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Obama Meets Gays in White House

BY LISA KEEN
KEEN NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON, D.C.—President Barack Obama urged the LGBT community to judge him “not by promises I’ve made but by the promises that my administration keeps.”

“I know that many in this room don’t believe that progress has come fast enough,” said Obama, speaking to a large gathering of LGBT people June 29 in the East Room of the White House. “It’s not for me to tell you to be patient, any more than it was for others to counsel patience to African Americans who were petitioning for equal rights a half century ago. But I say this: We have made progress and we will make

more. And I want you to know that I expect and hope to be judged not by words, not by promises I’ve made, but by the promises that my administration keeps.”

To that he added, “I suspect that by the time this administration is over, I think you guys will have pretty good feelings about the Obama administration.”

The approximately 300 LGBT individuals gathered for the historic White House celebration of the 40th anniversary of Stonewall appeared to have “pretty good feelings” about the Obama administration already. The crowd cheered as the president and first lady were introduced and entered the room, taking about three minutes to reach the podium, as they shook hands with

various invited guests.

[Editor’s note: Chicagoans invited to the event included Michael Bauer, Vernita Gray, Fred Eychaner, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District commissioner Debra Shore, Mary Morten, Miriam Redleaf, Laura Ricketts, Mona Noriega, Evette Cardona and Jane Saks.]

The enthusiastic reception stood in contrast to a battery of media reports examining the growing criticism of the Obama administration from the LGBT community. Although the president did not explicitly address one of the key criticisms—a brief from the Department of Justice in a gay-marriage case in California which

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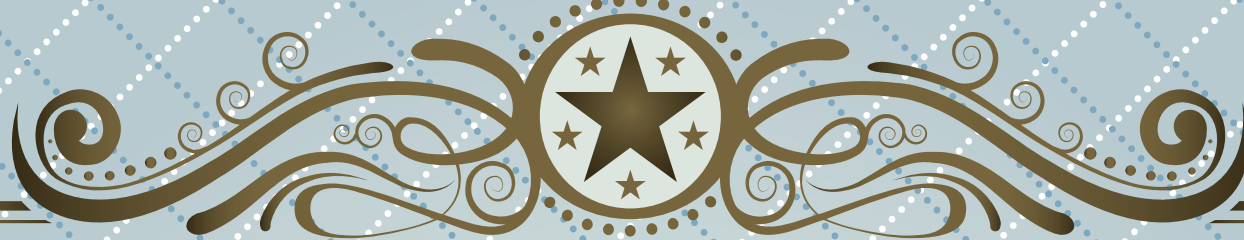


Pride Fest

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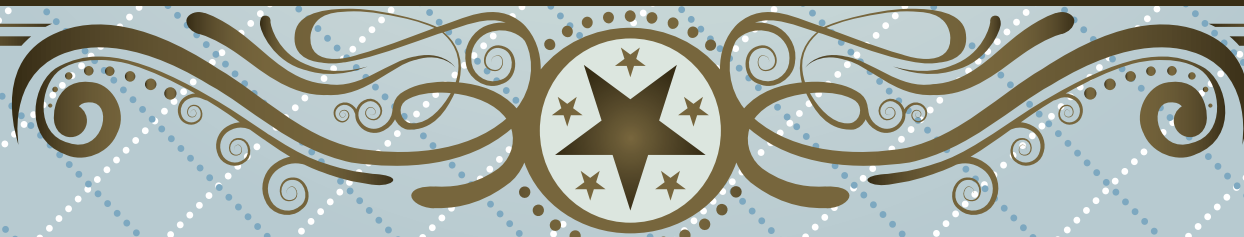
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Cirque Shanghai (above) is one of the productions reviewed in this issue. See page 16.



Sami Grisafe (above) led her team, the Chicago Force, to victory in a playoff game June 27. See page 26.

Cover photos and credits (from top): Chicago Dyke March photo by Mel Ferrand; picture of Mandy Doolittle (left) and Carol Anne Douglas courtesy of Judith Witherow; and Proud to Run photo by Terri Klinsky

Photo courtesy of the Chicago Force

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BABY, THAT'S ART

www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com **ONLINE INDEX**

VOTE FOR 'PEDRO'

The star of the TV movie Pedro (now on DVD), Alex Loynaz, talks with WCT movie critic Richard Knight, Jr.



TEL AVIV TWOSOMES



On June 12, five gay couples got hitched in Tel Aviv, Israel. View photos of what transpired.

Photo by Ron Reason

MEANING BUSINESS

Attorney James D. Nguyen and LOGO general manager Lisa Sherman talked at a forum about the power of the LGBT audience. Read more online.



Photo by John Fenoglio

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Frank introduces trans-inclusive ENDA bill

BY LISA KEEN
KEEN NEWS SERVICE

The LGBT community erupted in anger 20 months ago when U.S. Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., introduced a version of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) that excluded protection for "gender identity." Critics also charged that the 2007 ENDA was "riddled with loopholes" that significantly weakened protections even for lesbians and gay men in the workplace. Frank said a bill including protections for transgendered people simply didn't have the votes.

Times have changed. Transgender people have lobbied. And Frank says the support has grown for a fully inclusive bill.

Frank, on June 24, introduced a 2009 version of the legislation, which seeks to prohibit discrimination in the workplace based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

"I think we're in good shape on it," said Frank, in an interview June 22. "The transgender community—I will credit. I wish other people in the community were following them. ... They did the grassroots lobbying very well."

Frank said there were three reasons for optimism around passage of an inclusive ENDA now. First, he said, the House has already held a hearing on including transgender in the bill. Second, there are 21 new Democrats in the House since the 2008 elections, and "14 or 15" are likely supporters of the bill. The 2007 version of ENDA passed the House 235-184.

And third, there is no threat of a presidential veto looming over the legislation.

Read the entire article online at www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com.

RECEPTION from cover

many LGBT leaders found offensive—he did say, about the Defense of Marriage Act, "we have a duty to uphold existing law, but I believe we must do so in a way that does not exacerbate old divides."

"And fulfilling this duty in upholding the law in no way lessens my commitment to reversing this law," said Obama. "I've made that clear."

Concerning his commitment to repeal "don't ask, don't tell," Obama said, "I do have a responsibility to see that this change is administered in a practical way and a way that takes over the long term. That's why I've asked the secretary of defense and the chairman of the joint chiefs of staff to develop a plan for how to thoroughly implement a repeal."

Jason Bartlett, an openly gay state representative from Connecticut and a spokesperson for the National Black Justice Coalition, said he was "very happy" with the president's remarks and saw them as "recommitting himself to and affirming the LGBT agenda."

"The more times he gives a speech such as that, the better it is for our constituency," said Bartlett. "I think he's asking us to be patient, but I don't think people should stop agitating or stop doing a variety of grassroots activities. But I do think I agree that, in four years, we're all going to look back and be satisfied."

Mitchell Gold, founder of Faith in America and a guest at the event, said he thinks the president's remarks could go a long way to mitigate some of the anger in the community over the administration's slow progress towards its LGBT campaign promises thus far. But he said he would expect that anger to re-emerge should the administration not be able to pass hate crimes or the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) "quickly."

"I think the community will be patient for about two months or so," said Gold. Gold said he was able to speak with the president's chief political strategist David Axelrod at the event



President Obama told a enthusiastic crowd of LGBT people at the White House Monday that he knows many people "don't believe that progress has come fast enough" on LGBT issues, but added that he expects "to be judged not by words, not by promises I've made, but by the promises that my administration keeps." Photo by Keen News Service

and express to him "that the community has a legitimate beef in the administration not moving quickly, and over the DOJ brief," said Gold. Gold said Axelrod told him, "they are determined to make progress" and that "you're right to push—keep pushing."

Renee Rosenfield, 91, of New York City was one of the guests. She had just become involved with Senior Action in Gay Environment in June 1969 when the Stonewall Rebellion took place. She called the event "a wonderful thing" and said she never could imagine, 40 years ago, being at such an event today. Rosenfield was there with her partner of more than 20 years, Madelin Alk, 88.

