to reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 unless you are confirmed to be HIV-1 negative.
- **Many HIV-1 tests can miss HIV-1 infection in a person who has recently become infected.** Symptoms of new HIV-1 infection include flu-like symptoms, tiredness, fever, joint or muscle aches, headache, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhea, rash, night sweats, and/or enlarged lymph nodes in the neck or groin. Tell your healthcare provider if you have had a flu-like illness within the last month before starting TRUVADA for PrEP.

While taking TRUVADA for PrEP to help reduce your risk of getting HIV-1 infection:

- **You must continue using safer sex practices. Just taking TRUVADA for PrEP may not keep you from getting HIV-1.**
- **You must stay HIV-1 negative to keep taking TRUVADA for PrEP.**
- **Tell your healthcare provider if you have a flu-like illness while taking TRUVADA for PrEP.**
- If you think you were exposed to HIV-1, tell your healthcare provider right away.
- **If you do become HIV-1 positive, you need more medicine than TRUVADA alone to treat HIV-1.** If you have HIV-1 and take only TRUVADA, your HIV-1 may become harder to treat over time.
- **See the "How to Further Reduce Your Risk" section for more information.**

TRUVADA may cause serious side effects, including:

- **Buildup of lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis),** which is a serious medical emergency that can lead to death. Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any of these symptoms: weakness or being more tired than usual, unusual muscle pain, being short of breath or fast breathing, nausea, vomiting, stomach-area pain, cold or blue hands and feet, feeling dizzy or lightheaded, and/or fast or abnormal heartbeats.
- **Severe liver problems,** which in some cases can lead to death. Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any of these symptoms: your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow, dark "tea-colored" urine, light-colored stools, loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, and/or stomach-area pain.
- **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** If you have HBV and take TRUVADA, your hepatitis may become worse if you stop taking TRUVADA. Do not stop taking TRUVADA without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to check your health regularly for several months.

You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or severe liver problems if you are female, very overweight, or have been taking TRUVADA for a long time.

ABOUT TRUVADA FOR PrEP (PRE-EXPOSURE PROPHYLAXIS)

TRUVADA is a prescription medicine used with safer sex practices for PrEP to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 infection in adults at high risk:

- HIV-1 negative men who have sex with men and who are at high risk of getting infected with HIV-1 through sex.
- Male-female sex partners when one partner has HIV-1 infection and the other does not.

To help determine your risk, talk openly with your doctor about your sexual health.

Do NOT take TRUVADA for PrEP if you:

- **Already have HIV-1 infection or if you do not know your HIV-1 status.**
- Take lamivudine (Epivir-HBV) or adefovir (HEPSERA).

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF TRUVADA FOR PrEP

TRUVADA can cause serious side effects, including:

- Those in the "Most Important Information About TRUVADA for PrEP" section.
- New or worse kidney problems, including kidney failure.
- Bone problems.
- Changes in body fat.

Common side effects in people taking TRUVADA for PrEP include stomach-area (abdomen) pain, headache, and decreased weight.

These are not all the possible side effects of TRUVADA. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any new symptoms while taking TRUVADA for PrEP.

Your healthcare provider will need to do tests to monitor your health before and during treatment with TRUVADA for PrEP.

BEFORE TAKING TRUVADA FOR PrEP

Tell your healthcare provider if you:

- Have or have had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis infection.
- Have any other medical conditions.
- Are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.
- Are breastfeeding (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed if you become HIV-1 positive because of the risk of passing HIV-1 to your baby.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take:

- Keep a list that includes all prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements, and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist.
- Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist about medicines that should not be taken with TRUVADA for PrEP.

HOW TO TAKE TRUVADA FOR PrEP

- **Take 1 tablet once a day, every day,** not just when you think you have been exposed to HIV-1.
- Do not miss any doses. Missing doses may increase your risk of getting HIV-1 infection.
- You **must** practice safer sex by using condoms and you **must** stay HIV-1 negative.

HOW TO FURTHER REDUCE YOUR RISK

- Know your HIV-1 status and the HIV-1 status of your partners.
- Get tested for HIV-1 at least every 3 months or when your healthcare provider tells you.
- Get tested for other sexually transmitted infections. Other infections make it easier for HIV-1 to infect you.
- Get information and support to help reduce risky sexual behavior.
- Have fewer sex partners.
- Do not share needles or personal items that can have blood or body fluids on them.

GET MORE INFORMATION

- This is only a brief summary of important information about TRUVADA for PrEP to reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 infection. Talk to your healthcare provider or pharmacist to learn more, including how to prevent HIV-1 infection.
- Go to start.truvada.com or call 1-800-GILEAD-5
- If you need help paying for your medicine, visit start.truvada.com for program information.



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From left: Karin Winslow, Laverne Cox, CeCe McDonald, Josie Lynne Paul, Lana Wachowski and Jac Gares.
Photo by Gretchen Rachel Hammond

TransReelization features Laverne Cox, CeCe McDonald

BY GRETCHEN RACHEL HAMMOND

When award-winning actress Laverne Cox and celebrated activist CeCe McDonald took the stage at the Music Box Theatre Nov. 5, the packed audience for the Chicago House TransLife Care Program benefit TransReelization erupted into a prolonged and deafening standing ovation.

Prior to their arrival, those who attended the Chicago premiere of the powerful Jac Gares documentary *Free CeCe!* which centers around McDonald's actions of self-defense in June 2011, her 41-month imprisonment in a men's prison in Minnesota and her life after release, had reacted with tears, gasps and often rage at the tyrannical idiocy of the judicial system as McDonald's story played out anchored by Cox's interviews with her, the activists who worked for her release and those who work to hoist the experiences of transgender women of color from the endless depths of discrimination, injustice, imprisonment and violence to public awareness, empowerment and the freedom to live which the privileged take for granted.

It was precisely the kind of reaction Gares had hoped to invoke—something echoed by TransLife Care Program Director Josie Lynne Paul when she challenged the audience to reexamine “our hearts, minds and the way we look at the world. We're really called with this film to think about what the privilege is we have and how we add to systems of oppression or how we work to use that privilege to better those who don't have it.”

“We're not all facing police oppression in the same way Black and particularly Black transwomen are facing in our culture and our so-

ciety today,” Paul added. “How can we lend our voices to speaking to that and to support those who are in need? I encourage you to think differently about the world presented by the experiences of CeCe McDonald. How can we make this world a different place? How can we support the resilience of an amazing, creative, fabulous community?”

The reception Cox received as she returned to Chicago to honor McDonald with the TransReelization Keeping it Real award can only have been further amplified by Paul's words and the preceding 90 minutes.

“In the three-and-a-half years since I have got to know CeCe McDonald, my life has changed so much,” Cox said. “When we started this film, *Orange is the New Black* was starting to become this international thing and I am so blessed to be a working actress in Hollywood right now but also to be a proud, Black transgender woman.”

“Our community is filled with unsung stars,” Cox added. “When I met CeCe McDonald, I met someone who is a star. When we started doing this documentary, we were so pleasantly surprised to find this charismatic, articulate, passionate young woman who is filled with love. CeCe McDonald is a superstar who endured some really intense stuff that so many people around this country are enduring: Black people and trans women of color are being profiled by police, are being targeted for violence but CeCe's story is a reminder that we can fight back, that we can survive and come out on the other end and tell our stories.”

McDonald accepted the award with a deep breath seemingly taken aback by the level of enthusiasm with which she was greeted.

“The struggle continues,” McDonald said “Through all my hardships that I went through and am going through, I am dedicated to this movement and to my God. Now that I can really utilize this platform, what that looks like for me in challenging the status quo and getting other people to challenge the status quo with me is so important. I love this work. I love the work that I do.”

That love is shared by the staff, volunteers and the advisory board of the TransLife Care Program.

At a VIP reception hosted by the advisory board and award-winning filmmakers Lana and Lilly Wachowski at their Kinowerks studios, TransLife Care Program Project Manager Channyn Lynn Parker shared some of the vital progress the initiative has made even in the face of some of the overwhelming challenges which *Free CeCe!* illustrated.

“We must understand how issues like racism and transphobia and even then prison industrial complex and legal systems greatly reduce the lives of trans women of color,” she said. “The average life expectancy for a trans woman of color is 35 years. The average income of a



Above: CeCe McDonald. Below: Laverne Cox.
Photo by Gretchen Rachel Hammond



trans woman of color is less than \$10,000 per year. Transgender women of color are six times more likely to experience physical violence or interactions with police than lesbian, gay or bisexual individuals. Trans women of color are among the most discriminated against when applying for jobs. Trans issues are our issues.”

To that end, the Trans Life Care Program has established a robust trans health initiative, scattered site housing for transgender individuals, the Trans Legal program which provides holistic and affirming legal services, self-help, legal assistance and education to trans people and employment assistance that includes a series of skill-building workshops, career-coaching, mentorship and internship opportunities.

For more information on the TransLife Care Program, visit ChicagoHouse.org/causes/translife-center.

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LGBT Hall of Fame 2016 inductions to take place Nov. 9

Twelve individuals, two organizations, and two friends of the community have been selected for induction into the Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame, the organization which honors and celebrates notable members of Chicago's LGBT communities.

The Hall of Fame's annual induction ceremony will take place on Wednesday, Nov. 9, from 5:30-7 p.m., at the Chicago History Museum, 1601 N. Clark St. The reception will begin at 5:30 p.m., with the program scheduled to follow at 6 p.m. The event is free and open to the public.

The inductees were selected by a committee composed of current individual inductees who reviewed an array of nominations submitted by members of the public. The names were released by Friends of the Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame, a section 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

"This year's inductees, like our rosters since 1991, represent LGBT achievements in a variety of fields," said Mary Morten and Gary G. Chichester, co-chairs of the Friends organization and longtime leaders in maintaining the Hall of Fame. "Each year, the Hall of Fame spotlights some of the many who have made contributions to their own communities and to the city as a whole."

"It continues to show how important contributions from our LGBT communities and from our friends pave the way for the future," said Israel Wright, executive director of the organization. "It is humbling to recognize each inductee's special efforts to create change in ways that affect us all so greatly."

Hall of Fame inductees fall into one of three categories: "individual," "organization," or "friend of the community." Nominees represent all of Chicago's sexual-minority communities, including LGBT Chicagoans, past and present, living and dead, as well as those who have supported or assisted them.

Those honored in 2016 in the "Individual" Category include:

—**Robert Allerton** (1873-1964): Honorary president and trustee of the Art Institute, this gay Chicago philanthropist's donations beautified the city. In 1951 Allerton pressured the state legislature to permit adult adoptions. He spearheaded this effort as a way to adopt his adult partner so his inheritance could not be legally challenged. This opened the door the first legally recognized same-sex relationships.

—**Tom Bachtell**, 59: Artist, musician and, most notably, the prolific illustrator whose distinctive drawings and caricatures appear in "Talk of the Town" and other sections of The New Yorker, as well as periodicals such as Newsweek and Entertainment Weekly.

—**Ronald E. Bogan**, 65: In 1992 he became the first man to publicly come out as gay in a major Chicago newspaper while still actively serving in the Chicago Police Department—opening the door to recruiting openly LGBT officers. He served on the Chicago Police Department as a hate-crimes investigator.

—**Roman Buenostro**, 49: Co-founder of the Association for Latin Men for Action (ALMA) and who has served persons living with AIDS as a director at the AIDS Foundation of Chicago for the last 18 years, most recently as the Director of Special Projects overseeing innovative programs that seek to reengage people living with HIV.

—**David Cerda**, 55: Co-founder and artistic director of Hell in a Handbag Productions, a theatrical group formed to celebrate and preserve the art of high camp and parody on the stage. His productions include Poseidon: An Upside Down Musical, The Birds, Christmas

Dearest, and Caged Dames, among many others.

—**David Csicsko**, 59: Acclaimed graphic artist and designer whose distinctive artwork, stained glass, and mosaics have beautified many Chicago locales, including the Belmont "EL" Station. His many credits include designing the 2012 holiday season displays at the White House.

—**Patrick Dennis** (1921-1976): Author of 16 books, including the enormously popular best-selling camp classic Auntie Mame. Dennis was the first individual to have three books simultaneously on the New York Times best-seller list.

—**Kim Hunt**, 54: Current Executive Director of the Pride Action Network, former Executive Director of Affinity Community Services, Co-founder of the OUTSpoken storytelling series, and current Board Member of the Legacy Project.

—**Dr. Thomas Klein**, 65: Longtime openly gay physician who was on the front lines during the darkest days of the HIV/AIDS epidemic. He has served on the boards of Howard Brown as well as Horizons, is a current board member of Heartland Health Outreach, and is a member of the Gay and Lesbian American Medical Association.

—**Norma Seledon**, 54: Longstanding activist within the women's, Latina and LGBTQ communities through her professional affiliations with Chicago Public Schools as well as Amigas Latinas, Mujeres Latinas in Accione, and Lesbian Community Cancer Project.

—**Matrixa Vidal**, 59: President of the TransLatin@Coalition: Chicago Chapter, board member of the national TransLatin@Coalition, and Director of Health Education, Community Outreach, and Marketing at Vida/SIDA.

—**Dr. Yvonne Welbon**, 54: Acclaimed filmmaker has promoted understanding the experience of Black Lesbians, Black Women and the larger Black Community. Her work includes Sisters in Cinema, The New Black and Living with Pride: Ruth Ellis @ 100.

In the "Organization" category:

—**Amigas Latinas**: Non-profit organization which provided advocacy, programming, and support for an array of issues facing LGBTQ Latinas in the Chicagoland area from 1995 to 2015.

—**Big Chicks**: For 30 years, this pioneering Uptown bar has served as a diverse LGBTQ watering hole, a hub of community events and performances, and a longstanding center of LGBTQ fundraising and sponsorship.

And in the "Friend of the Community" Category:

—**Patrick Quinn**, 68: Governor of Illinois 2009-2015. Quinn is a longtime supporter of the LGBTQ community whose contributions included decisive support for anti-bullying, HIV funding, non-discriminatory policies, and signing legislation to make Illinois the 16th state to provide full marriage equality.

—**The John Marshall Law School**: A Chicago institution since 1899. An early opponent of police entrapment and of discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, the school remains a center for LGBT advocacy and scholarship in Illinois.

The Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame was established in 1991 under the auspices of what was then the Chicago Commission on Human Relations' Advisory Council on Gay and Lesbian Issues, a municipal government agency. At the end of 2011, the advisory council ceased to



Dr. Yvonne Welbon.
Photo by Hal Baim



David Cerda.
Photo by Rick Aguilar Studios

exist after a commission restructuring, and the Friends organization succeeded it as caretaker of the Hall of Fame in partnership with city government.

Beginning with the first ceremony in 1991, former Mayor Richard M. Daley personally participated in the Hall of Fame's induction ceremonies. Current Mayor Rahm Emanuel has done the same.

The purpose of the organization is to recognize the achievements of LGBT Chicagoans, their contributions to the development of the city, and the help they have received from others. In 2016, the 26th annual induction ceremony will be held and the honor remains an

official recognition by Chicago's government of the city's LGBT residents and their allies.

Those selected for the "individual" category are or were members of Chicago's LGBT communities and have made single far-reaching or significant long-term contributions to the quality of life of those communities or of the city as a whole. Those in the "organization" category are LGBT businesses and nonprofit groups that have done likewise. "Friends of the community" are non-LGBT-identified individuals and organizations that have contributed to the quality of life of the city's LGBT communities.

NIH classification breaks new ground for LGBT research

BY MATT SIMONETTE

The National Institutes of Health (NIH), in October, added sexual and gender minorities as a health disparity population, a change that will likely pave the way for increased funds for LGBT health research.

The new classification acknowledges that the LGBT community fares worse in disease and mortality than the general population, and allows researchers studying LGBT health to apply for funding from various institutes within NIH.

It's a change that was a long time coming, according to researcher Dr. Scout of LGBT HealthLink, who has advocated for the change for many years.

"Think of this as 'cultural competency' for funding announcements," he said. "When you go to a doctor's office and unless you see a sign says that LGBTs are welcome, or a rainbow flag, we don't know for sure that it's safe. The same way with funding announcement, if we don't see 'SGM' [Sexual & Gender Minority] or something like that, we don't know that it's safe."

Phoenix Matthews, associate professor and clinical psychologist at the University of Illinois at Chicago, said, "It was not that long ago when it was extremely difficult to get any research work funded on LGBT-health, especially if it was outside the realm of HIV/AIDS. Then during the Bush administrations, you actually had to hide—if you were doing an LGBT-specific application, you had to make sure that wasn't clear in the title or the abstract, because the administration was on a scientific witch hunt. One of my previously funded studies got caught up in that."

Matthews noted the switch, beyond leading to additional dollar allocations, could lead to additional trainings for researchers and service providers in dealing with LGBT issues and a breakdown of the perception that



Dr. Scout (left, with Cecelia Hardacker).
Photo by Matt Simonette

the community is too "sensitive" an issue to focus on.

"The fact that NIH has come out with this very strong and positive statement really goes a long way," they said, adding that NIH would also likely put out calls for LGBT-focused research and might be pressured to diversify its proposal reviewers.