That sentiment was shared by Tommy Schmidt, 61, one of two "Stonewall participants" who were invited to the event. Schmidt said he and the second participant, Gerry Hoose, were able to meet privately with the President and First Lady prior to the event and have their picture taken with them.

"It was magnificent," said Schmidt of the event. "Never have gay people been received with such openness as with this president. ... This is the culmination of people pushing" for LGBT equality, and we have to work to keep pushing for that."

The president spoke for more than 20 minutes and, according to guests at the event, he and the first lady shook hands with a number of people before exiting. (Reporters were ushered out of the room shortly after the president finished his remarks.)

The ceremony at the White House marked the end of an unexpectedly difficult LGBT Pride Month for the Obama administration. Many in the community had already begun to openly express their impatience with the president on LGBT-related issues. Obama had appointed a number of openly gay people to high office, but none to the cabinet. Prior to June, he had taken no steps at all to improve conditions for LGBT people in the military, in the civil service or in the country. And, though he had been the most vocally supportive major party presidential nominee in history on the campaign trail, in the White House, Obama had suddenly lost his voice completely on LGBT equality.

But June was different. On June 1, the White House announced the president had signed an LGBT Pride Proclamation, as President Bill Clinton had done during his administration. He signed a presidential memorandum that directed federal agencies to determine whether they could provide at least two benefits to employees with same-sex domestic partners (and more for State Department employees). He expressed support for a new bill calling for fully equal benefits for federal employees with domestic partners.

Although there was no paper trail, he apparently directed the Census Bureau to count legally married same-sex couples as "husband and wife" in the 2010 census. And, during a small, evening ceremony on the Oval Office, to sign the civil service memorandum, he reiterated that he is committed to repealing the Defense of Marriage Act and the Don't Ask-Don't Tell laws and working for passage of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act and the hate-crimes bill.

But his relationship with the LGBT community still seems uneasy. On June 22, 77 members of the House signed a letter to President Obama asking him to sign an executive order to stop the military from any further discharges under "don't ask, don't tell." Last Thursday, June 25, demonstrators picketed outside a pricey gay Democratic fundraiser to send a message to the keynote speaker, Vice President Joe Biden. According to a White House pool reporter on the scene, about 50 protesters held up signs saying, "No Money for DOMA," "No Money for DADT," and "Gay Uncle Toms." Video of the event showed that many demonstrators were holding signs with the number "265"—representing the number of servicemembers who have been discharged for being gay since President Obama took office.

The June 22 dinner was sponsored by the Democratic National Committee's LGBT Leadership Council, and according to several news reports, it raised about \$1 million for the party.

But the protests continued. On Saturday, a group organized by the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network marched to the White House to underscore its upset that the president has not exercised any executive authority to stop discharges under the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy.

Roll Call, a newspaper that specializes in Congressional reporting, said House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, the three openly gay members of the House, and other top Democratic leaders met June 24 to take another look at what they could accomplish on LGBT issues this session. But the paper said they were "mum" on what decisions, if any, they made at that meeting.

Meanwhile, on June 25, Attorney General Eric Holder told a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on the proposed hate-crimes bill that the administration "strongly supports" the legislation.

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More photos of the event are online at www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com.

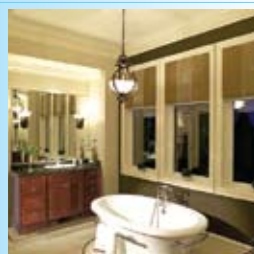
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House Dems block DADT repeal vote; LGBT vets march

BY BOB ROEHR

"Congress seems intent on delaying any debate" on the antigay military policy known as "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" (DADT), according to a report in the June 26 edition of Military Times. It said the House Rules Committee blocked consideration of two repeal amendments to the defense authorization bill.

Adding to the credibility of the report were comments the previous day by House Armed Service Committee chairman Ike Skelton, D-Mo., and his Senate counterpart Carl Levin, D-Mich. They told a press conference they favor conducting a survey of soldiers' attitudes toward serving with gays.

No such survey was conducted when blacks and later women were integrated into regular service in the military. Such a "democratic" approach to decision making would be a radical change from the top down command authority structure that permeates all other military operations.

Skelton has promised to hold a hearing on repeal legislation. One hearing already took place last fall but the Pentagon declined to participate.

A repeal bill has yet to be introduced in the Senate.

Levin said repealing DADT "requires presidential leadership. This cannot be addressed successfully without that kind of leadership," according to the Washington Post. "It's going to take some real kind of preparation inside of the services for us to successfully deal with that question."

Polling data shows that more than two-thirds of voters favor allowing gays and lesbians to serve openly in the military, which would seem to undercut the claim that repeal requires political courage.

LGBT vets march

Several hundred LGBT military veterans and their supporters marched on the White House June 27 demanding an immediate end to discharges under DADT.

"We are here today to represent the 265 service members who have been discharged since Obama took office," retired Navy Commander Zoe Dunning told the crowd that assembled at Faragut Square. The site is named in honor of the naval officer who captured New Orleans during the Civil War.

"We need to send a clear message to the White House that he needs to step up and take a stand, tell Congress and the Pentagon he wants [an end to DADT] as soon as possible," Dunning said. She thanked those who served their country and were dismissed because of their sexual orientation.

Members of the group wore large buttons with the number 265 and chanted for "freedom to serve" and "Hey hey, ho, ho, Don't Ask Don't Tell has got to go," as they marched the few blocks to the White House. The route took them past the statue honoring Baron von Steuben, known as the father of the Army because of the training and discipline he instilled during the Revolutionary War. Most historians now accept that von Steuben probably was gay.

White House

At the White House the veterans formed a line and deposited their buttons in a bucket held by retired Navy Captain Michael Rankin. The crowd counted off each button as it hit the pail until it contained 265. Boos range out when that number was reached.

The buttons would be delivered to the White House later that day as a symbol of the Obama discharges.

Jose Zuniga, a veteran of the Gulf War and "soldier of the year" who was discharged under the pre-DADT policy for coming out at the 1993

March on Washington, addressed the group, speaking of the earlier fight that led to the creation of DADT.

"My fellow service members and I still bear the scars of that defeat. So do more than 13,000 discharged gay and lesbian service members who under DADT bear the shame of being told they are not good enough to serve."

Read the entire article online at www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com.

Police arrest Texas bar patrons

In Fort Worth, Texas, police reportedly entered the Rainbow Lounge gay bar and began forcibly arresting people for public intoxication on June 27, according to Towleroad.com.

Seven individuals were arrested and one (identified by his sister as Chad Gibson) remained hospitalized with a brain injury suffered during the incident, according to the Dallas Voice.

The next day, hundreds individuals protested the incident at the Tarrant County Courthouse in Fort Worth.

Fort Worth police released a statement to mainstream media saying the bar was one of three targeted by six Fort Worth police officers and two Texas Alcoholic Beverages Commission

agents and a supervisor. The police had not responded to calls from the Voice.

Rainbow Lounge owner J.R. Schrock said that allegations that patrons came on to the officers (including a reported grope) were patently false. "The groping of the police officer—really? We're gay, but we're not dumb," Schrock said at the rally.

Lesbian among D.C. train-accident victims

BY ANDREW DAVIS

A lesbian was among the nine individuals killed when a Washington, D.C., Metro subway train plowed into the back of a second train June 22.

Texan Mary "Mandy" Doolittle worked the American Nurse's Association, according to a Washington Post item. Employer Jeanne Floyd told the newspaper, "She was highly committed to nursing around the globe. She was not a nurse, but she was the face of this organization internationally. She was a joyful, joyful individual and I can't underscore that enough." She worked at the association for 10 years, devel-



Mandy Doolittle (left) and Carol Anne Douglas in 2004. Photo courtesy of Judith Witherow

oping international outreach and helping with global accreditation for nurses.

Friends said Doolittle had lived in Italy for some years. She was planning a return visit this July with Carol Anne Douglas, her partner of 15 years and a collective member of *off our backs*, a feminist newsjournal, according to an e-mail from playwright Toni Armstrong, Jr.

Read national and world news online, including:

- the observation of the 25th anniversary of Charlie Howard's death in Bangor, Maine;
- good news for Portland (Ore.) Mayor Sam Adams; and
- Saudis arresting 67 cross-dressers.

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Taking pride in history

BY ANDREW DAVIS WITH SAM WORLEY

Perfect weather provided the backdrop for Chicago's 40th Annual Pride Parade, held June 28 in the Boystown area of Lake View.

Trans actress Alexandra Billings was the event's grand marshal. There were 250 registered parade-float entries and an estimated 450,000 people attended, according to a press release from PRIDEChicago, which organizes the parade.

History was an important theme this year, as the parade coincided with the 40th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots, which many cite as the start of the gay rights movement. Floats and contingents also represented current issues such as marriage equality and Don't Ask, Don't Tell.

One of the parade highlights involved students from Lake View's Nettelhorst Elementary School taking part—the first time a public school has

done so. The school's float took the Special Judges Award, according to PRIDEChicago.

Robert Jeffrey Hair & Skin Studio won the award for Best All-Around Float for its unique portrayal of comic-book superheroes with an LGBT twist.

There were changes related to crowd control. Effective this year, barricades lined both sides of the street the entire route to keep the crowds at bay. Spectators, including those who arrived late, were required to stand behind the barricades, not in the street.

According to the Chicago Police Department, there were three arrests, all for disorderly conduct.

Photos by Kat Fitzgerald (MysticImagesPhotography.com). Photo spread continues on page 20. More photos available online at www.windycitymediagroup.com and in next week's issue of Nightspots.



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Pilsen in step with Dyke March

BY YASMIN NAIR

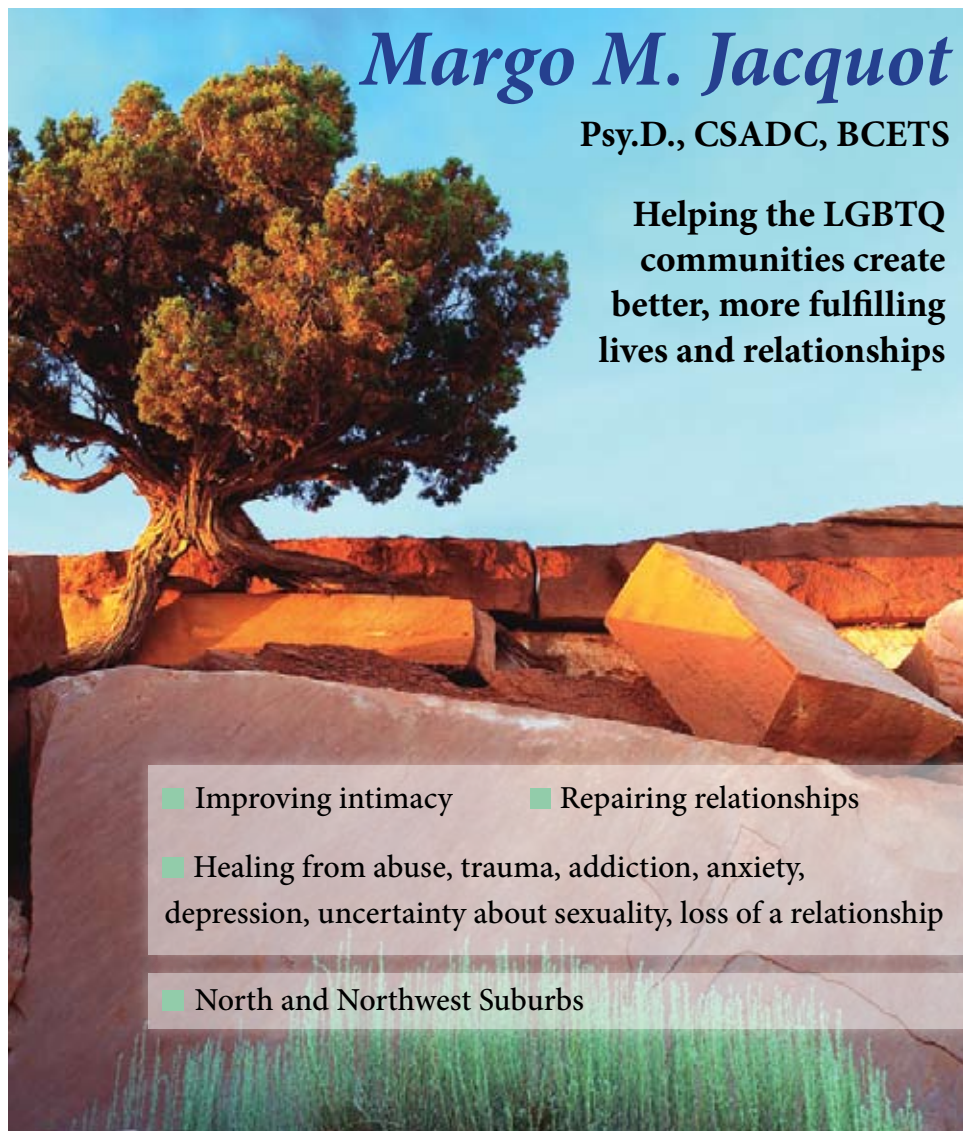
The Chicago Dyke March moved to Pilsen last year in an historic attempt to take the event to neighborhoods outside the mostly white gay enclaves of the north side. The Dyke March Planning Committee envisioned that the march would rotate between the city's various ethnic neighborhoods, to show that queers are, indeed, everywhere.

Approximately 600 people gathered at 18th and Halsted on a sunny June 27 afternoon to step off on the march, which made its way toward a rally at Harrison Park. Participants held up homemade signs and chanted: "Power to the People" and were cheered on by residents and passing cars. The march began as a critique of the traditional Pride Parade, which many felt had become overly commercial and distanced from the radical tradition of Stonewall. Dyke marchers tend to be a more politicized group of people than is found at Pride Parade, and many of them do not even attend that event. Lani Montreal of Insight Arts, a group dedicated to cultural work rooted in social justice, said that they do not march at Pride: "Pride has become commercialized. We don't want to march alongside AT&T."

Please read the entire write-up online at www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com.



Photos by Kat Fitzgerald (MysticImagesPhotography.com) and Mel Ferrand. More photos online at www.windycitymediagroup.com.

Margo M. Jacquot
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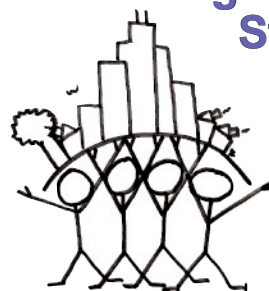
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Thirty won

The annual Windy City Times 30 Under 30 Awards ceremony was held June 23 at Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted. All but three of the honorees were able to make the event, and many brought fans, parents, family and partners. The awards were co-sponsored by Howard Brown Health Center, AIDS Foundation of Chicago, Chicago House, Center on Halsted, BEHIV (Better Existence with HIV) and Windy City Media Group. Windy City Media Group's Amy Matheny and Season of Concern's Stephen Rader were the co-hosts. Photos were taken by Kat Fitzgerald. See the June 24 edition of Windy City Times for biographies and fun facts about this year's winners:

- Kristin Keglovitz Baker
- Jeremy Carter
- Sean Casey
- Chris Cohen
- Kelly Cook-Ginn
- David Dodd
- Gabriel Ervin
- Edwin Erwin
- Cameron Esposito
- Kevin Ferenchak
- Stephanie Gentry-Fernandez
- Shae Healey
- Jordan Heinz
- Marco Hidalgo
- Jacqui Jackson
- Riley Johnson
- Ryan Kaminski
- Kristen Kaza:
- Matthew Lew
- John Litchfield
- Darius Mayfield
- Denise Nunes
- Katie O'Malley
- Lawrence Perea
- Mark Pineda
- Clay Rehrig
- John Richards
- Shreya Shah
- Jade Sotomayor
- Amy Stauffer

- Special Teen Awards:
- Scott Jaburek
 - Xavy Ramirez
 - Matt Schlagel
 - Tea Sefer
 - Che Che Turrubiardez

- Joint Honorary Award:
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 - Mik Maciejewski
 - Corrine Mina



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The memorial statue that was stolen from Howard Brown Health Center's garden. Photo courtesy of the center

Statue stolen from Howard Brown's garden

BY STEVEN CHAITMAN

A statue in memory of lesbian health advocate Mary York was stolen last week from the Memorial Peace Garden at the Howard Brown Health Center. Employees of the health center are particularly distressed because the statue was affixed with cement containing some of York's ashes.