Matthews was recently elected chair of the Health Disparity and Equity Promotion Section, which reviews research-funding applications for NIH. "That sees a lot of applications focusing on health disparities across a number of demographic groups," they said, adding that about a third of the reviewers there are either LGBT or have experience in LGBT-focused research. "The applications there, I'm very proud to say, are given a very fair and appropriate evaluation."

Dr. Scout said that the impact would surely extend past NIH and into other parts of the Department of Health and Human Services as well. "We are going to be talking about a lot more than research with this," he said.

DELL from page 13

Maple Park United Methodist Church pastor Larry Pickens acted as Dell's counsel.

"I do have a defense strategy," Dell said. "But if that fails and I'm found guilty I don't feel that the die is cast. Penalties range from removing my orders as a United Methodist pastor to censure. The trial jury will decide. I also have the right of appeal."

"When he was put on trial, members of the church were asked to write letters about what he meant to us," Bennett said. "Terry's letter was almost 13 pages long. It cited from the Bible and had footnotes. Mine was a page long and I had written it the morning of the day it was due. One day, during marital counseling, Greg read us the last paragraphs of each of our letters and they were almost identical. Greg told us, 'These are the two letters that I kept with me during the trial and if people tell you that you're not compatible because you're so different, remember you came to the same conclusion.' It had such an impact on us because we were struggling. It was an incredible moment for us."

"Not only is the decision expected, it is actually welcome," Dell said of the trial which he also called "an occasion for the Church to consider this matter in the context of real ministry with real people. The love that God offers is not theoretical. The Church must decide if it truly wants to declare that its affirmation of God's embracing, celebrating acceptance is available to some but not others who want to live in faithful relationships of commitment and love."

Dell's defiance reverberated around the world. "We had CNN, ABC and other national news organizations in our church," Matheny recalled. "It became such a big story. Greg was very conflicted about not leaving the United Methodist Church and making change from within. He never shied away from saying 'this is just wrong.'"

"Greg's trial and the witnesses to the kind of pastor he was and Greg's own talking about being a pastor transformed one of the bishops who was on the trial court," McCullen Parr asserted. "His status as a hero of the movement was elevated during the trial and the national publicity from that."

However, after two days, UMC ruled against him in a 10-to-three vote. Dell was suspended in July 1999.

"Most people felt [my sentence] would probably be a slap on the wrist," he told Windy City Times. "The finding of the jury was that I would be suspended from pastoral ministry



Dell wearing Lakeview Action Coalition logos at a protest.
WCT file photo

indefinitely, or until one of two conditions were met: either I would recant and promise I wouldn't do such services, or the rule itself was changed. I wasn't going to recant. I'd made that decision earlier."

After an appeal, Dell's suspension was reduced to a year.

Yet Dell was not so easy to silence.

He recalled to Windy City Times that he was "invited—sometimes at risk to the pastors involved—to preach. I think I preached 50 times during that one year, which was more than I would have preached if I'd been at Broadway during the year, but preached and spoke to a significant number of GLBT and GLBT-allied organizations, all age groups, all racial groups, all identities, and all across the country. I discovered a couple of things: one is, that there is a passion for people who are involved in the struggle for justice that doesn't go away because of simple defeats."

At the invitation of Matheny, Dell was also able to preach on Chicago's LesBiGay Radio.

"I wanted to give him an opportunity to speak to an even bigger crowds than our congregation," Matheny said. "He was on every Monday and we called it Minister with a Message. It was just a fantastic way for us to have a conversation about any topic from a spiritual angle that might be challenging to the LGBTQ community. He knew who he was speaking to."

On July 1, 2000, Dell was reappointed as pastor of BUMC.

Both during his trial and after, its membership increased exponentially.

"I loved hearing his voice and there was a physical joy about him when he preached," Bennett said. "When he baptized a kid he would hold that kid up above his head like in The Lion King and walk through the church. Everyone would clap. I would cry every time he did it."

The year 2000 was also when Dell performed a holy union for Bennett and his husband Terry. In January 2001, the United Methodist

Church Council voted for "Constructive engagement with the United Methodist denomination. This includes allowing designated giving and continued support of national movement such as the Reconciling Ministries Network."

According to BUMC, it was one of four options provided to them by the Broadway Future Taskforce which had been created to deal with conflict resolution within the UMC.

"Greg in his ministry believed and believes that the church 'rite' of marriage ought be provided 'for all,' despite the fact in the United Methodist Church today, it is only 'afforded to some,'" UMC Rev. Gil Caldwell would later write on the Reconciling Ministries Network. "I am suggesting that The United Methodist Church develop a 'Ritual of Apology' that embraces Greg Dell and others. In that Ritual, we as a Church ought say in more than one way, 'Greg, you were right and we were wrong.'"

In February 2007, Dell announced to his congregation that he had been diagnosed with Parkinson's disease.

"The congregation is very clear," Dell said. "We had the time to grieve, be angry and be sad together. But they're going to move on and so are we and so will this struggle. It doesn't depend on a few people, it is a struggle of many people of all of God's diversity."

"Parkinson's literally robbed Greg of his voice," Bennett said. "He couldn't speak or recall specific words. He would start to do a sermon and have to stop. He wasn't even able to give his last sermon. He ended up getting two other shots at it. He got the Equality Illinois award and much of his speech was pieces of that sermon that he had always wanted to give."

In 2008, Dell was inducted into the Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame as an ally. He eventually moved to North Carolina to be closer to his children.

"A friend of mine from North Carolina has

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viewpoints



**William
DI CANZIO**

On my dismissal from lecturing at Daylesford Abbey

A week ago Saturday, the abbot of Daylesford Abbey, a Norbertine community near Philadelphia, emailed me requesting a meeting; he said he would rather not disclose its purpose. A few days later we met for coffee. Abbot Richard Antonucci started our conversation by saying that he'd heard that Jim Anderson and I had been legally married. "I want you to believe this," he said: "I sincerely wish you many, many years of happiness together."

Then he passed me a copy of a directive from Archbishop Charles Chaput of Philadelphia stating that members of same-sex couples should "not hold positions of responsibility in a parish, nor should they carry out any liturgical ministry or function." Richard said he intended to enforce the directive.

Our talk was frank but friendly. I reminded him that the abbey is not a parish and nor is Chaput his superior. True enough, but, Richard tells me, all Catholic laypeople in the archdiocese are subject to Chaput's authority.

I argued that I knew of local pastors choosing not to enforce the directive because of its injustice. Richard said he was unwilling to take the risk.

"You're the spiritual leader of the place I've been part of for 35 years," I said. "How do you counsel me?"

Richard said that he hoped I might find it in my heart to remain in the abbey community.

This pain of this decision can only be felt where there is love. Here's why it hurts: When I first came to Daylesford Abbey in 1981, I had just undergone what I later learned is called a conversion. Raised Catholic, educated in a parish school and at Jesuit prep school, I'd become disaffected with the church in college. Then, at 30, I got knocked off my horse and struck blind, so to speak, and returned to a church much different from the one I'd known as a kid. My discovery of Daylesford Abbey, with its refined architecture, enlightened preaching and ravishing liturgy, was a revelation within

the revelation. Though I'd never seen the place before, when I entered its church for the first time, I had the uncanny feeling that I'd come home.

In those early days, the abbey's liturgical director befriended me and put me to work immediately on special projects: revising a hymnal with an eye to amending sexist language; arranging a psalter and canticles to be used in the Daylesford Rite of the Hours. We likewise collaborated on liturgical events—the consecration of the Abbey's Church of the Assumption, a children's mass for Christmas morning, and the Good Friday Veneration of the Cross, a service that has since become Daylesford's signature. From the beginning, even before lecturing, mine has been a ministry of words.

Even during the many years I lived in New Haven, I kept close to the Abbey. I was commissioned me to write a three-year cycle of penitential rites for its Sunday mass based on the scriptural readings for the day. In 1988, I became an affiliate (one considering entering the order); in 2001, an associate (a layperson with an especially active role in the abbey's life). During the declining years of my parents (who loved the place), the Abbey was a source of solace to me as caregiver. Two Norbertines celebrated my father's funeral.

Lecturing has been a particular passion for me. On my conversion, I was drawn to the lectern because of the beauty of what I heard and my desire to know it better. A writer myself, I prepare my assignments as if I had written them, so that I can present them to the assembly with understanding and conviction. Forgive me if this sounds like a resume. My point is Charles Chaput knows none of this about me. Richard himself, who came to Daylesford in 2000, did not know how very long is my history there. Neither of these men know that Jim decided to be confirmed a Catholic after attending Pentecost mass at Daylesford, though Richard remembered fondly Jim's magnificent chanting of the Passion narratives, solo, from the Abbey pulpit on three consecutive Palm Sundays and Good Fridays.

My meeting with the abbot on Oct. 20 was not first my first encounter with the episcopal directive. I'd read about it in the news some months before. Of course, it made me angry: It's very offensive. Chaput asserts that same-sex couples "offer a serious counter-witness to Catholic belief, which can only produce moral confusion in the community. Such a relationship cannot be accepted into the life of the parish without undermining the faith of the community, most notably the children."

vulnerability of youth to HIV. Ongoing research also underscores the links between community violence exposure and vulnerability to HIV. In particular, it documents associations between community violence exposure and HIV-related sexual risk behaviors among young people.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), in 2014, youth ages 13 to 24 accounted for an estimated 22 percent of all new HIV diagnoses in the U.S. In 2014, homicide was the leading cause of death for Black boys and men ages 15 to 34 and the second leading cause of death for Hispanic boys and men ages 15 to 34. Current trends suggest that only 24 percent of young Black gay and bisexual men living with HIV remain in care, and in Illinois, there are 1,800 new HIV infections each year, 50 percent of which are in the Black community. According to the Illinois Department of Public Health, nearly 40 percent of new HIV cases in the state are among young people ages 20-29. These reports show that we must continuously intervene with those most vulnerable to the epidemics of violence and HIV and provide timely and culturally relevant health discussions, policies and programs.

In the wake of police-involved gun violence

This strikes me as hypocritical, perhaps even cynical, especially the phrase concerning children: We remember that Benedict XVI appointed Chaput to Philadelphia in the midst of the legal consequences of disclosures of the history of clerical pedophilia in the archdiocese.

In his administration, Chaput has crossed a line into alienating the laity whom he was entrusted to serve. He has advocated, even lobbied, against extending the Pennsylvania commonwealth's statute of limitation on crimes of sexual predation. Perhaps alienation is a deliberate strategy: like the failed pope who appointed him, the archbishop has spoken publicly about the advantages of a "smaller, lighter" church.

Since my meeting with Richard, I've gone through several phases of grief: betrayal, anger, self-pity, sorrow, and worst, I realize now, was a sense of shame and disgrace. These latter emotions are what victims of abuse are made to feel in its aftermath, but they're also familiar to gay men of my age. And I thought I was done with those—years and years ago.

—William di Canzio, November 4, 2016

William di Canzio is a playwright who has taught at Smith College, Haverford College and Yale University.

At Yale, he was also appointed dean of Trumbull College, academic director in residence to four hundred undergraduates. He has published essays in Commonweal magazine. He holds a Ph.D. from Johns Hopkins University and MFA from the Yale School of Drama, where he was awarded the Eugene O'Neill scholarship in playwriting. He now teaches in the Pennoni Honors College of Drexel University, Philadelphia.

For Bondings 2.0's full coverage of other LGBT-related church worker and parish volunteer disputes, visit <https://newwaysministryblog.wordpress.com/category/employment-issues/>. You can visit <https://newwaysministryblog.wordpress.com/employment/> to find a full listing of the more than 60 incidents since 2007 where church workers or volunteers have lost their positions over LGBT identity, same-sex marriages, or public support for equality.

The column is at <https://newwaysministryblog.wordpress.com/2016/11/04/on-my-dismissal-from-lecturing-at-daylesford-abbey/>.

and community shootings that have contributed to more than 3,200 gun victims in Chicago and 10,000 deaths and injuries already in 2016, AFC adopts a position statement about gun violence in the U.S. AFC believes that gun violence is a public health crisis and social driver of new HIV infections, and therefore requires a comprehensive public health response and solution. Social science recognizes gun violence as an epidemic that moves among social networks in what epidemiologists call "social contagion."

AFC recognizes that gun violence is a public health crisis that requires community-informed, life-affirming action immediately. At AFC, we challenge and address many of the systemic and social barriers to health care access by working to improve health equity. Our goal is to identify, document and solve health care access implementation problems for all communities affected by HIV.

The similarities in the geographic patterns of HIV infections and gun violence in racially segregated Chicago are astounding. For instance, an analysis of the Chicago Department of Pub-

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AFC's statement on gun violence, community violence

The mission of the AIDS Foundation of Chicago (AFC) is to mobilize communities to create equity and justice for people living with and vulnerable to HIV and related chronic diseases. Founded in 1985 by community activists and physicians, the AIDS Foundation of Chicago is a local and national leader in HIV/AIDS policy, as well as prevention, care and housing.

In the United States, HIV and community violence are two major issues that disproportionately impact youth (and those working directly with youth). Researchers have identified a range of behaviors that increase the

WINDY CITY TIMES

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Touche's 39th anniversary.



'Fairy' tale

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WCT reviews The Chicago Opera Theater's *The Fairy Queen*.

Photo of Alexandra Martinez and Ryan Belongie by Liz Lauren

NUNN ON ONE: THEATER

Antuan Raimone makes magic with 'Hamilton'

BY JERRY NUNN

The story of Alexander Hamilton has become a phenomenon in the Broadway world. *Hamilton*, a musical from the mind of Lin-Manuel Miranda, has broken box-office records and will be running at least a year in Chicago. This year, it received a record setting 16 Tony nominations and won 11 of them. A national touring production will begin in San Francisco in 2017 and it also opens that same year in the West End.

Antuan Magic Raimone, an openly gay cast member and swing in *Hamilton*, has a background working with Miranda by performing on Broadway with *In the Heights* as well as its touring version. His musical theater credits include *Hairspray*, *Dreamgirls* and *La Cage aux Folles*.

Windy City Times: Hi, Antuan. Start off with your background and where you are from.

Antuan Magic Raimone: I'm 36, and as far as I know I'm Black and also Native American, though I'm interested to know more about my heritage. I was born and raised in Kansas City, specifically Blue Springs, Missouri.

WCT: Did you study performing arts?

AMR: My introduction to performing arts started at my high school at Blue Springs South. It wasn't a performing arts school, but there is a performing arts center built onto the school. The first musical I was ever in was *Annie* and I was in the dancing ensemble. Having grown up singing in church, I loved to sing and I also loved to dance. Before high school, I only thought someone could make money as a dancer in music videos, so my dream was to be a dancer for Janet Jackson.

Once I got to high school, I realized that there was an entire musical theater world where I could sing, act and dance at the same time and that was exactly what I wanted to do.

My love for musical theater only deepened with each musical I did in high school, which were *Guys and Dolls*, *Crazy For You* and *Hello, Dolly!*

After I graduated high school, I attended Southwest Missouri State University, now Missouri State University. I graduated with a B.F.A. in musical theater and with no minor. I knew that this would be my career, regardless of how improbable it might seem.

WCT: Where did the name "Magic" come from?

AMR: Michael Balderrama, who is our choreography supervisor for the Chicago company of *Hamilton*, was also my dance captain for *In the*

Heights and gave me the nickname of "Magic" because of my ability to learn choreography quickly and also remember the details of what I've learned.

I learned my first role for *In the Heights* in about two weeks and what I didn't know at the time was that that wasn't normal. That is a gift that I have, not something I learned over the years and that gift is probably the largest factor that lead me to this role.

WCT: Did being a cast member of *In the Heights* also help lead you to this role?

AMR: If I really thought about it, I'm sure that many factors lead me to this role and being in the cast of *In the Heights* can't go unnoticed. As most performers might say, being a part of one show doesn't guarantee that you will be a part of the next one, even when you have worked so closely with the original creative team.

Until I reach the level of a Gregory Hines or Ben Vereen, I fully expect to have to audition for any job that I want to get, regardless of the professional relationships I've cultivated over my career. I am always hopeful that I'll get the job I've auditioned for, and also know that there is more to it than hope alone.

WCT: How long were you in the cast of *In the Heights*?

AMR: I spent nearly five years working with *In the Heights*, as a vacation swing Off Broadway, then Broadway. I was with the first national tour for six months as a swing, I understudied Graffiti Pete and was also the assistant dance captain. And after that I was the assistant choreographer for the non-Equity tour of the show as well. I'd never known a show as well as I knew *In the Heights* and it was such a gift.

I have worked with at least four generations of that show and to be a part of that is a priceless gift. And with all of that time spent with *In the Heights*, I had no certainty that I would be a part of *Hamilton*. I am very confident in my skills and abilities as a performer, and I also understand that there are a multitude of factors that go into casting a show that I have no control over, such as am I the look they want, or am I tall enough.

Walking into the audition room I can only control what I do in the room. I have control over learning the dance combination quickly enough to be able to create some sort of character that will fit what they are possibly looking for. And when singing, it's up to me to know the song I'm singing well enough to perform it comfortably and confidently in the



Antuan Magic Raimone.
PR photo

moment. I possess a very special set of skills as a performer that the creative team for *Hamilton* felt would make me the perfect universal swing.

WCT: How fast was the audition process?

AMR: On July 28, 2016 at 9:30 a.m. I attended my first audition for the show. On Aug. 1 my agent called me to tell me that there was an offer for me to immediately join the company of *Hamilton*.

My first day of rehearsal would be Aug. 2. That means that in a short four days after my first audition for the show, I was hired and asked to start rehearsals!

WCT: Describe being in a show with this much hype.

AMR: I don't know that it has fully hit me, but it is coming in bits and pieces and it usually ends in tears of joy, appreciation, humility, and disbelief. I've always known that I have people supporting me in what I do, but it was never as tangible as after I posted on Facebook that I was hired for the show. The way in which people expressed their love and congratulations was overwhelming and after only reading a fraction of them, I sat in my bedroom in New York and cried for at least five minutes.

WCT: As a swing, how often are you performing in the show and what roles have you had to learn?

AMR: There is no way of knowing how often I'll be performing. In fact, if I'm onstage, it's because something bad has happened, so it's actually a good thing when I'm not onstage.

I could get a text at 5:30 p.m. telling me that I'll be on for someone for the show that starts at 7:30, or I could even go into the show in the middle of it if someone were to get hurt, which is never an optimal situation. Right now I have learned one role in the male ensemble

and I will eventually work my way up to knowing a total of six.

WCT: Have you been around Lin much and what can you tell people about him?

AMR: I've spent a lot of time with Lin onstage and a decent amount of time with him offstage and what I can tell you is that he's a genuine person. His reality is greater than most anyone can imagine and yet he will come to a rehearsal just to watch the work being done by the people in the room. Whatever video footage you have seen of him is who he is in person so I don't really think I could add much new information to that.

WCT: Have you spent much time in Chicago in the past?

AMR: The last time I was in Chicago was in 2008 and I was here as a dancer in the Radio City Christmas Spectacular, which was playing at the Rosemont Theatre. I was only here for three weeks and didn't get to see much of Chicago while I was here.

WCT: Do you have any plans for free time?

AMR: I have several friends that I went to college with that live here and have been able to see a few of them since I've been here and want to spend time with more of them. I've been told about the architecture tour and that has me intrigued, and I was recently told about an indoor skydiving center and that's been something I've wanted to do for a while, so I hope to have the time for that.

WCT: With several gay members in the cast, are there any plans for visiting the bar *Sidetrack*?

AMR: I've actually been twice myself! And as it turned out, as I left *Sidetrack* on my first visit I picked up the *Windy City Times*, so it's a wonderful coincidence that I was asked for an interview.

WCT: What was *Divapalooza*?

AMR: That was a cabaret benefit that I participated in so long ago that I'd actually forgotten about it until you asked. [Laughs] I've participated in enough cabarets and benefit events over the years that it's a little hard to remember each one.

WCT: So do you have any plans for benefits in Chicago while here?

AMR: There aren't any set plans for a benefit to happen right now, and that doesn't mean it won't ever happen. Right now the cast is focusing on getting the show up and running, as well as settling into the new lives we are creating here. There aren't any of us in the cast that were living in Chicago beforehand so we are creating new homes here and that will take time.

That being said, if I was asked to participate in one while I'm here that really peaked my interest and I had the time, I'd be more than happy to.

Visit BroadwayInChicago.com for more information about *Hamilton*, currently playing at The PrivateBank Theatre, 18 W. Monroe St.

THEATER REVIEW

Fun Home

Playwright: Jeanine Tesori (music),
Lisa Kron (book/lyrics)
At: Oriental Theatre, 24 W. Randolph St.
Tickets: 800-775-2000;
BroadwayInChicago.com; \$25-\$113
Runs through: Nov. 13

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

Many Windy City Times readers are familiar with Alison Bechdel's work, especially her comic strip, *Dykes to Watch Out For*, and *Fun Home*, her autobiographical graphic novel from which this 2015 Tony Award-winning musical is drawn.

They'll know the story basics, framed by an adult Bechdel recalling her childhood in small-town Pennsylvania and her coming-out while attending Oberlin College. "Fun home" is short for "funeral home," her father's family business where Alison and her siblings sometimes play. The title takes on additional colorations as the central story unfolds of Alison's relationship with her dad, a closeted gay man who intentionally stepped in front of a truck at the age of 44, soon after Alison came out to her parents.

Two stories intertwine, one simple and one complicated. Alison's is simple: tomboy grows up in an apparently happy and cultured home, goes to college, comes out and snags a girlfriend. The complicated story goes to her father, Bruce Bechdel, a temperamental and



Karen Eilbacher (left) and
Abby Corrigan
in *Fun Home*.
Photo by
Joan Marcus

sometimes-controlling man with intimacy issues. Even when Alison comes out, he cannot reveal himself to the child (among three) who is most like him. Guilt, fear and self-loathing lead him to destruction when he sees himself in his daughter. "I had no idea that my beginning would be your ending," Alison says in a poignant and telling line. Of course, the story becomes complex for everyone as it progresses.

It's well-told and heartfelt, yet the story is familiar. Most readers have been through individual coming-out experiences and/or have known a closeted family member, although perhaps not a parent. A closeted parent isn't new to musicals, either, evidenced by the current

revival of William Finn's 25-year-old *Falsettos*, and *Far From Heaven*, the 2013 musical of the 2002 film. The result is that *Fun Home*—especially after Tony Award hype—is underwhelming. There's nothing bad, nothing wrong, nothing at fault and much to admire in this bittersweet show, but it's earnest rather than passionate.

Authors Lisa Kron and Jeanine Tesori neither inflate nor diminish Bechdel's story in crafting a touching and intimate musical, which runs 100 minutes without intermission, and which contains much humor and warmth despite the down ending. However, *Fun Home* should be seen in a much smaller theater than

the Oriental since it's a chamber musical with no singing/dancing chorus or big production numbers and only a seven-piece orchestra. Like a classical chamber ensemble, the little band is rich with woodwinds and strings (John Clancy, orchestrations) under music director Micah Young.

The admirable, nuanced cast respects the story with Chicago veterans Robert Petkoff (Bruce) and Susan Moniz (Alison's mom) shining in lead roles. Kudos, too, for Kate Shindle (Alison), Alessandra Baldacchino (Small Alison), Abby Corrigan (Middle Alison) and Karen Eilbacher (Alison's girlfriend).

THEATER REVIEW

Apartment 3A

Playwright: Jeff Daniels
At: Windy City Playhouse,
3014 W. Irving Park Rd.
Tickets: \$25-\$55
Runs through: Dec. 18

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

When a man dwelling in a shabby apartment building located on the fringes of a slated-for-gentrification district is seen always garbed in a sleek Armani suit with a blooming rose in his lapel, even in the wee hours of the morning, we suspect that there might be more to him than meets the eye—and when he eagerly extols the limitless virtues of his never-seen

wife, whose job entails frequent travel, we also begin to wonder about her.

That her faithful husband appears happy in his long-distance marriage only piques our curiosity further.

Don't mistake Jeff Daniels' play for your standard-issue romcom. To be sure, its personnel features a pair of young lovers: Annie's ex-boyfriend accused her of "caring in a world that doesn't give a shit any more"—censure she has taken to heart, rendering herself insecure, vulnerable, and wary of exacerbating the misanthropy suffusing her universe. Elliott, her cheerfully nurturing co-worker at the Public Broadcasting Service, longs to ease her wounded spirit, but Annie, convinced that she is undeserving of such kindness, resists his ministrations.

Before Cupid's arrows find their elusive tar-

gets, these generic losers will bicker cutely over theological differences, the connections between nature documentaries and martial harmony, the worthiness of their industry, and engage in slapstick sex, staged so athletically as to require a choreographer.

Yeah, yeah, but what we *really* want to know is how Donald Peterson, the well-dressed, oddly intuitive tenant who lives across the hall from Annie and who has a mysterious way of popping in on her when she is alone—fits into this picture. Is he a stalker practicing reverse psychology? A hustler trawling for a lonely benefactor? A self-styled rescuer of distressed damsels? An angel entertained unawares? A messenger from Eros wearing wingtips? Our questions are answered by the play's conclusion, but only after much performance time devoted to mating dances we have seen many

times before.

That being so, it goes without saying that our affections toward Annie and Elliott must never be permitted to waver for an instant—even when the former goes ballistic during a pledge drive, threatening the denizens of Sesame Street with homelessness and death if viewers don't pony up. Under the expert direction of Ron OJ Parson, Eleni Pappageorge and Jose Anthony Garcia carry out their duties with charm and alacrity, while Peter DeFaria makes the most of his role as a surly landlord, but ultimately, what holds us spellbound is Daniel Smith's charismatic portrayal of the wistfully romantic neighbor whose return we await whenever he is absent.

THEATER REVIEW

Betrayal

Playwright: Harold Pinter
At: Raven Theatre
6157 N. Clark St.
Tickets: 773-338-2177 or
RavenTheatre.com; \$21-\$46
Runs through: Dec. 17

BY DAVID MCCANN

Set in London and Venice, this production is the perfect amalgamation of a classic script, a talented cast and a skilled, creative director and technical team. Raven has presented to audiences a production of style, taste and drama in this 75-minute one-act. It's everything that this play should be, presented in an intimate setting that brings this autobiographical story up close and personal. And—directed by the multitalented Lauren Shouse, currently the literary manager at Northlight Theatre—this production is unique in that it's told from a woman's point of view.

Harold Pinter, the Nobel Prize-winning British playwright, had a career that spanned decades. He's known for his Comedies of Menace, such as *The Birthday Party* and *The Room*, currently playing at Chicago's Red Orchid Theatre, as well as his pensive *Memory* plays, like *Old Times* and this personal play



Abigail Boucher
in *Betrayal*.
Photo by Dean
La Prairie

about an extramarital affair. In addition to being considered the playwright's most dramatic work, *Betrayal* is unique and innovative in that it plays out in reverse chronological order.

Beginning in 1977, this story opens at the end of the affair, with the final scene taking place in 1968, as the affair begins. Emma and Robert are married, with children, as is their close friend (and Robert's coworker) Jerry, who's married to the unseen, but much-discussed Judith. For five years Emma and Jerry carry on their love affair in a rented London flat, without her husband's knowledge, and

betraying both Robert and Judith. At least, that's what Jerry is led to believe. In truth, Emma has betrayed Jerry as well, because she's confessed their illicit liaison to Robert. She's also had a fling with another mutual friend and has become pregnant with another child, fathered by her husband. This story thus becomes a tangled web of deception, unfaithfulness and revelation. And because we learn early on that the affair has ended, Pinter's most accessible play is a fascinating story that speaks loudly to every generation and to all genders.

Lauren Shouse's sharp, slick direction seduces audiences with a female sensuality, so different from the usual male-directed productions. She strips away the artifice and romance of what it means to engage in an affair, with a feminine perspective. Scene changes are performed with a simple, deliberate, almost choreographed precision, blending beautifully with the scripted moments. Lauren Nigri's clean, sparse alley-style set design works in tandem with Shouse's vision. The cast is impeccable. Abigail Boucher, a dead-ringer for a young Cate Blanchett, is responsible for turning Pinter's tale of deception into a woman's story. Keith Neagle, as Robert, and Sam Guinan-Nyhart, as Jerry (and as excellent as can be imagined), become Emma's pawns in this story of love and lies.

CRITICS' PICKS



In the Heights, Porchlight Music Theatre, through Dec. 3. There are two shows authored by Lin-Manuel Miranda currently running, both brimming over with ebullience and optimism, but this is the one you can see without waiting until next year. How can you pass that up? MSB

The Last Wife, TimeLine Theatre, through Dec. 18. Big, meaty-but-intelligent performances drive playwright Kate Henning's tale of a woman's survival and power in a man's world, ostensibly about King Henry VIII and Catherine Parr, the only one of Henry's wives to survive him, but very much a modern work. JA

Merge, The New Colony at Den Theatre, through Nov. 13. Spenser Davis' theatrical take on the rise and fall of Atari is a frenetic nostalgia trip for audiences in their 40s. It's a backstabbing creative and corporate tale filled with lots of sound and fury. SCM

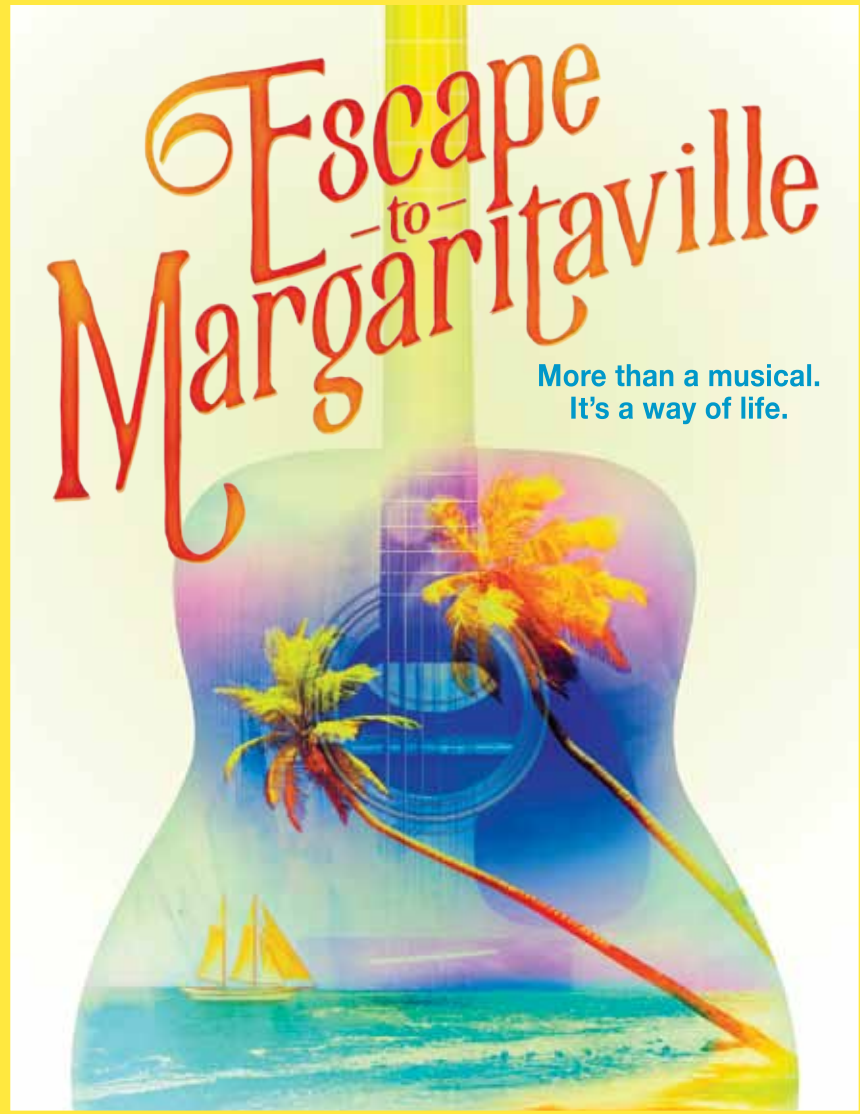
Resolution, Pride Films and Plays at Rivedell Theatre, through Nov. 20. Nancy Nyman and Heather McNama channel the conventions of Victorian drama with museum-grade accuracy to recount this "vintage" tale of pioneering same-sex spouses. MSB

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge
and Morgan

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MUSICAL REVIEW

The Fairy Queen

Score: Henry Purcell;

Libretto: Culture Clash, Andreas Mitisek and Anonymous

At: Chicago Opera Theater at

Studebaker Theater, 410 S. Michigan Ave.

Tickets: 312-704-8414;

ChicagoOperaTheater.org; \$39-\$125

Runs through: Nov. 13

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

We should be grateful that Chicago Opera Theater (COT) is so adventurous to stage some of the oldest works in the operatic repertoire. But it's clear that COT's efforts to update things by plonking these ancient operas into modern-day Las Vegas is a roll of the dice.

Compare and contrast COT's Vegas-styled productions of Purcell's *The Fairy Queen* from 1692 (now playing the recently renovated Studebaker Theater) and Monteverdi's *The Coronation of Poppea* from 1643 (the first full opera staged at Millennium Park's Harris Theater for Music and Dance in 2004). The latter was a major jackpot winner while the former is just a partial payout.

COT's swinging Vegas take on *The Coronation of Poppea* became a juicy primetime soap opera thanks to an elegantly sparse staging by future Tony Award-winning director Diane Pau-



Kimberly E. Jones in *The Fairy Queen*.
Photo by Liz Lauren

lus (*Pippin*, *Finding Neverland*) in collaboration with Music of the Baroque artistic director Jane Glover. Paulus and company made the opera fresh and timely by refashioning the Roman emperor Nero as a casino kingpin trading out one old trophy wife for the newest title model.