"It feels a bit like grave-robbing," said Paul Fairchild, chief development officer for Howard Brown and a personal friend of York.

According to Fairchild, the statue was still in the garden at the corner of Sheridan and Cuyler in Uptown June 19, and was discovered missing around 10 a.m. the following Monday, June 22. The statue is a replica from the one on the cover of the book *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*.

York's partner, LaGenia Bailey, donated the statue to complement the peace garden, which was planted and dedicated to both York and fellow lesbian health advocate Lisa Tonna in June 2008.

Both York and Tonna died of cancer in January 2008 after devoting their careers to making a difference in the LGBT community. York was the president of the Board of Directors for the Lesbian Community Care Project (LCCP), a Howard Brown program focused on LGBT women's health issues.

Current LCCP Director Cat Jefcoat said the theft is both sad and ironic because "Mary had an unwavering sense of right and wrong." York was an attorney who fought for several LGBT clients as a partner of the Mulryan and York law firm. She was inducted into the Chicago Gay & Lesbian Hall of Fame in 2004.

Howard Brown spokesperson Leslie Schreiber said a police report has been filed, but because the statue is property of the city of Chicago, the most the health center can do is hope it's returned.

Judges' group holds reception; Patti gets post

BY JOHN FENOGLIO

The Alliance of Illinois Judges (AIJ), formed by the gay and lesbian judges of the Circuit Court of Cook County, held its inaugural reception June 24 at the Chicago Bar Association, 321 S. Plymouth. The day's events featured the swearing-in of the organization's new officers and board of directors.

It was a spirited reception. Over 200 people, mostly members of the judiciary, including Illinois Supreme Court Justice Charles E. Freeman, were in attendance.

"We're all judges here. And, we [AIJ] have worked hard to foster important relationships with our allies in the judiciary. The judiciary has changed because we're there as examples for them to see," said the Honorable Tom Chiola, president of AIJ. Chiola, who was also the first openly gay candidate to have been elected to public office in Illinois in 1994, pointed out that by encouraging respect and unbiased treatment for LGBT individuals amongst his colleagues, the argument for same-sex equality becomes less divisive across the board.

"The people in this room are here because they get it. They get it because they're smart and fair, and they get it because we're a part of their everyday lives," he said.

AIJ's influence is growing. Windy City Times recently learned that, at the behest of U.S. Congressman Mike Quigley, D-ILL., AIJ has officially been recognized the House of Representatives.

"When we sit with our fellow judges, our brothers and sisters, I believe we have a positive influence on them," said the Honorable Sebastian Patti, the director of AIJ who was recently named the first openly gay appellate judge in Illinois. "We are, now more than ever before, an important presence in the courts."

In related news, the Illinois Appellate Court has named openly gay Cook County Circuit Court Judge Sebastian Patti, 57, to fill a vacancy on the bench, according to ChicagoBusiness.com. He will succeed Leslie South effective Aug. 3.

The Appellate Court is the second-highest court in Illinois, behind the state supreme court. Patti will serve on the 1st District bench.

Openly gay Cook County Court Judge Tom Chiola, who heads the Alliance of Illinois Judges, said, "We are moving up and on as we perform. We are being judged on our merit—just like everyone else."

When talking with Windy City Times last year about having LGBT judges on the bench, Patti said, "...it is important to have a reflection of society, as a whole. ... If the judges are not reflective of society as a whole, I can understand why people call into question if justice will be fair, impartial and speedy."

—Also contributing: Andrew Davis

GLN holds Obama protest

BY WES LAWSON

The Gay Liberation Network held a protest during Obama's visit to Chicago June 15 near the Chicago Hilton, 720 S. Michigan, where he was scheduled to speak. Andy Thayer of the Gay Liberation Network, which organized the event, said that the purpose was to protest Obama's recent policies in regards to LGBT individuals.

"We felt it was particularly important that Chicago voices be heard in protest against Obama's recent attacks on the LGBT community, such as his rancid pro-DOMA [Defense of Marriage Act] brief, however unpopular that may be," said Thayer.

The protest largely took place because of a fear held by Thayer and many others that Obama is repeating the same mistakes of President Clinton.

"The reason why we're getting things like his slide away from promises to repeal DOMA and DADT is because ... too many in our community have written him and the rest of the Democratic Party a blank check. Feeling that there would be no threats of payback, he's done what Clinton did before—slide to the right," said Thayer.

Thayer hopes that these protests are the first in many across the nation.

"If Obama was to face angry pro-gay protests in every city he visited, we might actually see him begin to live up to his promises rather than running away from them and slapping us with insults of the Rev. Rick Warren variety," Thayer said.

Local LGBT Spanish Net radio show launches

The first Spanish-language gay Internet radio show based in Chicago launched July 1. J:: LOUNGE (JOTA LOUNGE), a weekly two-hour show, will air on Wednesdays, 7-9 p.m., on RadioGLBT.com, and will provide relevant information and entertainment to the community.

Ramiro Martinez, Jose Tapia, D'Eva Longoria and Jesus Espino will host the show not only to entertain but also to provide important information.

Radio GLBT is the first and only Internet radio station serving the LGBT latino community, according to a press release. Radio GLBT provides 24-hour programming geared toward the gay Latino community.

PASSAGES

John Callaway

BY ANDREW DAVIS

Best known for his 15 years as host of the nightly news program "Chicago Tonight" on public television, John Callaway died of an apparent heart attack June 23, according to the Chicago Tribune. He was 72.

Chicago Tonight debuted on Ch. 11 in 1984, and the first guest was then-Mayor Harold Washington. Callaway left Chicago Tonight in 1999 but continued to conduct interviews on Friday Night and host Chicago Stories segments on WTTW-Ch. 11.

Callaway is survived by two daughters—entertainers Liz Foster Callaway and Ann Hampton Callaway—from a previous marriage. He was also stepfather to four of current wife Sandra Callaway's children.

WTTW's Alex Silets—who was a co-producer of the co-producers of the documentary *Out and Proud*, which aired on the station last year—told Windy City Times, "[Callaway] was a giant at WTTW but he was also a giant to the journalists here in Chicago. WTTW is known nationally for its local programming, and it's because of John Callaway that we're known. ... I personally wouldn't be at WTTW if it wasn't for John Callaway; I worked on Chicago Tonight and Chicago Stories with John.

Choking back tears, Silets added, "It's a tremendous loss. It's devastating.

"Back in 1984, when Chicago Tonight started, people weren't covering gay issues. John Callaway was covering gay issues—in the '80s. Remarkable. He was a remarkable guy. ... He was brilliant. He wanted to know more about people. He had a love for Chicago, and it was contagious at work. He made everyone bring not just their 'A' game, but their triple-'A' game."

As for Callaway's personality, Silets said, "He was great. He was a lot more playful...he had another dimension than you saw on TV. He was playful, funny and warm. He was sensitive and cry at the drop of a hat. If Liz was on Broadway, or if Ann was doing something in New York, he would drop everything and fly to New York—all the time.