The Fairy Queen is much scrappier affair as designed and directed by COT general director Andreas Mitisek. Under conductor Jory Vinikour, the Haymarket Opera Orchestra has more than its uncomfortable share of shaky

musical moments, as do the cast who have to navigate between spoken dialogue and florid singing.

Purcell's *Fairy Queen* itself is also problematic as a "semi opera" inspired very loosely from Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Since there is no definitive version, Mitisek and the comedy ensemble known as Culture Clash shouldn't be taken to task too much for junking the ancient dialogue in favor of a new script.

Hence, the comic drama is now set in a mod-

ern Las Vegas hotel/nightspot called Club HQ run by the pink-haired Puck (Marc Malomot). And the script comes complete with modern phenomenon like drones, smart phones and a newly married same-sex couple. Here the traditionally hetero coupling of Hermia and Lysander is now transformed into the happily homo countertenor pairing of Herman (Darryl Taylor) and Lysander (Ryan Belongie).

On one hand, it's nice to see a gay duo appearing as a matter-of-fact couple. It's also telling that the title *Fairy Queen* (Kimberly E. Jones) and her King (Cedric Berry) are celebrities like you'd see on hip-hop music videos and reality TV shows.

But often Purcell's Restoration-era music feels uncomfortably grafted on to the modern dialogue. The script is also full of hoary jokes, borderline offensive character stereotypes (particularly the Latina pole dancer) and grating visual jokes like the anal-penetration gag involving a chair.

In the drive to be so edgy and hip (yes, it's great to see super-toned and physically agile baritone Zacharias Niedzwiecki in a leather harness and tight gold hot pants), COT's *The Fairy Queen* can come off like a poser desperately trying to be relevant. So too bad COT's Vegas take on *The Fairy Queen* didn't have the same luck as its earlier *Sin City* spin with *The Coronation of Poppea*. This time the Vegas bet didn't produce a sure-fire winner.

THEATER REVIEW

The Magic Play

Playwright: Andrew Hinderaker

At: Goodman Theatre, 170 N. Dearborn St.

Tickets: \$10-\$40

Runs through: Nov. 20

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

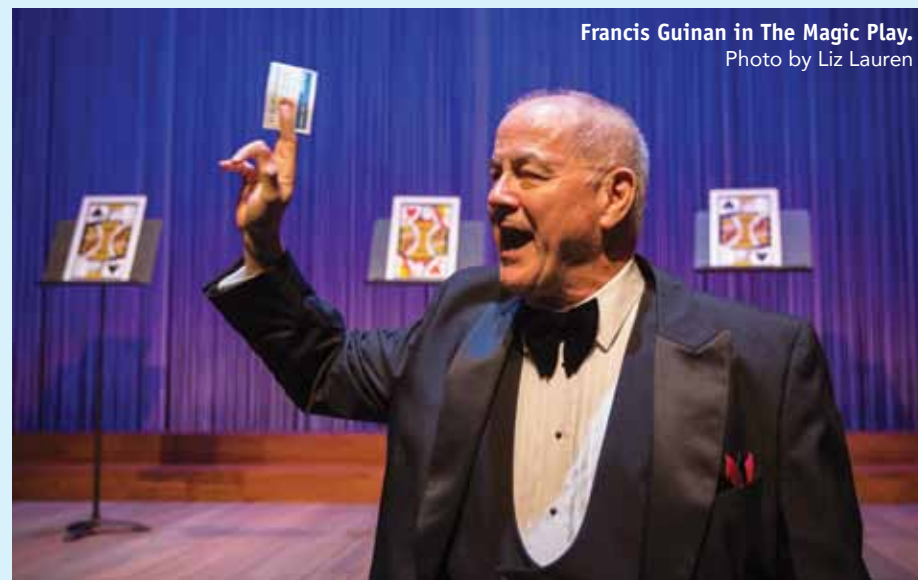
The sleight-of-hand trick dubbed "Sam the Bellhop" (popularized by Chicago magician Frank Everhart) is a tour de force turn requiring the magician to recount a story while simultaneously producing, from a randomly arranged deck, cards representing the characters and their various travels. Andrew Hinderaker's latest play likewise combines classic "close-up" magic with dramatic narrative, integrating the two so inextricably as to render negligible the question of which one determines the other's course of action.

The show begins with our prestidigitator—austerly billed as "the magician"—introducing the suspension of disbelief necessary to arts involving deception (including theater, itself) through ingratiating patter, followed by some supple-fingered legerdemain. Soon, however, ghostly visions of a high-diving

swimmer begin to manifest themselves. This apparition—billed as "the Diver"—is revealed to be The Magician's memory of his former lover, the brash young Olympic contender who boldly volunteered his phone number when marking a card for a restoration stunt, and whose disembodied spirit does not shrink from interrupting his ex-paramour's spiel to call the latter out on the hazards of his craft.

Magicians rank just behind clowns and stand-up comedians as fodder for laughing-on-the-outside-crying-on-the-inside romantic tragedy, so it comes as no surprise that The Magician's choice of a career offering the illusion of control over his environment is connected to childhood abandonment by his father—coincidentally, also a magician.

At The Diver's urging, The Magician pays a visit to his long-estranged sire, now plying his trade in a shabby Reno casino, only to depart disappointed when the reunion proves unsatisfying. Inevitably, The Magician's insecurity drives The Diver away, his departure awakening our hero to acceptance of the risks inherent in living and loving. At the play's conclusion, we witness him reprise his initial act, but with a little less swagger, a little more honesty and even a willingness to share the trick with a roomful of strangers like us.



Francis Guinan in *The Magic Play*.
Photo by Liz Lauren

This world-premiere production is not without its flaws. Seating configurations in the Goodman's Owen obstructs the view from most of the floor, and while video-feed projects the table action onto a gigantic scrim, it tends to pull our attention away from the more visually interesting trio of Brett Schneider as the vulnerable flimflam artist, Sean Parris as his

brash antagonist and Francis Guinan as his dissipated dad. This in no way diminishes the contributions of director Helena Kays or the superlative tech team (notably magic designer Jim Steinmeyer and aerial consultant Sylvia Hernandez-DiStasi) in conjuring—well, magic, however you define it.

Fortman joins About Face Theatre

About Face Theatre has welcomed Andrew Fortman as the company's new director of individual & major giving and special events.

Fortman, a Windy City Times 30 Under 30 honoree, joins with a background in theater, advocacy and community engagement.

Most recently, he worked as the director of community and cultural programs at Center on Halsted, where he curated programs and events that catered to the LGBTQ communities throughout Chicagoland.

In a statement, Artistic Director Andrew Volkoff, "We are thrilled that Andrew is joining our staff in this newly created position, greatly expanding our development department. Andrew's passion and excitement for everything About Face does makes him a wonderful complement to Benjamin Sprunger, who will continue to serve as our director of institutional giving."



Andrew Fortman.
Photo courtesy of Fortman

SPOTLIGHT

Crystal meth is a serious problem, but gay performer/playwright Steven Strafford actually found humor in his own three-year addiction ordeal in **METHTACULAR!** Strafford's critically acclaimed one-man show previously played in 2014 for About Face Theatre before going to be staged in Cincinnati, Sacramento, Portland and colleges across the country. If you missed **METHTACULAR!** before, it's back again for a very limited time. **METHTACULAR!** plays two shows only at 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Nov. 11-12, at Steppenwolf's 1700 Theatre, 1700 N. Halsted St. Tickets are \$20; call 312-335-1650 or visit Steppenwolf.org.

Steven Strafford in his one-man show **METHTACULAR!**, directed by Adam Fitzgerald. Photo by Kevin Thomas Garcia





Fused Muse Ensemble members rehearsing with YEPP performers.
Photo from Fused Muse

Fused Muse brings audiences to 'Edge of Shelter'

BY GRETCHEN RACHEL HAMMOND

In her essay *What Are You Afraid Of?*, Fused Muse performer, cellist and Kontras Quartet founding member Jean Hatmaker wrote, "We can all get sucked into bad cycles—patterns of fortune that throw a wrench in our best laid plans."

"The difference between making it out or not comes down to the resources we have available to us. Resources aren't only money, they include physical safety, mental stability, control, health, being around people who understand us. Unfortunately, these resources are not evenly or fairly distributed, because we don't get to choose how, where, or to whom we are born. And we can't anticipate the physical or emotional challenges we may face in our lives."

While national and state campaigns are utilizing a combination of federal and philanthropic resources alongside the work of advocacy groups in ending youth homelessness by 2020, Chicago-based Fused Muse will use the even more influential medium of art to put a human face on homelessness and, so, raise a compelling awareness about the need for the final curtain to come down on its horror.

In *Edge of Shelter*, to be performed Nov. 18-19 at the Fourth Presbyterian Church in Chicago's Near North Side, Fused Muse, in collaboration with Youth Empowerment Performance Project (YEPP); Chicago Lights; Harmony, Hope & Healing; and students of DePaul University will ask Hatmaker's question through a visceral tapestry of music, dance, film and the spoken word.

The seamless combination of social justice and art is something the Fused Muse Ensemble has crafted since it was founded in 2009.

The group has tackled issues including domestic violence, the environment and human trafficking.

Fused Muse founder, executive director and co-artistic director Sophie Webber alongside co-artistic director Iddo Aharony have been actively engaged around the issue of homelessness for the past two years. *Edge of Shelter* is the culmination of that work.

"There's so many worthwhile causes out there, but this is something that resonated with the core members of the group," Webber told *Windy City Times*. "We were aware that homelessness is something that's so multi-layered and complex."

Therefore, in order to tackle it, Webber and Aharony reached out to advocacy organizations, activists and fellow artists who were working with the issue. The duo wanted to

ensure that the voices of the homeless were neither muffled in bullet points nor data but, through *Edge of Shelter*, could really be heard.

"Our starting point was to learn as much as we could learn," Aharony said. "We felt like complete outsiders but we wanted to amplify voices that are otherwise unheard and use the stage instead of the stigma. Our guiding principal was that each collaboration was based on a direct dialogue with individuals who have previously experienced homelessness or are experiencing it now. It was their stories, their perspectives that guided the creative work."

According to Fused Muse, that work will substitute stereotypes for a "human face and features new musical compositions, theatrical pieces, dance choreography and video works by acclaimed Chicago artists," including members of YEPP.

"It's been meaningful for everybody involved," Aharony noted. "Each of the pieces created for the project has a different perspective and message. We feel it makes a tiny crack in that wall of invisibility."

"It is the experience of homelessness we're interested in showing and having people see and hear," Webber added. "We believe the arts has the power to increase understanding and empathy, change hearts and minds and potentially galvanize communities in a call to social action."

According to Aharony, having organizations like YEPP (whose LGBTQ homeless youth ensemble has brought the reality of homelessness to audiences across the city in performances as moving as they are masterfully honest) as collaborators made the creative process behind *Edge of Shelter* all the more meaningful.

"Individual YEPP members were teamed with professional musicians from Chicago," Aharony said. "Each one created a new performative work based on life-experiences. This kind of collaborative work was new and we didn't know how or if it was going to work. Nobody knew what to expect in the first meeting where we had people of different socio-economic backgrounds, race and gender. Yet, for me, it was one of the most magical experiences I've ever had. There was a quick connection for everyone over the love of making art and expressing something together as human beings and empathizing with each other no matter what our different backgrounds."

It is this kind of empathy with which Fused Muse aims to address audiences for *Edge of Shelter*.

"It's easy to walk past somebody in the street and look the other way," Webber said. "It's not so easy if you think of them as being your friend or family member. So we are doing whatever we can to help bridge that divide."

For more information about *Edge of Shelter* and for tickets, visit FusedMuseEnsemble.com/edge-of-shelter.

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BY ANDREW HINDERAKER
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KNIGHT at the movies

BY RICHARD KNIGHT, JR.

Loving; Lazy Eye

Quiet storms

Loving (the story of Richard and Mildred Loving, the interracial couple whose marriage led to the end of anti-miscegenation laws in the United States in 1967) and **Lazy Eye** (about a onetime gay couple hooking up 15 years after their first parting) are both superb examples of the quiet, contemplative romantic dramas that announce the arrival of awards season at the movies. Whether these two excellent films will end up in the winner's circle remains to be seen, but cast your vote in their direction this weekend at the Cineplex and online.

Jeff Nichols, writer-director of 2012's *Mud*, is back in familiar territory in the Deep South with *Loving*. As in that critically acclaimed drama, the natural beauty of the rural locations (this time in Virginia) become an integral part of the plot. The romance of Richard Loving (Joel Edgerton), a white auto mechanic, and his Black girlfriend, Mildred Jeter (Ruth Negga), isn't considered all that unusual when we first encounter them in 1958. Living together, and expecting their first child, the couple goes about their simple lives amidst their lush surroundings.

However, when the duo legally weds in the nearby District of Columbia, they find themselves under arrest after returning to Virginia. Although the Lovings escape conviction, they do so only on the understanding that they must leave the state and not return for 25 years. Separated from family and the bucolic countryside they adore, the couple complies, having three children in the ensuing years. But after their eldest son is hit by a car, Mildred, who hates city life, decides that returning to Virginia is worth the risks. Once back home, Mildred enlists legal help who eventually take their case all the way to the Supreme Court.

Unlike movies about other landmark cases, Nichols keeps the story out of the courtroom and focused on the powerful relationship of the Lovings. The duo seem to define the dignity and fortitude of quiet revolutionaries—neither wanting anything more than to be treated with the same respect and legal status as their countrymen. The Australian Edgerton's Richard, slack-jawed and a bit terse—although clearly under the spell of his Mildred—has become an expert at playing these open-mouthed, nearly mute characters with an underlying sweetness.



Loving's Ruth Negga and Joel Edgerton.

Negga is a wonder as the quiet storm at the center of the film, conveying much of her performance through her amazing eyes that telegraphs enormous strength.

Although the acting is nearly enough in this unfussy, straight-forward film that artfully captures the tone of the relationship and the events leading to the landmark decision, *Loving* could have used a bit more juice. The occasional conflicts are hinted at between the couple but they disappear as quickly as they arise, and I don't think it wouldn't have damaged the integrity of the characters to have developed those aspects further. However, the Lovings' struggle for marriage equality obviously will resonate very strongly with *Our People*, and their courageous stance is respectfully played out in this powerful movie.

Writer-director Tim Kirkman's *Lazy Eye* is also performance-driven, quietly powerful and palpably sexy, although it's filled to the brim with dialogue—tons of it. Nearly from the moment graphic artist Dean (Lucas Near-Verbrughe) meets ex-boyfriend Alex (Aaron Costa Ganis)—whom he hasn't seen or heard from in 15 years—the two talk and talk and talk. That is, they converse in between bouts of hot love-making all over the vacation house in the blazing hot California desert. During the course of

this decidedly lusty weekend, the two men re-examine their one-time promising relationship and, between all the sexy times, contemplate a reconciliation.

Kirkman, who made the delicately wrought *Loggerheads* in 2004 (and should make more movies), has a rare gift for writing dialogue that is at once natural-sounding and intimate, yet a touch theatrical. It's rare for me to sit still for a two-hander (a project with two actors)—they always seem to be lacking in some crucial area. But Kirkman's *Lazy Eye* is the exception and it's a pleasure to follow these two characters (and the marvelous actors playing them) as they contemplate the intricacies of what might have been—and what might still be.

Loving is in theaters, while *Lazy Eye* is available VOD; for the latter, visit <http://lazyeyemovie.com>.

Queer shorts

Pride Films and Plays (PFP) is presenting the fourth edition of its Queer Bits Fall Film Festival on Sunday, Nov. 13, at The Public House Theatre, 3914 N. Clark St., at 7 p.m. The fest presents eight queer-themed shorts—all making their Chicago debuts—in a variety of genres. A brief talkback with filmmakers Dan Pal and Brittany Alstot will follow. <https://www.facebook.com/events/1106155292767605/>

Upcoming movie calendar

Highlights from films (alphabetized by date) opening in Chicago, Nov. 11 and 18 (with some descriptions coming from studio press materials):

Arrival (Nov. 11)—A linguistics professor (Amy Adams) leads a team of investigators when huge spaceships touch down in 12 locations around the world. As global war threatens, the professor frantically desperately tries to communicate with the extraterrestrial visitors and learn their true intentions.

The Eagle Huntress (Nov. 11)—Director Otto Bell's feminist documentary focuses on Aisholpan, a 13-year-old girl who trains to become the first female in 12 generations of her Kazakh family to become an eagle hunter, and rises to the pinnacle of a tradition that has been handed down from father to son for centuries. While there are many old Kazakh eagle hunters who

vehemently reject the idea of any female taking part in their ancient tradition, Aisholpan's father, Nurgaiv, believes that a girl can do anything a boy can, as long as she's determined.

Lazy Eye (Nov. 11)—See details above.

Loving (Nov. 11)—See details above.

Shut In (Nov. 11)—A psychological horror story features Naomi Watts as a child psychologist living in isolation in rural New England following the death of her husband in a car accident that also injures her 18-year-old stepson, who is bedridden in a catatonic state. When a young patient goes missing, Watts becomes convinced that she and her stepson are being haunted.