"We at WTTW are like family, and it's like losing a father."

Silets also said, "When we aired *Out and Proud* in Chicago, he picked up the phone, called me and told me how brilliant it was. That's the kind of guy he was."

A memorial service for Callaway took place June 28 in Rockefeller Memorial Chapel, 5850 S. Woodlawn. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be sent to The John Callaway Excellence in Journalism Fund, WTTW, Inc., 5400 N. Saint Louis, Chicago, Ill., 60625-4698.

Wed., July 8
7:00 p.m.
Barbara Bonfigli
Café Tempest: Adventures
on a Small Greek Island

Friday, July 10
7:30 p.m.
Elizabeth Brackett
Pay to Play:
How Rod Blagojevich
Turned Political Corruption
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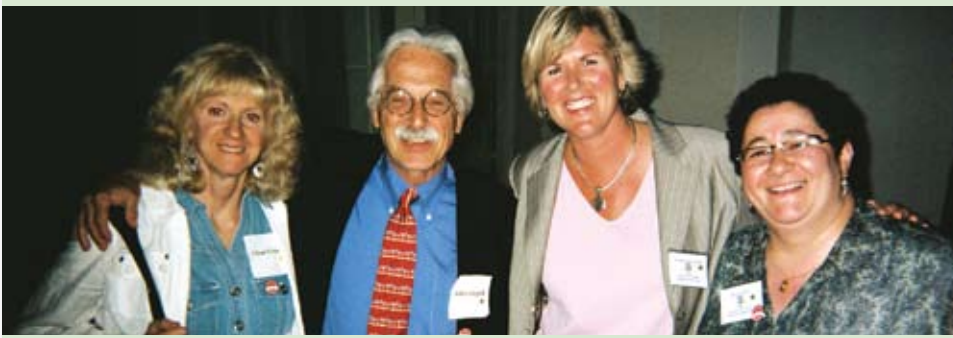


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The fame game



The Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame held its annual Pride and Joy reception June 22 at Circuit, 3641 N. Halsted. The reception was the first in several events that raise money for the hall's induction ceremony that takes place in November. A variety of people attended the event, which included a food spread and lavish decorations, as Israel Wright kicked off the festivities with a drag performance; a Windy City Gay Idol took the stage; and people gathered and socialized in preparation for Pride Week. Photos and text by Wes Lawson



CHICAGO

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Ray J. Koenig III joins Clark Hill PLC

Ray is a member of Clark Hill's Litigation Practice Group, practicing in the areas of probate litigation, trust litigation, fiduciary litigation, elder law, guardianship litigation, estate planning, and estate administration. Ray is also an adjunct member of the Trust & Estates Group.

Ray is a widely published author and presenter, frequently writing on topics such as estate planning, guardianship, aging, and issues facing the LGBT community. He is a longtime member and advocate for the LGBT community, and is involved in several charitable groups, community associations, and professional organizations.

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Phone: (312) 985-5938
Fax: (312) 985-5985
rkoenig@clarkhill.com

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QUOTELINES

BY REX WOCKNER

"ONE WAY TO GET THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION'S ATTENTION on civil rights is for gay people to stop funding the Democrats. That's all these people care about anyway when it comes to gays: our money. If the Democrats refuse to support us, refuse to support them. ... But we need to get more creative. We need actions to highlight the administration's betrayals, postponements and boilerplate. We need to start confronting the president at his events. We need civil disobedience. We need to tell him we do not want another fucking speech where he tells us he is a fierce advocate for our rights, when that is quite plainly at this point not true. We will not tolerate another Clinton. ... I am a proud, self-respecting gay man with HIV. And I am not going to take this crap for much longer on civil rights. Fight back. Act Up." — Andrew Sullivan declares war, on his blog, June 18.

"I UNDERSTAND WHY THIS DISCUSSION (of whether gay journalists are or should be activists) exists in North America where too many journalists still worship the false god of 'objectivity,' a nonexistent state of mind. I can also see why a gay journalist working in a mainstream paper has to avoid getting the 'activist' label. But I'm saddened that some journalists working at gay papers won't embrace the label. ... If we're doing our jobs, aren't we helping our communities find their place in the sun in a world that still largely hates homos? How do you really help your lesbian and gay readers without getting in the battle beside them? You don't. Of course, you still have to keep your head, be analytical and show perspective. But you can do that while admitting you're an activist journalist." — Gareth Kirby, editor in chief of *The Guide* magazine, to the gay press newsletter *Press Pass Q*, June issue.

"IF WE HAD CHILDREN, I THINK WE'D (JANE WAGNER AND I) probably get married. I have friends who have children. My friends have two boys and the boys want them to get married. It means something to the kids." — Lily Tomlin to *Seattle Gay News*, April 17.

"IN BERLIN THEY TAKE DANCE MUSIC VERY SERIOUSLY. We went to a night of impenetrable dance music that was so impenetrable you couldn't dance to it. Everyone was just stand-

ing around. I thought, Well, that's really taken it to an extreme, hasn't it? Just a load of intellectuals standing around chatting." — *The Pet Shop Boys' Chris Lowe to Out magazine, June/July issue.*

"YOU'RE NOT REALLY ALLOWED TO GO TO THE USA IF YOU'RE HIV-POSITIVE. On the immigration forms it always says, 'Do you have any contagious illnesses or diseases?' and I just put 'no' because I think it's not contagious unless you sleep with me, and we have unprotected sex. I've been stopped (by customs agents) before and they asked, 'What are these?' and I said, 'My combination therapy,' and they just let me go. ... As long as you're courteous you're going to be fine." — *Erasure singer Andy Bell to Passport magazine, June issue.*



You're not really allowed to go to the USA if you're HIV-positive.

—Andy Bell



"TO THE 1,321 PEOPLE WHOSE EMAILS WERE SITTING IN my Facebook inbox unanswered, I apologize but I just deleted all of them. Probably not the best way to reach me for something important. Sorry!" — *Popular gay blogger Andy Towle (Towleroad) on his Facebook page, June 20.*

"SHE IS EMBARKING ON A DIFFICULT JOURNEY, BUT ONE THAT I WILL SUPPORT. I respect the courage it takes to go through this transition in the glare of public scrutiny. Although I may not understand, I will strive to be understanding. The one thing that will never change is my abiding love for my child." — *A statement from Cher on June 17 in response to her child Chastity Bono's announcement that Chastity is transitioning to male and now is known as Chaz.*

—Assistance: Bill Kelley

African America's 3rd Rail: SGL
by Max Smith

African America's 3rd Rail: SGL
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**WAYNE
BESEN**

I've seen enough

A debate is raging on whether to have a national gay march on Washington in October. Most leaders I have spoken with are against the idea, preferring to keep scarce financial and human resources in the states. Others, such as myself, are largely ambivalent. A galvanizing force, however, is giving new life to this idea and his name is Barack Obama.

The president is in serious danger of motivating a huge mass of gay people to stream into Washington for the simple joy of standing in front of the White House and giving him a piece of their minds.

This frustration may lead to an embarrassing situation for the President, where former supporters mount the largest anti-Obama pep rally not fronted by Sarah Palin.

Recently, an array of LGBT leaders expressed its dismay with the president by pulling out of a Democratic National Committee fundraiser. The action is in protest of a noxious legal brief submitted by the Department of Justice (DoJ). It implausibly defended the heinous Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) by using anti-gay arguments that likely drew a standing ovation from Rev. Pat Robertson.

DoJ's paper included a comparison of gay relationships to incest and opposed same-sex relationships on the absurd basis that it would cost taxpayers money (Don't gay people pay taxes?).

HRC also sent a pointed letter to Obama highlighting the betrayal felt by the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community.

"I cannot overstate the pain that we feel as human beings and as families when we read an argument, presented in federal court, implying that our own marriages have no more constitutional standing than incestuous ones," wrote HRC's president, Joe Solmonese.