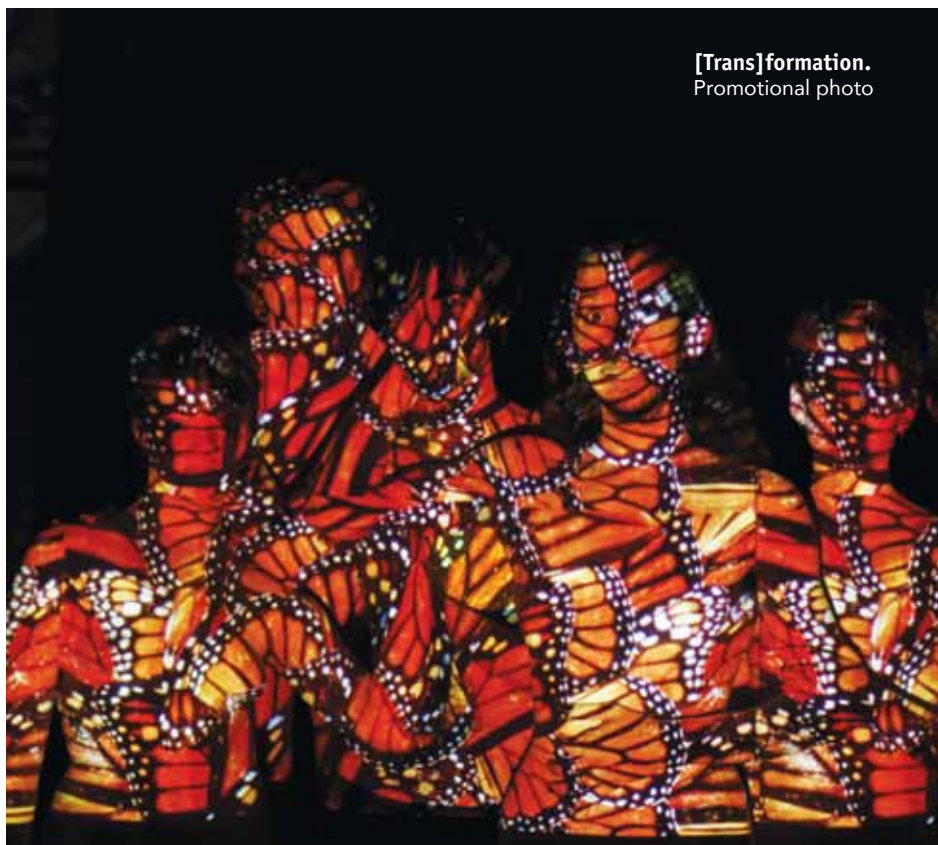
Billy Lynn's Long Halftime Walk (Nov. 18)—Ang Lee, Oscar-winning director of *Brokeback Mountain*, returns with this inspirational story. Nineteen-year-old private Billy Lynn (Joe Alwyn), along with his fellow soldiers in Bravo Squad, becomes a hero after a harrowing Iraq battle and is brought home temporarily for a victory tour. Through flashbacks, culminating at the spectacular halftime show of the Thanksgiving Day football game, what really happened to the squad is revealed, contrasting the realities of the war with America's perceptions. The movie's based on the Ben Fountain novel.

The Edge of Seventeen (Nov. 18)—Everyone knows that growing up is hard, and life is no easier for high school junior Nadine (Hailee Steinfeld), who is already at peak awkwardness when her all-star older brother Darian (Blake Jenner) starts dating her best friend, Krista (Haley Lu Richardson). All at once, Nadine feels more alone than ever, until an unexpected friendship with a thoughtful teen (Hayden Szeto) gives her a glimmer of hope that things just might not be so terrible after all.

Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them (Nov. 18)—The year is 1926, and Newt Scamander (Eddie Redmayne) has just completed a global excursion to find and document an extraordinary array of magical creatures. Arriving in New York for a brief stopover, he might have come and gone without incident, were it not for a No-Maj (American for Muggle) named Jacob, a misplaced magical case and the escape of some of Newt's fantastic beasts, which could spell trouble for both the wizarding and No-Maj worlds.



Aaron Costa Ganis (left) and Lucas Near-Verbrughe in *Lazy Eye*.



[Trans]formation.
Promotional photo

'[Trans]formation' Nov. 17-Dec. 17

Nothing Without a Company and The Living Canvas are presenting the world premiere of [Trans]formation, devised by Ronen Kohn, Darling Squire, Avi Roque, Kevin Sparrow and Gaby Labotka, with Labotka directing.

[Trans]formation is devised entirely from the works of, and performed by, transgender, genderqueer, intersex and non-binary artists. Designed and directed in the style of The Living Canvas, nude performers aim to embody the expressive power and diversity of the human form clothed by projections to reveal, instead of conceal, every body's possibility. [Trans]formation utilizes text, dance, movement, music and the textures of projections to explore the naked truth of gender identity.

The show runs from Nov. 17-Dec. 17 at The Vault at Collaboracion Studios in the Flat Iron Arts Building, 1579 N. Milwaukee Ave.

Previews will take place Nov. 15-16 at 8 p.m. Regular performances run on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m., and Sundays at 7 p.m.

Tickets are available at <http://bit.ly/2dcUg0J>.

Jillian Michaels in Waukegan Nov. 17

Lifestyle/exercise guru Jillian Michaels is returning to the road with her brand new show "An Evening with Jillian."

The 33-city tour kicks off on in Seattle on Oct. 20 and will hit major U.S. markets, including Los Angeles, Dallas, Atlanta, New York, Boston and Washington, D.C.

In Illinois, Michaels will stop at Waukegan's Genesee Theatre on Thursday, Nov. 17.

See JillianMichaelsLive.com.

Windy City Times publishes LGBT visitors' guide to Chicago, Illinois

Visitors to Chicago have a new guide to help navigate LGBTQ and mainstream events and places to see: The OUT! Guide: Chicago's LGBTQ Visitor's Guide is now available.

The 124-page guide, published by Windy City Times, includes a section on things to do outside of the city, from the Shawnee National Forest to Starved Rock State Park and Springfield. The rest of the guide focuses on Chicago and its suburbs, with hundreds of attractions, museums, art galleries, architectural locations, theaters, dance companies, restaurants, music

venues, LGBT clubs and parties, sports leagues, bookstores, events and more listed. There's also a quick reference to travel and accommodations, and a guide to the city's many neighborhoods.

While a lot of the LGBTQ community is concentrated on the city's North Side, especially in Boystown, Lakeview and Andersonville, the guide is careful to provide things to do across the city and suburbs, from Pullman, Little Village, Bridgeport and Hyde Park to Humboldt Park, Oak Park and Evanston. And the traditional downtown tourist attractions are also included, such as Millennium Park, the Art Institute and Navy Pier.

The guide will be distributed throughout Illinois and in neighboring states, and will be available as a free download on the Windy City Times website at the link: <http://www.windy-citymediagroup.com/pdf/outchicagolgbtvisitorguidelw.pdf>.

U.S. visitors can also request a free copy to be mailed to them, on a limited basis, by emailing editor@windycitymediagroup.com with the full name and mailing address for the copy to be mailed.

Museum to present two AIDS exhibitions

HIV/AIDS is the subject of two of three new exhibitions that will be spotlighted Friday, Nov. 18, 6-8 p.m., at the International Museum of Surgical Science, 1524 N. Lake Shore Dr.

"Affinity in the Tall Grasses of California" features artist Whit Forrester, who documents the workings of medical cannabis farms in the Golden State. A number of the photographs presented in this exhibition were shot at an LGBTQ-owned and -operated farm upstate. It runs through Feb. 26, 2017.

"The Screening Room" focuses on screenings in its art galleries that address the impact of HIV/AIDS on women and communities of color. Video art produced at the height of the AIDS crisis include Ellen Spiro's (In)Visible Women and Marlon Riggs' No Regrets. Marking HIV/AIDS Awareness Month, this exhibition runs through Friday, Dec. 30.

Also, for the 2016 Day With(out) Art (Dec. 1), Visual AIDS presents Compulsive Practice, a video compilation of compulsive, daily and habitual practices by nine artists and activists who live with their cameras as one way to manage, reflect upon and change how HIV/AIDS affects them.

The other new exhibition is "Wound Healing: Ancient Wisdom, Modern Technology."

The reception is free and open to the public.

See <https://imss.org/>.

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Michael Buble.
Photo by Evaan Kheraj



MUSIC

Michael Buble: Love is love is love

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

"You know what I'll be Googling tonight: Bubl , gay, queer, all that stuff," said Michael Bubl  one recent afternoon, after being informed that said search terms render colorful results.

All you lovers, though, needn't search beyond the dreamy crooner's recently released album, *Nobody But Me*, and its 10 feel-good tunes, including several new originals and reimagined classics gleaned from the *Great American Songbook*.

Love, naturally, is featured prominently on Bubl 's ninth studio album, as well as in our recent chat, during which the affable ally spoke about the "joy" the LGBT community has brought him and the importance of standing up for queer issues. And no, not solely because he's a staunch LGBT-rights advocate—when his kids grow up and read this interview, he says it's important to him that they feel "proud."

Windy City Times: In 2010, you performed on a stage you deemed "phallic" because it resembled a penis. Then, a gay man threw you his keys, and you were not shy about bending over and picking them up.

Michael Bubl : [Laughs] I remember! That was a guy named Paul O'Grady, and he's very famous in the UK. He does an act where he dresses up as a woman, who is also very famous, almost like Dame Edna. He's a sweetie pie. I was so happy that he did that that night because it just gave me so much.

WCT: How would you describe the affection for you from the gay community?

MB: The truth is, I don't think I could've given them as much joy as they've given me. I'm in a business where, as you can imagine, I'm surrounded by the gay community. I mean, that's just my life. I'm an artist, and so I'm surrounded by other artists. And everyone from my hair stylist who lives with me on the road to (my stylist) Jeff Kim, who puts me in my suits every day—I mean, god, the question isn't who's gay? The question is, who isn't? [Laughs] And, by the way, the ones that seem the most macho, they're probably gay.

WCT: Now would be a good time to talk about how your wife, Luisana Lopilato, thought you were gay when she first met you.

MB: [Laughs] Yes, she walked in this room with a man, and the man was so good looking that he made Brad Pitt look dumpy, so I assumed they were together. I naturally assumed that this was her boyfriend or her husband, so I refused to hit on her. And listen, it didn't help that she didn't speak English either at the time. Not a word. But the more I drank that night, the more brazen I got about trying to find out what the situation was between them.

Finally, after two hours—and I don't know how many shots and glasses of whiskey—I finally said, (effects a drunk slur) "You guys are such a beautiful couple," and he said, "We're not together." He said, "She came because she likes you." And at the same time, she was on the phone texting her mom saying, "Oh my god, Michael Bubl  is all over my friend. He's so gay."

WCT: She knows you're straight now, right?

MB: [Laughs] I assume so. I mean, after the kids. Also, I assume she thinks I'm not gay when every night I say, "Mmmmm?!" and she says, "No, I have a headache."

WCT: You recently donated items that were auctioned off to benefit the Stonewall National Monument.

MB: To be honest, I'm doing more because of [my publicist] Liz Rosenberg. There's something I have in the works. There's the Harvey Milk High School that she was talking about here in New York, and I want to help there too. Listen, I love being able to spout words, but sometimes you gotta put your money where your mouth is. [Rosenberg] said, "Should I call your manager to find out if he thinks it's OK?" So she called my manager and my manager said, "Why are you asking me? Of course!"

WCT: How long before there was a pic of you suggestively eating corn on the cob did you become aware of your gay following?

MB: [Laughs] I think it was hours.

WCT: Just hours?

MB: Hours! You know, that day I took my godson, my best friend and his wife to Disneyland, and I was looking after him because he's a little guy. He's 4 years old and he had this corn, and butter was everywhere. So, I was trying to help him with napkins, and then I grab mine and it was dripping... and my first thought was... oh god, you know what I mean.

It was just the worst timing ever. The truth is, I had fun with it. There are so many terrible things you could do to land in the press or go viral with, and if that's the worst thing, then you know what, I just gotta laugh at myself.

WCT: But seriously: When did you know you had a gay following?

MB: Listen, I'm not Madonna. I don't look out and see thousands of gay couples out at the shows, but even at the start, man, when I played the Blue Note [a jazz club in Greenwich Village, New York City]. I'll tell you the honest truth: I played the Blue Note 16 years ago, and the other night I had a show there, and I'm still close with one of the first fans I ever had in America. Forget about the world. In America. And his name is Johnny Blue Note, and he's about 6-foot-5, a New Yorker with a huge personality, and he's beautiful. I got sentimental the other night. I did a big radio show to open up the record, and I looked into this little, intimate club, and there was Johnny Blue Note. And I got sentimental. I talked about (him) during the show.

So, I think from the very start there was Johnny. That was my first ever gig, and one of my greatest fans and harshest critics was Johnny. He was my foray into my relationship with the gay community and me as an entertainer. Even before my music director was Alan Chang, there was Bryant Olender and Bryant is this really smart, funny, talented, slutty, very gay musical director.

WCT: You say you're no Madonna, but still, you've performed with several gay icons: Barbra Streisand, Mariah Carey, Kylie Minogue...

MB: Kylie Minogue, yes. I sang with her, and actually, I was supposed to see her in Vancouver. She was going to come over and have tea with me, but I had to fly to Europe. She had been there and was going to come over, because I happened to sing with her on a Rod Stewart special and we really got on and liked each other, so I was just gonna hang out with her literally weeks ago.

And Elton John is somebody I've gotten to know. I love him very much. Obviously, we don't have to talk about how talented he is—we know how talented he is. He's also really warm and effusive with me, and I just saw him in Vegas. I went backstage and gave him a big hug. He was so happy, and he really enjoyed being there. It's funny, man, because I gotta guess that there are people out there who are gay in this business but won't tell anyone.

WCT: Have you met these closeted stars?

MB: Yeah, I meet them and I get the impression. And listen, I'm not gonna be the guy who outs the person, but it always made me wonder: "Why?" I understand if they are afraid, or they don't want to tell their parents, but the fact that it could be a question within this business of hurting your business is just mind-blowing to me.

WCT: Do any of them confide in you?

MB: No. I mean, I have the worst gaydar ever. I really do have the worst gay-dar. I could be hanging with somebody and my friends will be like, "Michael, he was hitting on you hard," and I'm like, "What are you talking about—he's just a really nice guy!" Sometimes I don't pick up the shit people are puttin' down.

WCT: If a gay couple asked you to sing any of the songs off this new album at their wedding, which would you sing and why?

MB: Aww. I think maybe "The Very Thought of You." And to be honest with you, man: I don't care if it's a gay or a straight or a black or a poor wedding—love is love. And I think that would be a really beautiful, romantic first dance.

WCT: In the past, you've man-crushed on Blake Shelton and One Direction's Niall Horan. Who are you currently man-crushing on?

MB: That's a good question. God, you wanna hear who I'm man-crushing on? There's a couple of them. My number-one man crush is probably John Oliver [host of HBO's *Last Week*

Tonight with John Oliver]. The other is [The Daily Show host] Trevor Noah. Goddamn—what a stunning South African man.

You know what I love, man? I love that they're self-deprecating and funny, and I know they're empathetic because their point of view tells me that. Obviously, they're liberal, progressive, self-confident; they have a great sense of humor. I just love that. [American astrophysicist] Neil deGrasse Tyson too. And god, the late [Anglo-American author and essayist] Christopher Hitchens. If you can man crush on a dead guy, I am man-crushin' on a dead guy. [Linguist and philosopher] Noam Chomsky, I love. I'm trying to think of people I spend most of my evenings with, because this is who I spend most of my evenings with. Oh, Lawrence Krauss, the greatest astrophysicist. Honestly, their intelligence and skill at orating just ... I mean, I'm wet.

WCT: Is it true that your Uncle Frank and Uncle Mike, who have been together for over 40 years, taught you acceptance and open-mindedness?

MB: With or without them, the truth is, my father and my mother were so progressive, and I'm so lucky that my father just made it very simple. He just said, "It's nature. A man can love a man and a woman can love a woman, and this doesn't just happen with human beings—it's science. It happens in nature. It happens with almost every animal." Having two boys of my own who I love more than I'll ever love myself, I can't tell you how crushing it would be if they couldn't feel that they could tell their father that they were gay—or different in any way. To me, [because of them], it just became a much bigger issue.

WCT: If one of your sons were to come out to you, how might you respond?

MB: With nothing but love. And I'm not saying that to you because it's you or the magazine. It's because I love them, man. I love them so much that I just want them to be happy. My goal in life is to make them beautiful, happy human beings, and if that's who they are—because I'm killed, just devastated, when I hear people saying they "choose." "Choose?" What are you fucking talking about? You don't choose. It isn't a choice. It is genetic.

And I understand some people have an issue with the whole marriage thing and the sanctity of this word "marriage." I mean, I don't get it, but I can choose to listen to their point and hear it. I don't agree with it. I always joke, everyone jokes: Why can't gay people be just as miserable as straight people who are married? But listen to me, we are in a world—a dangerous world—right now, and if you're not standing up against intolerance, then you're for it. God, I sounded like George W. fucking Bush right there, holy shit. "If you're not with us, you're against us!"

WCT: As an ally with a massive platform, it's important for you to say that for this movement to move forward.

MB: I agree. And you know what? I think people are so afraid of losing fans.

WCT: Are you afraid of that?

MB: No, no. I'm not. Because you know what, years from now, when my kids grow up and they read this, they're going to be proud of their father because their father was on the right side of the line.

There are a lot of people, and time does this, who are going to be severely embarrassed for their bias and intolerance. And they're going to have to live with that; that's going to be their legacy. I refuse to have that as part of my legacy.

Chris Azzopardi is the editor of Q Syndicate, the international LGBT wire service. He can proudly say Mariah Carey once called him a "daaahhhling." Reach him via his website at www.chris-azzopardi.com and on Twitter (@chrisazzopardi).

[Editor's note: After the interview, Buble and wife Luisana Lopilato revealed on Facebook that their 3-year-old son, Noah, was recently diagnosed with cancer. He is being treated in the United States.]

PODCASTS

Black queer curiosity: Collective Postloudness takes on humanity

BY LIZ BAUDLER

A high-tech co-working space nestled into Elston Avenue, where Cards Against Humanity has offices, might seem as an unlikely home for Postloudness, a podcast collective that elevates Black and queer voices. Yet after a listen to any of the collective's shows, it's clear why the eclectic, futuristic area works for the founders and hosts.

"If I think about every Postloudness offering, it's kind of like, entertainment through curiosity," said James T. Green, Postloudness co-founder and co-host of the show OpenEnded. "Every single show has their rabbit holes that they dig into. It's entertaining because you're listening to people really drill down about what they're passionate about talking about, whether it's robots or AI, or a television show, or whether it's unlearning social narratives of Blackness and womanhood. They do it in such an entertainingly curious way and then, at the end, you're scratching your head either having an answer to something you're thinking about, or looking at something differently. Which I think is beautiful. We're queer brown folk, but also we have a passionate curiosity about certain things."

"We just go into deep dives about things we really enjoy," added cofounder Cher Vincent. Both she and Green were podcast aficionados before starting OpenEnded, their first show.

"It's escapism," Green said about the podcast listening experience. "A lot of times when you're listening, you're doing very intimate activities. Like washing the dishes, in the shower—you're literally naked, listening to someone else's voice. And in all these instances, there's no visual aspect, it allows for yourself to move into different space and have a companion, and you feel connected."

According to Green, in the last few years a variety of technological factors have converged to increase podcast's popularity. Mobile networks have become faster, making streaming possible. Device manufacturers like Apple have podcast players as standard apps, a development which coincided with the release of the hit podcast "Serial."

Podcasts are also easier to produce than the average video. "Because the threshold is not as high, there's more room for experimentation," Vincent said. "There's not a lot of overhead. When we started Open Ended our first episode was literally me and James hovering over his laptop under a scarf, and the microphone we had was his headphone set."

Postloudness was born because Vincent and Green found themselves at a crossroads. She was between jobs: He was freelancing. They'd been working on OpenEnded for a while, but as Vincent said, "While one podcast is good, six others are even better." The two had always wanted to start a production company, and found themselves awash in potential talent. "People who I would listen to even if they weren't my friends," said Vincent, with a laugh.

Many of these friends were already asking them for advice and even lessons in podcasting. Alex Cox, a senior producer at Cards Against Humanity, saw the Postloudness logo—rescued from a music blog Vincent had tried to begin a few years ago—and wanted to know more. She ended up becoming crucial to the fledgling collective, finding them space with Cards Against Humanity and hosting two shows on the network.

As listeners, Green and Vincent had always noticed the lack of diverse voices in the podcast world. "We listened to a lot of cis white

men, and it's this kind of feeling of like, you're letting a lot of them into your personal space and your subconscious," Green remembered.

"There's a void," Vincent said. "We wanted to be the collective we wanted to see in the world, hear voices we hadn't heard."

Roughly a quarter of Postloudness's hosts are queer, and about half are people of color: Green is both. While there are other minority podcast collectives—Green mentioned being inspired by This Week in Blackness—he feels it's important for multiple narratives to exist. "There's so many folk who are out here doing this, but like, our taste is different," Green said. "We love narrative focused stuff, or like two people nerding out about a topic stuff. That's our taste. There's different tastes, and we're just another taste."

Many of Postloudness' shows are covertly educational. "You can educate people without knowing you're educating them," said Vincent. "It's like when kids don't want to eat vegetables, but you hide it in their food." She highlighted Devil's Avocado, a show about personal finance hosted by Sharlene King and Molly Marshall. "No one ever wants to talk about money, but it's so fucking important," Vincent said. "You listen to the show and it's funny, because Molly and Sharlene are hilarious. But you also learn a bunch of shit."

Refresh, a tech podcast, has a unique opportunity to speak to a broad audience. "The majority of our audience there is cis white men," Green said. "A part of me is happy that that's the case, because we talk about heavily intersectional issues with technology, so it's like, if we can make more white men woke, then ... if that happens, so be it."

Green and Vincent let cohosts find each other. "Every single show where there's a cohost situation, they are friends IRL," Green said. Most shows do in fact have a loose script, made completely invisible by cohost rapport. "Because of this natural relationship, it sounds unscripted, which is I think the nice sweet spot we found ourselves in with a lot of these shows," said Vincent.

Occasionally it's challenging to simultaneously maintain both a sense of friendship and audience. "I try to make it so they're part of the conversation," Vincent said about her listeners. "We're laughing a lot, but I don't want to ever make it feel we're laughing in the corner over here. I want you to laugh along with us. So many [shows] are shows with two white guys talking about something, and it's like, this is not interesting to me."

Because Postloudness is work by underrepresented voices, production value is foremost to Green. "There's always the unconscious bias that appears where you hear of something that's geared towards the 'other,'" said Green. "When you hear, 'Oh yeah, there's a podcast collective that features women of color and queer-identified hosts,' there's always that unconscious bias, thanks to white supremacy, that this is, in fact, going to be lesser. It's going to sound hollow, it's going to be five people huddled around a mic, it's not tightly edited, the shows are three hours long. And then you hear [Postloudness] and no, this is NPR quality. We're going to be here and you're going to take us very seriously, and the only critique you're going to have is if we don't craft something interesting. Because you can't knock us on us doing the craft well."

Postloudness is open to expanding, particularly since Green is soon moving out of Chicago to work as a producer with MTV News, and he and Vincent want to see the collective reach



James T. Green and Cher Vincent.

Photo courtesy of Postloudness

further. "Literally the process is email us, the three of us take a listen, and if it we're into it, like we would want to subscribe immediately, we'll reach out, and at least have a conversation," Green said.

"It's a learning collective," said Vincent. "We don't just want to hold the keys to the kingdom. We want to share it, we want to share what we know with you to make you great. Because if you're great, we're all great."

"There's this idea that when you help out the general public versus just focusing on superstars, the medium as a whole gets better,"

Green said. "Because you're helping out people who are new to something, they become better and better and better, then they go on and help other people become better and better and better. That brings up the whole industry of podcasting up."

Check out all of Postloudness at Postloudness.com. Postloudness will also be part of the Chicago Podcast Festival Nov. 17-19, taking place at venues all around Chicago. Learn more at <http://chicagopodcastfestival.org/>.

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Elizabeth Schwartz.
Photo by Tico Torres

Civil-rights attorney discusses new book, career, upcoming event

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

Elizabeth Schwartz has been practicing law for almost 20 years in Miami Beach, Florida, and recently wrote a book, *Before I Do: A Legal Guide to Marriage, Gay and Otherwise*.

Schwartz is a South Florida native and grew up in Hollywood, Florida, before heading off to college. She's the youngest of six kids in what she calls a real-life Brady Bunch blended family. Schwartz received her B.A. in communications from the University of Pennsylvania and graduated *cum laude* from The University of Miami School of Law.

"In undergrad, I remember marching in the Penn gay pride parade even when I had a boyfriend," said Schwartz. "I got it politically before I got it personally. Like so many, I was into all kinds of activism in college, with a particular focus on racial and reproductive justice."

Schwartz explained that she decided to become a lawyer when she began to note many people who affected social change were lawyers.

"As it turns out, I've indeed been able to participate in some landmark litigation work to provide crucial protections to the LGBT community including the fights for fair access to adoption, marriage and birth certificates," said Schwartz. "But with all the victories celebrated, what haunts me are all those for whom these legal protections weren't enough or didn't come soon enough, like the many children who have lost access to their beloved parents, maybe because those parents were non-biological mothers who didn't get to protect their rights through an adoption or simply because they were gay and deemed unfit to parent. I have so many of those awful cases in my archives and in my heart."

The book was spearheaded by Schwartz's editor, who also teaches queer studies.

"She was mortified by all the young LGBT

kids who would casually announce their intentions to wed without much forethought," said Schwartz. "She realized there needs to be a legal guide to marriage for all those who are just joining the institution. She found her way to me in part because my mantra in my talks across the country has been that folks really need to look before they leap. Of course straight folks have been just as impulsive and it seems there is plenty of ignorance to go around, hence the 'otherwise' part. This book truly is for all couples who have tied the knot or are considering it."

In the first chapter of her book, Schwartz talks about her own conflicted feelings about marriage. Schwartz and her wife, Miami Herald journalist and award-winning fiction author Lydia Martin, came to the conclusion that after 11 years together they were, as she says, in it to win it.

Martin first came to Schwartz's attention through her dad. He would cut out Martin's articles as examples of good writing and great content, and Schwartz said when they met each other she fell in love with Martin's "big brain and heart."

"Once the *Windsor* decision came down from the [U.S. Supreme Court], the potential advantages of marrying began to outweigh the risks," said Schwartz. "In 2013, we each had a parent who was both in failing health and for whom seeing us married conveyed a sense of safety and stability that was very meaningful to them. So while neither of us felt marriage was something we needed to evidence our commitment, we understood that it had a different meaning for those particular parents, both of whom have passed away since."

"There also were practical reasons, my wife had spent her whole life working for a newspaper whose parent company was based in California and if I wanted to get her pension at her death, we'd have needed to be married. She

quit that newspaper to pursue a fiction career and had guilt about leaving that full-time job to take this leap of faith into a new creative realm. I wanted her to have the greatest sense of safety possible and so marrying her seemed like a way to convey—loud and clear—this was an investment I was committed to. So I talked to my accountant about it and then once I got her blessing, we tied the knot in a teensy ceremony in a Bennington, Vermont, synagogue with just a few family members in attendance."

The book also features cameo appearances by other individuals and an afterword by LGBT activist/famed plaintiff Jim Obergefell.

Schwartz explained that she included these varied voices because she wanted real life stories to illustrate the legal information in the book.

"Plus I know what I know and what I don't know," said Schwartz. "So it was important to include submissions from people with different expertise like elder law, tax planning, military law, clinical psychology and more."

As for how Obergefell came to write the afterword, Schwartz noted that she met him when he was honored by SAGE—Services and Advocacy for GLBT Elders (where she serves as co-chair of the national board) at their 2015 Gala in New York City.

"I was impressed with what a gentle, smart, thoughtful and committed man he is; and how he took the great personal tragedy of losing his husband as a catalyst to fight for lasting change, subjecting himself to a grueling court process and living his life in the public eye," said Schwartz. "We thought his closing out the book with a lens on love and the future would be perfect poetry. Turns out this 'accidental activist' is a darn good writer. I'm immensely

grateful for his taking the time to contribute."

Over her 20-plus years of LGBT activism, Schwartz has received numerous honors and is affiliated with many organizations. The award that stands out to her the most is the one she received from the National LGBTQ Task Force in 2012.

"I have so much respect for the Task Force's work both at a national level and in local communities like Miami where the organization's roots run deep," said Schwartz. "It's the award named in the memory of a hero and friend, Eddy McIntrye, whose legacy of community service is tremendous. Much of the work I do is under the radar and not at all glamorous, so to have a room of 900 people show appreciation was incredibly inspiring and humbling."

When not working, Schwartz squeezes in some yoga and Soul Cycle.

"I also hang out with our doggie Gracie Kenisha de la Caridad, whose demands for belly rubs are a time-consuming delight," said Schwartz.

Schwartz will be in Chicago for a book signing and Q&A on Wed., Nov. 16, at the Center on Halsted's Hoover-Leppen Theater, 7-8 p.m. The event has a \$5 suggested donation and will include light refreshments and drinks. The sponsors have underwritten copies of the book for the first 30 people to RSVP.

As for what Schwartz wants readers to take away from the book, it's "that there are numerous legal consequences of marrying and since the right to marry does not create an obligation to marry, get informed because no one likes unwanted surprises."

See ElizabethSchwartz.com/beforeido/ for more information.

To register for the event, visit CenterOnHalsted.org/newevents-details.cfm?ID=12850.



Doug Wright.
PR photo

'Conversation with Doug Wright' Nov. 19

About Face Theatre (AFT) will host A Conversation with Doug Wright, playwright of the Tony Award and Pulitzer Prize-winning play *I Am My Own Wife* and the Broadway-bound musical *War Paint*.

Moderated the Chicago Tribune's chief theater critic Chris Jones, this intimate Q&A will be held Saturday, Nov. 19, at 12:30 p.m. at The Eldis Neeson Theatre at the Museum of Contemporary Art, 220 E. Chicago Ave. in Chicago.

Traditionally staged as a one-person play performed by a male actor, Artistic Director Andrew Volkoff's reimagining of *I Am My Own Wife* features transgender actress Delia Kropp with three additional actors: AFT Artistic Associate Scott Duff, Ninos Baba and Matt Holzfeind.

Tickets are currently available at AboutFaceTheatre.com (suggested donation of \$15).

Cyndi Lauper part of Nov. 12 veterans' concert

"America Salutes You"—a concert honoring those who serve in the military, veterans, and their families—will take place Saturday, Nov. 12, at 8 p.m. at the Rosemont Theater.

The event is slated to include singers Cyndi Lauper, Gavin DeGraw, country-music legend Wanda Jackson, Ricky Skaggs, gospel's CeCe Winans and others. The national anthem will be performed by Chicago's Jim Cornelison, the tenor who sings at Chicago Blackhawks home games. Comedian Tom Dreesen will emcee the concert and celebrity presenters include actor David Eigenberg (Chicago Fire).

See AmericaSalutesYou.org.

Lakeside Pride tribute to Chicago Nov. 13

Lakeside Pride Music Ensembles' yearlong tribute to the city continues Sunday, Nov. 13, 3-5 p.m., with "A Salute to Chicago" at the Chicago Cultural Center, 78 E. Washington St.

The concert will be performed under the Louis Tiffany stained-glass dome in the Preston Bradley Hall at the center, and will feature music inspired by the Chicago and its history. Musical selections to include pieces named for our city: Johan de Meij's *Windy City Overture*, Sousa's *Belle of Chicago* and music from Chicago—both the Broadway musical and the band of the same name—among other songs.

Tickets are \$19.99 each; visit red.vendini.com or see "A Salute to Chicago, presented by Calan Corporation" on Facebook.

Cubs capture World Series title; city celebrates

BY ROSS FORMAN

Kris Bryant fielded a slow-rolling ground ball near third base with two outs in the bottom of the 10th inning Nov. 2, then whipped it across the field to first baseman Anthony Rizzo, retiring a speedy runner for the Cleveland Indians.

Rizzo threw his arms in the air in celebration. So too did the entire city of Chicago—and the rest of Cubs nation.

The Cubs ended a 108-year draught, defeating the host Indians to capture the deciding game seven of the World Series.

Chicago won, 8-7.

The emotional, nail-biting, rain-delayed game set off a wild party around Wrigley Field, along Halsted Street in nearby Boystown, and around the city and suburbs.

It happened, finally.

"It's great to see the Cubs get off the schneid [winless, scoreless or hitless] and give Chicago its second World Series win of the millennium," said Chicago sportswriter Christina Kahrl, who worked locally into the wee hours of the morning while the city went wild in celebration. "With all due credit to the [White] Sox, Blackhawks, Bulls and even the 1985 Bears, this is the biggest deal in Chicago sports history EVER."

Chicagoans started planning for the party during the game, turning the streets around Wrigley Field in Lakeview into a street party waiting to explode. Rizzo's catch set off a party scene the city had never witnessed. And thanks to social media, tens or maybe hundreds of thousands of Chicagoans shared their emotions for the world, many people showing the scene via Facebook Live.

"The Cubs, winning [the World Series] after 108 years, is truly a special sports moment," said Kirk Walker, assistant softball coach at UCLA, who was texting back and forth during the final two innings with openly gay former major leaguer Billy Bean.

"Quite possibly, never in Chicago history, has there been such a moment of unity, relief, jubilation and exaltation," said Steve Moran of Chicago. "Being at Wrigley Field minutes after the win and reveling in the joy of a long-awaited victory was one of those magical moments you'll recall until the end of your days."