The deteriorating situation is exacerbated by confusion about who will push for equality. The Obama administration claims to be awaiting congressional action on a number of issues, including ending employment discrimination, eliminating DOMA and repealing Don't Ask/Don't Tell. Meanwhile, Senate majority leader Harry Reid is waiting for Obama to act, as well as the House of Representatives. The LGBT community has become a hot potato that the Democrats do not seem to want to touch.

Aggravating matters was John Berry, the highest-ranking gay official in the administration.

In an interview with *The Advocate*, he said that Obama's timetable to enact his pro-gay campaign promises is "before the sun sets on this administration." So, now we have to wait 4-8 years, while watching him suck up to Rick Warren on Day One?

For what seemed like forever, Democrats told us that when the big bad Republicans went away, our lives would improve. Well, the Republican nightmare is over, so why do I still feel like I'm in the middle of a political Friday the 13th movie?

The Democrats took our money, our votes and our volunteer hours and now they tell us to wait patiently, like good little gays. As far as I'm concerned, if the donkeys can't deliver now, they can kiss my ass. The Democrats run the show in Washington and if they will not act like a majority party, then they do not deserve to be one.

This is not about making unreasonable policy demands, but about the Democrats recognizing the daily struggles faced by gay people. A new report by The National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs said, "violence against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people increased 2% from 2007 to 2008, continuing the trend of a 24% total increase in 2007."

Yesterday, I read about a lesbian who was barred from visiting her partner in a Fresno hospital, and as a result her partner received the wrong medication. Last week, I was in conservative western Michigan, where I spoke to young people who were nearly driven to suicide as a result of anti-gay attitudes.

We need a president who recognizes these evils and demonstrates the courage and leadership to enact the change he so eloquently promised during his campaign.

If Obama continues down the current path it will come at a steep price. When Bill Clinton settled for Don't Ask/Don't Tell, it solidified the growing perception that he was "Slick Willie." By turning his back on the gay community, Obama will play into the idea, stoked by Hillary Clinton and exploited by John McCain, that he is a man of beautiful, yet empty words.

What Obama fails to understand is that when poetry does not translate into policy, and hope turns hollow, the American people will begin to tune him out.

I'm still undecided about the wisdom of a march on Washington, but I am decidedly fed up with my political "friends" marching all over my dignity and taking my support for granted. If the majority party does not cough up the votes to protect our families, we should close down our generous coffers.

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NATIONAL SALES Rivendell Media, 212-242-6863
SENIOR WRITERS Bob Roehr, Rex Wockner, Marie J. Kuda, David Byrne, Tony Peregrin, Lisa Keen, Yasmin Nair, Emmanuel Garcia
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ARTISTS/CARTOONISTS Alison Bechdel, Mikeoart
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"Windy City Media Group generated enormous interest among their readers in this year's LGBT Consumer Index Survey. Out of approximately 100 print and online media partners who participated in the survey, Windy City was the best performing regional media in the U.S. Only survey partners with a nationwide footprint were able to generate a greater number of responses." —David Marshall, Research Director, Community Marketing, Inc.



LETTERS

Through the years

I am writing this letter in response to Victor Salvo's comments titled "To march or not to march."

Forty years after Stonewall I think we still don't quite understand the power of the LGBT movement and how it has changed the landscape we live in. Yet more needs to be done.

Our focus has moved from sexual activity to relationship building. Our discussion is no longer about monogamous versus non-monogamous relationships, but the debate now is civil unions versus same-sex marriage. What a shift!

AIDS was tragedy for our community. I lost many friends as many others did. I believe the pandemic was a wake of up call for most of us to respond with courage, compassion and love, and move beyond our fear.

If it were not for the decision of straight judges in the Massachusetts Supreme Court, I know our political agenda would be different today. Gay marriage would still be on the gay political back-burner—another reason why I firmly believe the movement has a life of its own.

Our struggle has always led us back to the streets, and it's from the streets we get our energy. We now have a newer generation without our experience; however, maybe they will not make our mistakes.

The strength of this movement does not lay in our experience. It is based on the continuing response to the call to fight injustice. I thank God that each new LGBT generation has been open to and responded to that call.

During Gay Pride, I am especially proud of LB-GTQ youth and their challenge to the older generation not to forget them. They instinctively understand the power of being out.

The debate surrounding a potential march on

Washington, D.C., is not a new. In 1979, in connection with the first LGBT march on Washington, I chaired the local march activities, and sat on the national steering committee. Opposition to the march came from the predominately gay political establishment, and that included most bar owners. You can always find an excuse not to confront your fear.

I would support another march on Washington but for LGBT-related cultural reasons, not for political ones. We need to remind ourselves and those that follow us of the real power of Stonewall, and what that produced.

Stonewall was not produced by the haves in the community. It was the have-nots in our community who showed us the way.

Our youths need to be presented with a vision of hope, rather than one of despair. We need to remind ourselves that our community is not made up of only white gay men who seem fixated on incremental rights. Nor should we be willing to sell out others' rights, as we did with the transgender community.

We need a vision of our community that is inclusive and not exclusive. We lack unity, and that seems to be 900-pound gorilla in the room that no one wants to talk about.

This is not an either/or situation. Our community is quite capable of marching on Washington and taking care of things in our own backyard. We are capable of multitasking. God knows we have the talent and the resources.

Joe Murray
Chicago

Gays and Iran

As news accounts continue to report on the repressive actions by Iran's government against

citizens marching in peaceful demonstrations to hold their government accountable for fair and just elections, we must keep current events in Iran in historical perspective.

Let us not forget that since Iran's revolution in 1979, which replaced the Shah with a theocracy, many segments of the population have experienced repression under Iranian law. Of the many segments, in particular, are homosexual inhabitants. Since 1979, an estimated 4000 gay males and lesbians have been executed in Iran. Same-sex sexuality between consenting partners is termed a crime in Iran. Iranian law condemns men involved in sexual penetrative acts with the death penalty, and non-penetrative acts with flogging, until the fourth offense, which warrants the death penalty. Women accused of engaging in same-sex acts are flogged, until the fourth time when they too are punished with death.

Examples are many. Two gay Iranian teenagers, 18 and 17, were hung in the streets of Iran on July 19, 2005, in Edalat (Justice Square) in Mashbad, Iran. Reports of the widespread repression of homosexuals in Iran have been verified by Human Rights Watch and the Iranian Student News Agency. Let us be clear, repressive regimes around the world currently and throughout history scapegoat, oppress, and exterminate homosexuals. The time is long since passed that we speak out against repression in all of its forms.

Dr. Warren J. Blumenfeld
Assistant Professor
Multicultural and International
Curriculum Studies
Department of Curriculum and Instruction
Iowa State University
Ames, Iowa

GOINGS-ON

WINDY CITY TIMES' ENTERTAINMENT SECTION



Photo
by N. Warren
Winter/
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PAINT MISBEHAVIN'

The Day on Which a Man Dies (above) is part of Naked July—Art Stripped Down. See below.

MOVIES

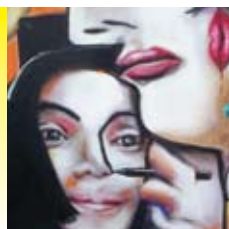
'Public' display.
Page 17.



MUSIC

A legend gone.
Page 25.

Portrait by Thom Bierdz
(ThomBierdz.com)



SPORTS

Well-run.
Page 26.

Photo by Terri Klinsky

Scottish
Play Scott

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

With summer temperatures rising, now's the perfect time to shed some clothes and show some skin on the beach, right?

Actually, the beach isn't the only place to see some gorgeous flesh. National Pastime Theater hosts a new summer theater festival called **Naked July—Art Stripped Down**, which features seven productions filled with artily flashed flesh.

National Pastime artistic director Laurence Bryan took his inspiration from past seasons when National Pastime hosted MidTangent Productions' *A Midsummer Night's Dream: A Queer Tale* and particularly last summer when The Living Canvas presented *Unsex Me Here*. That production artfully blended elements of Shakespeare, performance-art painting and nudity into one cohesive production.