Former Chicago resident Alex LaCasse, who now lives in Seattle, said hours after the victory that the win is "so much more about the people of Chicago, and I think the Cubs players would agree. Chicago is one of the greatest cities in the world and these players, this team, exemplifies that."

LaCasse added, "That Game 7 was like nothing I've seen. I think Chicago fans were prepared for the worst, but were lifted up by the spirit of the city. Chicago holds such a special place in my heart; I know this win means so much to so many people."

Laura Ricketts, a 2013 inductee into the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame, is co-owner of the team. The Cubs team is even an inductee to the Chicago-based Gay Sports Hall of Fame. Because of her involvement in the LGBT community, and support of so many LGBT causes, Wrigley Field has really grown its LGBT fan base in recent years.

Jerry Pritikin, a lifelong Cubs fan known as the Bleacher Preacher and a longtime LGBT activist, also is a Gay Sports Hall of Fame honoree. He was interviewed live on The Today Show the morning after. Pritikin only said three words, but what magical words they are: "Go Cubs Go."

"I could not be happier for the World Champion Chicago Cubs and their amazing fans," said Bean, who now works for Major League Baseball. "For so many years, they have loved their team through thick and thin.

"The Cubs inclusive message is a great example for everyone. I can [still] hear the cheering in Boystown."

Sidetrack, for instance, was as packed and fan-filled as in would be for any major LGBT event, be in Pride weekend or Market Days. Sidetrack general manager Brad Balof said that there were more than 1,100 people watching Game Seven at the popular Boystown bar.

"People were pacing, clutching their hearts and praying to anyone listening," in the final innings of the game, Balof said. "[When] it happened, the place went bananas.

"It was great to see LGBT patrons have an amazing venue to watch the games, and it was equally amazing to introduce new straight patrons to Sidetrack. Many returned for multiple games since we are a great venue that wasn't charging a cover. There was a great celebratory mood [for Game 7]. The Cubs came back from a three-to-one game deficit to win three in a row. All of us at Sidetrack are so proud of the Cubs and all they have brought to Chicago."

The Cubs also were the story throughout the playoffs at Roscoe's, D.S. Tequila, The North End, and many other spots in Boystown.

Brian Sommer, a lifelong Cubs fan who is part of the Class of 2016 inductees to the Chicago Metropolitan Sports Association (CMSA) Hall of Fame, watched Game Seven at Sidetrack with many of his CMSA softball teammates.

"[Sidetrack] was packed and everyone was either excited or nervous, depending on what was going on in the game. The crowd would cheer and throw napkins [in the air] when the



The Sidetrack crowd celebrates the Cubs World Series-clinching win. Photo courtesy of Sidetrack

Cubs did well. Many started crying when the Cubs [clinched]," Sommer said.

Tami Engelman, who plays for the Chicago Force women's football team, enjoyed the action from, oh, about 30,000 feet in the air. She was on board a Southwest Airlines flight from Las Vegas.

"To see so many people, young and old, rich and not [so rich], and every other difference you can think of, embrace this game, [this] series and all of the accomplishment of the Chicago Cubs organization added to the amazement. The city was truly brought together," with the title, she said.

Matt McGary now lives in Houston, yet reflected hours after the win on his years living in Chicago. "I've been a Cubs fan since 2003 when I moved to Chicago, [and] could hear the roar of Wrigley from where I lived. That hooked me [on the Cubs]."

Love for the Cubs was wide spread on social media, and has been throughout the playoffs.

"When I was too young to remember, my grandfather brainwashed me to be a Cubs fan, [though I] grew up in [St. Louis] Cardinals

country," Cameron Turner wrote on Facebook. "In September 2002, I got a call to come home because my grandfather was going to pass away. I got in my car and listened to the Cubs game on the radio the whole way to the hospital. I knew that's what we would talk about. When I walked into the hospital room, his first and close to last words to me were, 'Cubs won today!' He was right.

"They also won today. They won a little bit more today. This would have made his life. It has made my life."

Mark Tumiel said on Facebook that the Cubs "are not just a baseball team—they are our part of our family." He added, "They are the fabric of our friendships. They are our summers. They are the neighborhood in which so many of us grew up as adults. They are our community. They are part of what makes us who we are. I never realized this until my emotions [overflowed] tonight."

Amy Matheny said the Cubs playoff journey was an epic ride.

Brian Redar, a longtime CMSA participant, said the title was "one for the ages."



Above: Wrigley Field. Right: World Series MVP Ben Zobrist. Below right: A sea of Cubs fans swamps downtown Chicago.

Wrigley Field photo by Terri Klinsky, Zobrist photo by Peter Serocki and Cubs fans photo by Gretchen Rachel Hammond

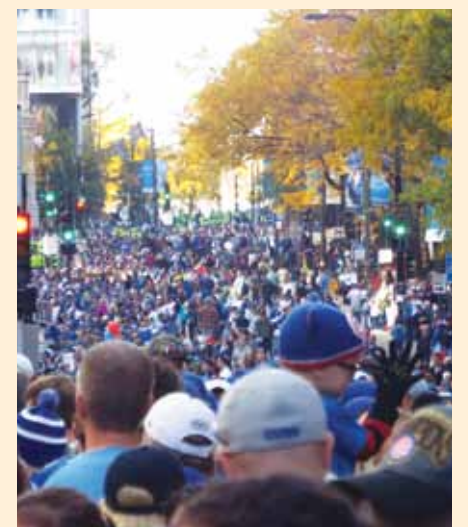
Millions gather to cheer Cubs' win

On Nov. 4, Chicago Cubs partied like it was 1908.

A sea of blue swamped the city as an estimated 5 million fans gathered to watch the World Series parade that celebrated the team's first championship since 1908.

The celebration started in Wrigley Field on the city's North Side and wound its way to Michigan Avenue downtown before culminating in Grant Park for a rally. The Chicago River was even dyed the Cubs' blue shade to mark the World Series win.

Photos courtesy of Terri Klinsky, and Peter Serocki; more images are at WindyCityMediaGroup.com



the DISH

Weekly Dining Guide in WINDY CITY TIMES

SAVOR Cafe Spiaggia

BY ANDREW DAVIS

Any foodie worth his, her or their salt (pun intended) knows of the reputation (and prices) of esteemed restaurant Spiaggia, which has entertained no less than President Barack and Michelle Obama.

However, for those who seek something more affordable while enjoying comparable rustic Italian cuisine (mostly), there's always **Cafe Spiaggia** (980 N. Michigan Ave.; SpiaggiaRestaurant/cafe), which is right next door.

Chef de Cuisine Joseph Flamm presides over a menu that's as elegant as the cafe's decor. (By the way, pray that you get Luis as your server. He's pure entertainment.)

Although crudo is an option, we started with two other interesting appetizers: farm egg and



Emilia Romagna on a plate (left) and gemelli at Cafe Spiaggia.
Photos by Andrew Davis

Emilia Romagna on a plate. The egg dish was wonderful, delicately balancing polenta, truffle and Grana Padano cheese, while I could've dined on the latter item (with gnocco fritto, Prosciutto di Parma, fonduta and balsamico) all day.

As one would expect at an Italian restaurant, there's a nice selection of pasta dishes. The gemelli comes with pine nuts, pancetta, garlic and the now-ubiquitous kale, while the gnocchi includes wild-boar ragu, Parmigiano Reggiano and basil.

Interestingly, the salad was suggested to eat after the pasta dish—but it didn't dampen our en-

thusiasm for the greenery. The wild arugula-and-chicken salad (with grapes, balsamico and Grana Padano) was solid, but the strachetti skirt steak salad (with honey crisp apples, Grana Padano, arugula, pumpkin seeds and balsamico) was a stand-out, thanks to the especially flavorful meat.

Desserts quaintly conclude the meal, with items such as the pumpkin budino and pizzelle panino (which has a vanilla bean gelato, crunchy almond chocolate and cocoa nib glaze).

So check out Cafe Spiaggia; it provides all the elegance—without spending hundreds on a meal.

nightspots the big TO-DO

OUR WEEKLY PICKS TO PLAN YOUR NIGHTLIFE CALENDAR

Twin Peaks

TWIN PEAKS

Thu., Nov. 10, 10 pm
Berlin, 954 W. Belmont Ave.
Get nostalgic with DJs Heaven Malone, Mae West, and Brock. Performances by Sadhaus (Lucky Stiff, Wanda Screw and Samantha Piscine), Ivory, Sally Marvel, and Lucy Stoolie. RSVP for reduced cover before 11 at twinpeaksparty.com.

Barlesque: God of Leather Todd Harris



Fri., Nov. 11, 9 pm
Touche,
6412 N. Clark St.
Help Mr. Chicago Leather 2016 Todd Harris raise funds (and lose clothing) for Barlesque, TPAN's annual strip-a-thon fundraiser. Clock his progress at www.barlesque.org/guest/touche-todd/.



CUBS WIN THE WORLD SERIES @ SIDETRACK

All the drama of game 7, Wed., November 2.
Photos courtesy of Sidetrack



Sidetrack Saturday Market



Sat., Nov. 12, 1-4 pm
Sidetrack
3349 N. Halsted St.
A wonderful collection of vendors. Scrumptious ready-to-eat treats and sandwiches perfect for lunch or an afternoon snack. Produce, juices, pies, cheese, preserves, confections, baked goods and more. No cover.



39TH ANNIVERSARY @ TOUCHE

Special faces at a special place, Tuesday, November 1.
Photos by Jerry Nunn

Ladies of Shakers' 2nd Anniversary 'Best Of' Show



SAT NOV 12
10 PM
Sat., Nov. 12, 10 pm
Shakers on Clark,
3160 N. Clark St.
Hosted by Angelique Munro. Performances by hot male dancer Symba with divas Marilyn Black, Savannah Westbrook, Monique Moyet and guest Edna D. Mascara. No cover.



"I don't vote with my vagina—this is bigger than that."—Susan Sarandon tells a BBC host, which begs the question—exactly how big is Susan Sarandon's vagina?

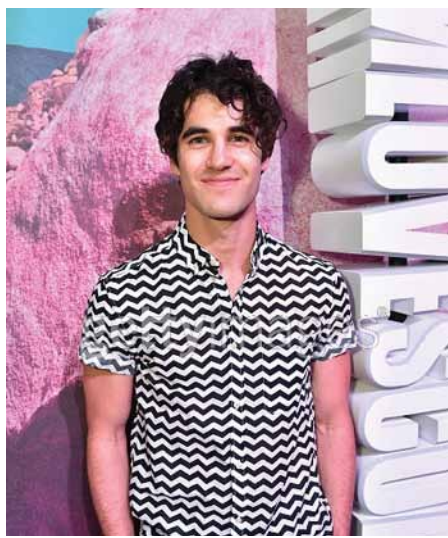
I was with **Darren Criss** the night he became a man. Let's start at the beginning. I attended the LA opening night of the national tour of Hedwig and the Angry Inch, with some trepidation. When I first saw "Hedwig" in 1999, it was at the Henry Fonda Theatre—a venue half the size of (and across the street from) the cavernous Pantages, where it is currently playing. I also wasn't sure about Darren's ability to lead this production. Yes, he played the role towards the end of the Broadway run, and yes, he's cute as a button. But I didn't know if his winning qualities would be enough to pull off this character. Also, the emails offering \$29 tickets made me think that perhaps he's not quite enough of a draw to have his name above the title.

Most of my fears were somewhat allayed. Since it was opening night, the house was packed and the energy high. The conceit behind the spiffy production values works, but the show still loses much of its magic in such a huge venue. Regarding Criss, his strong vocals let me know he could more than handle the material. But what surprised me was his ability to morph into various characters with very specific speech patterns and inflections. His delivery of surely well-rehearsed ad libs was matched by his fearlessness in embracing silent moments and letting them play out. As I told him at the after-party, he started out as a cute, talented boy, but in the course of the evening, he became a man. His performance impressed me so much, I almost didn't notice his abs during the nearly naked finale—which you can find on BillyMasters.com. I highly recommend it (and him).

We can all breathe a sigh of relief as our long, national nightmare has come to an end. Of course, I'm talking about **Finding Prince Charming**. In the last episode, Robert came clean (so to speak) with the final three suitors about his colorful past. "It's not fair for you guys to be as honest and upfront with me, and me, you know, feel scared about letting you guys in. You guys were, you know, scared about divulging things that were, you know, secrets," Robert started, with all the eloquence of someone who speaks English as a third language. "When I was in college, you know, I was struggling. So, um, I started escorting."

Dillon said Robert shouldn't let it define who he is today, and thanked him for sharing—like it was an AA meeting. Eric said, "Thank you for being so vulnerable and in the moment. It doesn't change anything." And then he pulled Robert in for a kiss, which makes me think this may not be Eric's first brush with the world's oldest profession. Brandon said he was honored that Robert trusted them so much that he was willing to open up. One thing was clear—Logo knew what they were getting with Robert. And since the entire season was filmed prior to broadcast, it was easy for this "secret" to leak out—with Logo's blessing.

But the episode was not without drama. At one point, Brandon was skipping through a crosswalk and snapped a tendon. In fact, it happens while he is not only skipping but singing, "Skip to my lou, my darling!" Look, I couldn't make this shit up! So at the black-tie ceremony, he was not



Darren Criss impressed Billy.
Photo by Mike Windle/Getty Images

only on crutches, but probably in as much pain as the viewers were. When Robert dumped him, Brandon hobbled over, balanced on his crutches, and somehow took off his tie. He was stoic, while Robert was crying like a little girl—and actually wiped away some of the tears with Brandon's tie! Then Robert told Eric, the hairdresser from West Hollywood, that he is his Prince Charming. As Robert brushed a stray hair off Eric's forehead, I half expected him to call Eric "Hubbell!"

The long-gestating biopic about **Freddie Mercury** is back on track. After being scuttled by the defection of **Sacha Baron Cohen**, the film has now secured the services of **Rami Malek**. The Emmy-winning actor from Mr. Robot will play the Queen front man, and reportedly **Bryan Singer** is in talks to direct. Of course, last week lots of people were talking about Singer's rumored involvement with Olympic diver **Chris Mears**. But that's another story.

Time for another installment of Olympians Behaving Badly. This week, a naughty webcam video was leaked of silver medalist **Louis Smith** oiling his javelin. (OK, I'm mixing events, but just go with it.) Bad as that may be, it's far better than the previous video that showed Smith mocking Islam and that led to a two-month suspension by British gymnastics. Apparently, he's got more than just time on his hands—as you'll see on BillyMasters.com.

This leads perfectly into our "Ask Billy" question from Daniel in Florida. "I heard there's a j/o video of **Ben Cohen** floating around out there. Do you have it? I'm sure he's HUGE."

I actually met rugby great Ben Cohen in Florida after he made an appearance for the Task Force in Miami. He's one of our strongest straight allies and a huge advocate for anti-bullying. Alas, this week he was also caught with his kit off in an explicit Skype session with an anonymous lady from his past. Since Cohen is threatening legal action and the clip has all but disappeared online, I don't want to comment on the length or, for that matter, the girth of it. That would imply that I've seen it—or that you could see it on BillyMasters.com.

When we've come to a happy ending, it's time to wrap up yet another column. Before signing off, I'd like to acknowledge the passing of poor, penniless, disfigured **Pete Burns**, lead singer of Dead or Alive—well, I guess we know which he is! On the plus side, Boy George has volunteered to pay all funeral costs. You can get all the breaking gossip on BillyMasters.com, the site that will spin you right 'round. If you have a question, send it along to me at Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before our Prince Charmings end up happily ever after ... as if. Until next time, remember: One man's filth is another man's bible.

SIDETRACK monday november 14

A Whole New World

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no cover

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Marchers reach the polling place.

Photos by Kirk Williamson. See more photos and video at www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com

Event brings bar community 'Out of the Bars and Into the Streets'

BY KIRK WILLIAMSON

Chicago Votes and Organized Grime combined forces Nov. 5 to encourage the Windy City's LGBTQ nightlife community to join together and make their individual and combined voices heard and to get "Out of the Bars and Into the Streets."

The gathering and march, which Chicago Votes' Derek Bagley spearheaded, was an effort to harness the crackling energy of the local queer bar scene and to channel it directly into the voting booth to make a statement about the power of community to effect change.

The event kicked off at noon at Replay, 3439 N. Halsted St., in Lake View's Boystown neighborhood. The atypically warm and sunny November weather mirrored the enthusiasm of the spectrum of attendees, featuring nightlife ambassadors and performers, flag-draped bisexual warriors, spiked-heel wearing leather-clad veterans, and everyone in between.

At 1 p.m., Bagley and fellow Chicago Votes activist, field and outreach manager Nicole Johnson spurred the bar patrons to join them outside to begin the march, all with the aid of a couple of bullhorns, amplifying the influential words of Replay's own hostess, Debbie Fox and Organized Grime's Ryan Willing. Bagley and Johnson offered some inspirational words to the crowd of about 50 supporters and then stepped off southward down Halsted Street, bullhorns aloft. As the colorful contingent proceeded to the polling place, the Merlo Branch Public Library at 644 W. Belmont Ave., rallying slogans included, "We're here, we're queer, we're voting;" "Out of the bar and into the streets;" and, at one very specific stretch of the parade route, "Out of Steamworks and into the streets."

Bagley took inspiration, as well as the title of the event itself, from a line in the Harvey Milk biopic *Milk*. "After doing a little research about how they organized the Castro in the '70s around Harvey Milk's election," Bagley continued, "the idea is that our bars and our clubs are our sanctuaries. We go into them and we commune in these spaces, almost like a church, but that's where we almost isolate ourselves. We have to get out of the bar and into the streets because our community has a history of marching, getting angry in the streets, making our presence known and if we are only in the confines of our sacred spaces, our visibility declines."

Asked about his role with Chicago Votes, which describes itself, according to its website, as "a non-partisan, non-profit organization building a more inclusive democracy by putting power in the hands of young Chicagoans," development director Bagley replied, "I was given an opportunity here, this year, to do



some organizing in my own community. What's really nice about Chicago Votes is that it allows us to have opportunities beyond what our job descriptions are and really get into the meat of issues that we're passionate about. And so for me, it was queer organizing and I'm honored to be a part of this event today."

As Chicago Votes focuses primarily on young voters, Bagley opined on the topic of youth engagement in the current election. "I think that it's pretty united that we have to do it," offered Bagley, "but the issues is, I think, especially among the younger generation ... that

there's sort of an apathetic viewpoint to it. It's like, 'Oh, I'll get to it when I can,' or, 'I'll just come out and party,' and these sorts of things. I think that the whole idea of this event itself is to mix our party life, our club life, our church life, with that of civic activism and action and that's really what I've seen."

Johnson also weighed in on the topic of millennial engagement and expanded on the mission of Chicago Votes. "We have parades at different high schools, different community colleges throughout the city. We're on the South Side, we're on the West Side, we're at



Wright College, we're at Hyde Park, we're at Lindblom, we're at Harper. So we get the kids riled up and pumped to go to the polls and we discuss the issues and we share with them the voter guides and then we go parade to the poll, literally."

As the parade members finally reached the polling location, they joined the already extensive line and waited for their turns to be heard. Among the many participating voices in the crowd was Andrew Levi Belford, a U.S. Navy veteran and a queer leatherman. "I believe it's everybody's right to vote," Belford said. "I fought for this country, people have died for this country and ... you need to get out and let your voice be heard. ... It's your God-given right and it's a right that I have fought to protect for you. So make sure you get out and vote, if not for me, then for the people that have come before you."

Pekky Marquez, aka The Bi Princess, gave a unique perspective: "I've been in this country for 18 years, I've been a Green Card holder for only two and I still cannot vote. That's why I tell American citizens, 'Don't take this right for granted. Go vote. You don't know what can be in your hands. It's very important to vote; you can effect the change. And I'm here to support you, to be behind you as an American resident who aspires to be a citizen and help you to fight for your process.'"

Performer Kat Sass added, "I feel absolutely privileged and delighted to be here to exercise my right to vote and to work with Chicago Votes and, as a member of the gay community, I feel like we need to have our voices heard and that everyone needs to be active and activated."



"I came today for my friend Drew Leinonen and his partner, Juan Ramon Guerrero, who were killed at Pulse," said parade goer Ezra Meadors in a tribute to his departed loved ones.

Perhaps the most succinct statement was offered by Andrew Kain Miller, who simply asserted, "We represent everything they are scared of—and we vote."

COMMUNITY
CALENDAR**Wed., Nov. 9****LGBT Hall of Fame induction ceremony**

Twelve individuals, two organizations, and two friends of the community have been selected for induction into the Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame, the organization which honors and celebrates notable members of Chicago's LGBT communities. Reception 5:30pm. Program 6pm. Free and open to the public. 5:30pm - 7:30pm Chicago History Museum 1601 N Clark Chicago <http://chicagoLGBTHALLofFame.org>

Fun Home opening night Based on Alison Bechdel's best-selling graphic memoir. Nov. 2 through Nov. 13. 7:30pm Ford Center Oriental Theatre 24 W Randolph St Chicago <http://www.broadwayinchicago.com/show/fun-home/>

Resolution - A Queer Vintage Thriller!

World premiere from Pride Films and Plays. New Year's Eve, New York City, 1892. High-society husband and wife Jack and Hannah make their resolutions for the coming year -- but a discovery may change everything. Through Nov. 20 7:30pm Rivendell Theater, 5779 N. Ridge Ave., Chicago <http://pridefilmsandplays.com> Tickets: <http://bit.ly/resolutiontix>

TransMale Indulgence TransMale Chicago and Jackhammer team up to bring you TransMale Indulgence: A night for Gay Transmen and Men interested in them second Wednesday of each month. DJ, free pizza at 10pm. Transmale porn. The Hole will be open at 11pm for transmale cruising. 8:00pm - 12:00pm Jackhammer 6406 N Clark St Chicago

**CHASING AMY
Saturday, Nov. 12**

Amy Landecker will be among those honored at the HRC Chicago Gala and Auction.

Photo from 2015

Thursday, Nov. 10

Chicago in Focus: Election Day, What Just Happened? Quarterly discussion of all things Chicago sponsored by the League of Woman Voters of Chicago and the Urban League Club of Chicago. Speaker: Dick Simpson, Professor, Political Science Department, University of Illinois at Chicago; Author, Winning Elections in the 21st Century. Free. Reservations by calling LWVChicago at 312-939-5949 or emailing League@LWVChicago.org. 5:00pm - 7:00pm The Union League Club, 65 West Jackson Blvd., Chicago http://lwvchicago.org/Chicago_in_Focus.html

Kris Allen Free Holiday Concert at Fashion Outlets American Idol Season Eight

winner will perform his new Christmas album "Somethin' About Christmas. Guests can help the "Help through Holiday Giving" toy drive by bringing an unwrapped toy 7:30pm Fashion Outlets of Chicago, 5220 Fashion Outlets Way, Rosemont <http://www.fashionoutletsofchicago.com/Events/Details/390035>

Book Reading and Signing, Jessica Luther. Unsportsmanlike Conduct: College Football and the Politics of Rape This event is co-sponsored by the Domestic Violence Legal Clinic of Chicago. 7:30pm Women & Children First Bookstore 5233 N Clark St Chicago <http://www.womenandchildrenfirst.com/event/author-reading-jessica-luther-unsportsmanlike-conduct>

Friday, Nov. 11

I Am My Own Wife Based on the true story of Charlotte von Mahlsdorf (born Lohar Berfelde) who, against all odds, hid from the Nazi and Communist regimes in East Berlin in plain sight dressed as a woman. Feature transgender actress Delia Kropp and three additional actors. The new production will frame Charlotte's story through a transgender lens. Through Dec. 10. About Face Theater 7:30pm Theater Wit 1229 W Belmont Ave. Chicago Tickets: <https://www.theaterwit.org/tickets/productions/291/performances#top>

American Veterans for Equal Rights (AVER) Veterans' Day Dinner 6:30 cocktails; 7:15 presenting of colors, national anthem, welcome; 8:15pm dinner, awards. Featured speaker Bridget Altenburg, a graduate of West Point and COO of the National Able Network. Performing America the Beautiful Trish Keporos, Windy City Gay Idol winner 2014. AVER events throughout 201 honor the service of military and veteran women. 6:30pm Ann Sather - Belmont 909 W Belmont Ave Chicago; <http://www.averchicago.org>

Queer Genre Fiction Book Discussion Group A discussion of Breakfast On Pluto by Patrick McCabe. Bring yourself, a friend, and make few new ones. 7:00pm Gerber Hart Library and Archives 6500 N Clark St Chicago <https://www.facebook.com/events/38122225601229/>

OPALGA November Potluck Monthly gathering of Oak Parkers 7:00pm Contact organizer for location <https://www.facebook.com/events/625905137581987/>

**Saturday, Nov. 12
Depression & Bipolar Support Alliance (LGBTQ)** Support meeting to talk about illnesses, symptoms, treatment, doctors, and personal issues such as dating, relationships and work. Every Saturday. 11:00am - 12:30am Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago <http://dbsa-glbtc-chicago.com>

HRC Chicago Gala and Auction The Human Rights Campaign Chicago Dinner Gala is one of the largest annual LGBT fundraising events in the Midwest. Special performance by Ty Herndon. Special guest Mary Beth Maxwell, HRC SVP Programs Research & Training. Awardees are Amy Landecker, Ally for Equality Award; Angelica Ross, Visibility Award; Miller-Coors, Corporate Equality Award; and Dana Goldberg, comedienne and special guest 5:00pm Hyatt Regency Chicago 151 E Wacker Dr.; <https://www.facebook.com/events/1092000484172243/> Tickets: <https://www.boxofficetickets.com/go/date?id=2119293>

Dare to Dream Awards Banquet and Fundraising Benefit Auction Celebrate two outstanding advocates and raise funds for many more years of social service solely dedicated to supporting LGBTQ+ youth. 6:00pm Fox Valley Country Club, 2500 N. Route 25, Aurora <http://www.biddingowl.com/Auction/home.cfm?auctionID=8599>

Sunday, Nov. 13

Project Fierce Chicago's 3rd Annual Breakfast N Beds Fundraiser Help provide safe and affirming housing for LGBTQ young people experiencing homelessness by joining Project Fierce Chicago. Performances by local artists, food, drinks, silent auction, great raffle. Ticket on a sliding scale: \$30, \$50, \$70. No one will be turned away for lack of funds. 1:00pm - 4:00pm Segundo Ruiz Belvis Cultural Center, 4048 W. Armitage Ave., Chicago https://www.flipcause.com/secure/cause_pdetails/MTEyMzI=

A Salute to Chicago Lakeside Pride Symphonic Band with music inspired by the City of Chicago and its history performed under the world-famous Louis Tiffany stained glass dome in Preston Bradley Hall. Presented by Calan Corporation 3:00pm - 5:00pm Chicago Cultural Center 78 E. Washington St. Chicago

Queer Bits Fall Film Fest III Pride Films and Plays (PFP) presents short films 7:00pm The Public House Theatre 3914 N. Clark St. Chicago <http://www.pridefilmsandplays.com>

Tuesday, Nov. 15

After Orlando Staged readings of new plays written in response to the Pulse shooting. Part of an international playwright-driven theatre action including 70+ playwrights. Free. Donations welcome for Equality Florida, CALOR, and the Pride Arts Center. 7:00pm Pride Arts Center, 4139 N Broadway, Chicago, <http://www.pridefilmsandplays.com>



Jeannie Tanner.
Photo courtesy of Tanner

**Jeannie Tanner
at City Winery in Feb.**

Twelve Chicago vocalists will gather to debut a new album of original, distinctly American music written by singer-songwriter, composer and trumpeter, Jeannie Tanner.

Tanner's My Words and Music album release concert will take place Friday, Feb. 27, at City Winery, 1200 W. Randolph St., at 7:30 p.m.

My Words and Music is Tanner's ninth album and first songbook collection.

Tickets are \$25-\$40; visit CityWinery.com.

**Legacy LIVE's
'Word Up' Nov. 17**

The Legacy LIVE Series—with Northalsted Business Alliance, Center on Halsted and The Legacy Project as co-sponsors—continues Thursday, Nov. 17, with "Word Up: Poetry Open Mic Night" at Big Jim's, 3503 N. Halsted St., at 7 p.m.

M. Shelly Conner, Quare Square Collective, E Nina Jay and DJ Drea are among those expected to commemorate the legacies of LGBTQ poets Audre Lorde and Essex Hemphill.

The event is free; register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/word-up-tickets-27509370267>.

**Lammy nominees
being accepted**

Lambda Literary has announced the opening of the submissions period for the 29th Annual Lambda Literary Awards (Lammys).

Books submitted for consideration in this Lammys cycle must be published between Jan. 1 and Dec. 31, 2016, and meet the Lammys Submission Guidelines (at LambdaLiterary.org/award-guidelines/). Finalists will be announced in March 2017; Lammy Awards will be presented at the annual Lambda Literary Awards gala planned for June 2017 in New York City.

The Lammys celebrate the best in lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender literature and honor groundbreaking work by members of the LGBTQ literary community. Since its inception in 1989, Lambda Literary has awarded more than 550 Lammys to outstanding authors including Dorothy Allison, Edmund White, John Waters and Hilton Als.

The submission period will close Dec. 1, 2016. See LambdaLiterary.org.

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lic Health HIV/STI Surveillance Report and the Healthy Chicago 2.0 Report reveals that many of the same Chicago-area ZIP codes with the highest incidences of HIV infections are the same ones most impacted by gun violence, including by not limited to the following: West Garfield Park, North Lawndale, Washington Park, West Englewood, Englewood, Greater Grand Crossing, Woodlawn, South Shore, Auburn-Gresham, Chatham, Avalon Park, South Chicago, Washington Heights, Roseland and West Pullman.

The impact of public policy decisions such as school closures, disproportionate policing and disinvestment in community health care facilities must be explored in our examination of this crisis. We must also examine the intersecting impacts of racism, stigma and discrimination. It is clear that the sustained change we all seek requires a deep investigation of all forms of violence—interpersonal and state sanctioned.

Additional information

AFC can no longer be silent about the gun violence that routinely takes place in the U.S. and in Chicago. It does not matter whether these violent incidents are the mass killings of people who are in spaces once considered safe or shootings in Chicago communities that should also be free from danger.

Going forward, AFC will treat gun violence as an epidemic as we work towards health equity for people and communities living with or vulnerable to HIV. We stand with the families and communities that are regularly impacted by the collective toll of gun violence, as well as those whose lives altered by a single individual who

seeks to do mass harm. We support sensible gun violence legislation and efforts that recognize gun violence as a symptom of deeper systemic and structural issues in American society.

AIDS Foundation of Chicago's position

The AIDS Foundation of Chicago supports stronger enforcement of current federal and state gun safety laws to decrease the prevalence of guns in communities. AFC also recognizes that the justice system's response to gun violence has focused far too often on intrusive policing tactics and an overreliance on incarceration. Ultimately, these efforts destabilize neighborhoods and damage police-community relations. Thus, AFC calls for the following:

Evidence-based, public health responses to the gun violence epidemic, such as:

- Increased harm-reduction services;
- The creation and implementation of law enforcement tactics that strengthen community relations and police accountability; and
- Efforts to address the root causes of gun violence by investing in job training, mental health and substance use services, reentry support, and other wraparound social services.

Investment in social services and supports that address issues that lead to community and police-involved gun violence.

An examination of societal obstacles, including lack of employment options that pay a living wage and educational opportunities.

The creation of increased programing designed to divert individuals away from involvement in the criminal justice system.

For more info, including footnotes with this article, see: AIDSChicago.org/page/news/all-news/afc-releases-position-statement-on-gun-violence-and-community-violence.

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DELL from page 21

been very active in protesting House Bill 2 every Wednesday," Matheny said. "This summer, I saw this news clip with her in it. There was a man there, sitting in a wheelchair. It was Greg. He was still out there on the front lines."

Meanwhile, both the BUMC Dell left and the Reconciling Ministries Network of which it is a part are thriving.

BUMC states that it is "a community full of life & activity. Together we worship, study, offer community service, sing, and play. We strive to be a multi-cultural church and have proclaimed our commitment on the journey as an anti-racist institution."

"Greg's spirit was still a tangible presence at

[BUMC]B because of the impact that he had there." McCullen Parr said. "His influence is still really powerful on the ministry that is going on at Broadway."

Jacqueline Boyd has been the BUMC's director of music for the past five years.

"The culture there has been in place since I started," she said. "It's very much tied into recognition of Greg. When I started, there was a lot of storytelling not just about Greg but the movements that happened around his work for LGBT rights and racial justice. As a queer Black person, it's pretty amazing and revolutionary to have a place that believes in those things equally and is really trying to make a difference in both areas. Putting faith to action is a huge piece of what he gave the church."

Dr. Dana Brown was BUMC's choir director

during Dell's ministry and composed the song "Until the Table Extends to Us All."

According to Boyd, its words encompass the heart and soul, life and work of Gregory Dell.

"The times are changing slowly, not fast enough for me. To live a life of freedom without apology. The day of judging others will soon pass us by. Until the table extends to us all, until the night knows no darkness to fall, until the privilege of freedom includes mine, until religion is sanctioned by love, until justice rolls down from above, until dignity's restored to every soul, I will sing my song."

According to his family, Dell's "parents, Anthony and Jeannette (Bingham) Dell preceded him in death. He is survived by spouse Jade (Luerssen) Dell, son Jason Delborne, daughter-in-law Tonya Delborne, granddaughters Olivia

and Ramona, and sisters Gloria Dell Filebark and Laura Dell."

A service of memorial and celebration will take place at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 20, 2016, at the Alice Millar Chapel, a non-denominational center on the campus of Northwestern University.

The address is 1870 Sheridan Rd., Evanston, Illinois.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Dell's honor may be given to the following organizations:

Church Within A Church Movement, PO Box 578524, Chicago, IL 60657, www.cwac.us/contribute

Resist, PO Box 441155, Somerville, MA 02144, www.resist.org/donate

See ChicagoGayHistory.com/biography.html.

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