"It made perfect sense in July to have it tagged as 'naked,'" Bryan said. "What else is there to do in the hot summer?"

Filling out the festival line up proved to be an easier task than Bryan expected. Thanks to the boom in burlesque around Chicago, Bryan was able to recruit a few troupes right away that had already performed at the National Pastime.

The Girlie Q Variety Hour is on the burlesque bill with midnight Friday and Saturday performances through Aug. 1, while The Rippettes are performing a racy 1920s-theme revue called **Speakeasy to Me** at 10 p.m. Thursdays and Sundays July 9-Aug. 2.

The Living Canvas is back again, this time skipping Shakespeare for the Brothers Grimm. **Nocturne** promises to be a modern fairy tale for adults only. (Performances are 10 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays through Aug. 1.) Then Scratch Media gets into the mix with **The Great American Nudie Spectacular** (July is the month when



The Great American Nudie Spectacular. Photo by Tom Wood

we celebrate American patriotism, after all). So wave your flag (or other bits) at 8 p.m. Thursdays and Sundays July 9 -Aug. 2.

Naked July also takes time out in the day for matinees with two weekend "brunch shows": **Naked Girls Reading** runs 2 p.m. Saturdays July 11-Aug. 1, while **Afternoon Delight: A Seminar on the Female Orgasm** is expounded upon at 2 p.m. Sundays July 12-Aug. 2.

But perhaps the Naked July festival's most distinguished production is the revival of the 2008 drama **The Day on Which a Man Dies** (and with that title, you can expect it to be the most serious festival production as well). According to Bryan, its source of inspiration is a little-known Tennessee Williams story that re-images the death of famed modern artist Jackson Pollock.

Williams was a friend of Pollock. Williams wrote the drama as a lover's quarrel involving a pioneering artist and his lover who loses faith in him. And in an extra artistic twist, Williams drew inspiration from Japanese Noh Drama,

which heavily feature ghosts and slow, methodical movement.

David Kaplan of the Provincetown Tennessee Williams Theater Festival directs the premiere Chicago production, which is then slated to travel to East Hampton, N.Y., in conjunction with the Pollock-Krasner Museum, and then on to Rhode Island for two more festival performances.

With all of the promised nudity (or near-nudity), I asked Bryan if he was concerned about any authorities making a moralistic push to shut the festival down or arrest the actors. (Hey, it has happened before! In the 1990s, a nude actor playing a male hustler in a professional production of John Guare play *Six Degrees of Separation* was arrested in Texas.)

"I welcome any local constabularies to view our shows," Bryan said. "If they give us a hard time, well, then they can be in the show, too. We're definitely here to provoke."

Tickets to all of the Naked July productions are

\$20 and can be purchased by calling 773-327-7077 or visiting www.npt2.com.

Numerous nudes

The National Pastime Theatre isn't the only place to catch a glimpse of naked males on stage this month. The Greenhouse Theater Center also hosts two based-upon-true-stories dramas that have male nudity scripted into the action.

Eclipse Theatre presents Guare's Olivier Award-winning **Six Degrees of Separation** from July 23 through Aug. 30, while Hubris Productions presents Martin Sherman's groundbreaking **Bent** from July 9 through Aug. 15.

Bent is about the persecution of gay men by the Nazis during World War II, while *Six Degrees of Separation* is all about a con artist who worked his way into the homes of wealthy East Coast families while posing as the son of Sidney Poitier.

Both works are significant 20th-century dramas. But if you need to convince your gay male friends to go along with you, just highlight the nudity.

Call 773-404-7336 or visit greenhousetheater.org for more information.

Bailiwick's back

There used to be a time when Bailiwick Repertory Theatre was the place to see naked male flesh on stage (*Naked Boys Singing* and *Bare-naked Lads*, anyone?). Many worried that the Bailiwick Repertory would disappear after it exited its Belmont Avenue home. But the Bailiwick has re-emerged with three shows at two venues this summer.

Already up and running at Mary's Attic is **Bombs Away!** (a spoof of cut numbers from musicals), while **The Cousins Grimm** (a queer take on fairytales) and **Two Spoons** (Peter Mercurio's gay marriage comedy) respectively begin July 10 and July 15 at the Center on Halsted's Hoover-Leppen Theatre.

Call 773-883-1090 or visit www.bailiwick.org for more information.



500 Clown and the Elephant Deal.

THEATER REVIEW

500 Clown and the Elephant Deal

Playwright: The ensemble;

Composer: John Fournier

At: 500 Clown at Steppenwolf

Upstairs Theatre, 1650 N. Halsted

Phone: 312-335-1650; \$20-\$28

Runs through: July 11

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

Leslie Buxbaum Danzig provides two sets of director's notes in the program for 500 Clown and the Elephant Deal.

One in the professionally printed program (filled whimsical scribbles and clip art) comically details the elephant exchange plot of Bertolt Brecht's *Man is Man*, which inspired the show. The second is a photocopied insert detailing a conversation with her young son. It's cute, but it's really owning up to the fact that preview audiences weren't getting the company's Brecht tie-in, or just what the show was supposed to mean. So Danzig gives permission for you to make what you will of the show.

Danzig needn't have worried, since it's generally known that you're not in for a literal adaptation of a classic with 500 Clown (just look at their previous deconstructions of *Macbeth*, *Frankenstein* and *A Christmas Carol*). And besides,

the red pre-show lighting in the Steppenwolf Upstairs Theatre makes it a chore to actually read the program notes.

All that really matters with 500 Clown is that you're in for an evening of great clowning fun—the kind of fourth-wall-smashing and extremely physically frantic kind that 500 Clown is an expert at. The artsy Brechtian overlays about self and identity turn out to be really immaterial (or just a really great starting point).

The setting and premise of this 500 Clown go round is a cabaret concert with a demanding diva named Madame Barker (a wonderfully self-deprecating and childlike Molly Brennan). She sings funny innuendo-filled songs whilst terrorizing her antic and incompetent stage hands (Adrian Danzig as Bruce, Paul Kalina as Shank, Matt Hawkins as Cheetah and Jessica Hudson as Viola). The expanded 500 Clown ensemble also includes a magnificent jazz band led by the show's co-creator John Fournier (piano, saxophone and vocals), Gerald Dowd on percussion and Matt Thompson strumming both the bass and ukulele.

Coordinating the wacky spotlight, diva star door entrances and exits and stage props turns out to be a major chore for this gang of four black-clad stage crew clowns. They pull ropes, scamper up and down the lighting grid and take in audience perspectives of the show. But when the diva gets injured, the stage hands alternately don't know what to do, or they grapple for their own spotlight as themselves or in the guise

of characters like Sergeant Bloody Five (who is in the Brecht play).

Though it may overstay its welcome a bit, 500 Clown and the Elephant Deal is essentially a non-stop laugh-a-thon filled with mounds of music and cartoonish pratfalls. If you want, the show can be over contextualized in relation to Brecht, but it's really more fun just to sit back, dodge the red-eared clowns and laugh at all the amazing antics.

THEATER REVIEW

Sodomites!!! A Musical of Biblical Proportions

Playwright: James Asmus and

the ensemble; Score: Mike Descoteaux

At: Annoyance Theatre, 4830 N. Broadway

Phone: 773-561-4665; \$15

Runs through: July 31

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

Don't let the Catholic League or other homophobic religious organizations know about Annoyance Theatre's *Sodomites!!! A Musical of Biblical Proportions*. Or on second thought, do tell.

Any extra publicity generated for this charmingly sacrilegious new musical would only be beneficial. Chanting protesters outside the Annoyance would generate curious audiences to see what all the fuss is about, plus anyone seeing *Sodomites!!!* will seriously question why a bizarre Biblical story and other idiosyncratic passages from *Leviticus* are still being selectively used to justify discrimination against the LGBT community.

It's safe to assume that actor/playwright James Asmus and his comic ensemble drew their irreverent inspiration for *Sodomites!!!* from the hateful Kansas preacher Fred Phelps and his family from the Westboro Baptist Church (plus a good dose of *South Park*-type humor—just look at how they depict Lot's wife).

The premise of *Sodomites!!!* is to riff on the Biblical story of Sodom and Gomorrah as if its hero, Lot, was a societal malcontent like Phelps who obsesses constantly about the city's rampant homosexuality.

Framed as a flashback, *Sodomites!!!* initially shows Lot gloating over his former neighbors' destruction and his heavenly bestowed status as a "good man." (Chris Witaske brings a hilarious dose of frat-boy stupidity to the role, which is compounded by his silly Biblical costume by Emily Candini that overemphasizes his very hairy chest.)

But things aren't so clear-cut when we actually meet the mild-mannered citizens of Sodom (some of whom aren't exclusively gay), or meet up with the bumbling angels played by Erica Elam and Jim Fath who get very mixed smiting mission signals from God (whose favorite film

turns out to be *Armageddon*).

Asmus and the ensemble go out of their way to intelligently offend by questioning many moral aspects of the story, which includes the frequently omitted incestuous ending bit when Lot's daughters (Irene Marquette and Christy Bonstell) get pregnant by their father. Some might feel Asmus goes too far when he personally depicts God (who jokes about raping the Virgin Mary), but it only fits the out-to-shock tone.

Sodomites!!! runs on a bit too long, plus its cast won't get major plaudits for their yelled singing of Mike Descoteaux's snappy score (Descoteaux was also responsible for the songs in Annoyance's hit production of *Love is Dead: A NecRomantic Musical*).

But the entire ensemble deserves acclaim for their impeccable comic timing under director Sean Cusick, who also bravely acted on opening night after one week's worth of rehearsal when cast member Mort Burke pulled out to do a gig with comedian Bob Odenkirk).

So go see *Sodomites!!!* now before the protesters show up. Or better yet, wait for them to arrive and get a rise out by sharing all the show's juicy details.

CRITICS' PICS

Cruising, Neo-Futurarium, July 2 only. Expect many negative gay stereotypes to get eviscerated when *It Came From the Neo-Futurarium VIII* continues with a staged spoof reading of this controversial 1980 Al Pacino film about a straight cop who goes undercover to discover a gay serial killer. SCM

Mary Poppins, Cadillac Palace Theatre, through July 12. Time is running out to spend a "Jolly Holiday" with Mary in this visually stunning stage-interpretation of the beloved 1964 Disney film. Bring a kid along to make it extra fun. SCM

Little Brother, Griffin Theater at the Athenaeum, through July 19. Tech-savvy teenagers save America from the Department of Homeland Security in this cyberpunk thriller. Even oldsters who don't know URL from AARP can enjoy. MSB

Uncle Vanya, TUTA at Chopin Theatre, through June 28. Chekhov's ironic comedy of self-absorption and complacent Russian provincial life is given a fresh and unstilted translation in this well-acted staging that's equal parts sunlight, shadow and self-pity. JA

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge, Morgan and Sullivan

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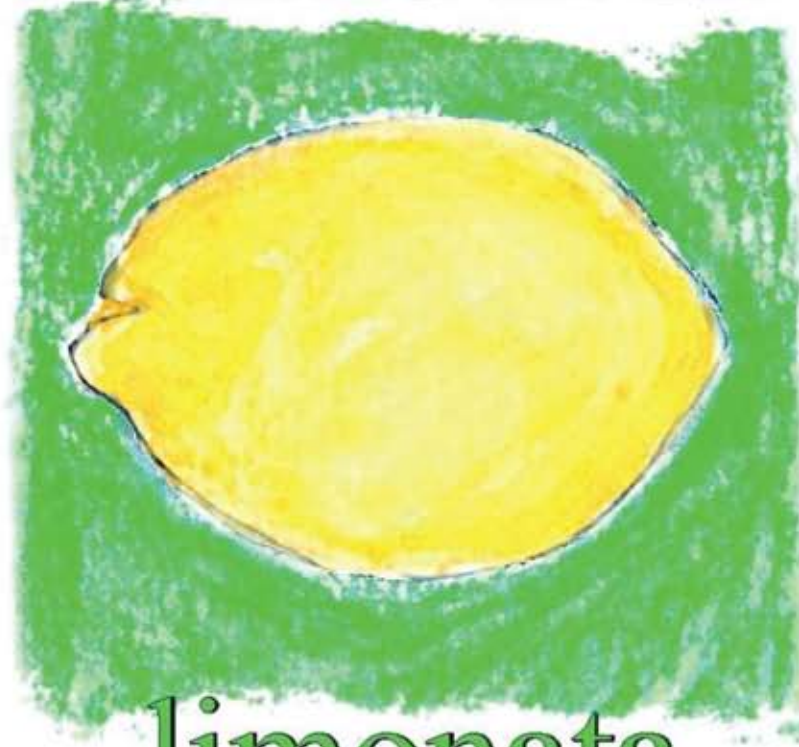
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THEATER REVIEW

Cirque Shanghai: Bright Spirit

Director: Dwight Jordan
At: Navy Pier, 600 E. Grand
Phone: Ticketmaster—800-745-3000
Tickets: \$14.50-\$19.50 for adults;
\$12.50-\$14.50 for children 3-12;
free children 2 and under;
\$29.50 for "Gold Circle" seats
Runs through: Sept. 7

BY JERRY NUNN

The world premiere of Cirque Shanghai: Bright Spirit stretches over the summer with a troupe from China, running June 3-Sept. 7 at Navy Pier. After attending the kickoff breakfast at the Park Grill in Millennium Park, weather would be a huge factor with the open-air Pepsi Skyline Stage. There was a torrential downpour during the sneak-peek performance, and then cold temperatures opening night. Now that the weather has warmed up bring your Chinese fan, Karl Lagerfeld!

Director Dwight Jordan and choreographer Brenda Didier are the creative team bringing to life Cirque Shanghai: Bright Spirit. Having both based in Illinois adds a local aspect in partnership with the tradition of Chinese acrobats.

Bright costumes adorn the performers, making the show visually appealing for all ages. During the "Adagio Ballet" piece, a young female performs on pointe on top of another dancer's head. For the "Plate Spinning" sketch, caterpillars grace the stage while girls spin multiple plates.

Windy City Times' very own managing editor, Andrew Davis, was hand-picked out of the crowd opening night to help out with the "Hat Juggling" act.

The "Tower of Chairs" was awe-inspiring to watch as the acrobats climbed to new heights.

The inner tube segment gave a whole new meaning to riding a doughnut. Bike tricks, jump-rope and inverted ball-juggling created a variety that kept the crowd wondering what would happen next.

While there were some fumbles throughout the show, this actually added to the realism and the fact that there was no fakery in this circus.

The performers work very hard at their amazing contortions but still manage to make most of the tricks look easy and breezy. Cirque Shanghai has had three seasons at Navy Pier. "Bright Spirit" adds to the shining legacy, appealing to the child in us all.

Having worked as a performer for five years at Navy Pier, I know parking can be a problem. There is a 1,700-space self-parking garage below the Pier for a fee. If you take the train to the Grand Avenue stop, walk upstairs and a free trolley runs every 15 minutes along with a CTA bus to save on the walk.

Also, take advantage of Navy Pier's Fun Package deal and save 20% off dining at Riva Restaurant. The package includes tickets to Shoreline Cruises as well as Cirque for \$35.75.

THEATER REVIEW

Poseidon!

Playwright: David Cerda and Cheryl Snodgrass;
Score: Cerda and Scott Lamberty
At: Hell in a Handbag Productions at Chopin Theatre, 1543 W. Division
Phone: 800-838-3006; \$15-\$25
Runs through: July 26

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

Those capsized cruise passengers from The Poseidon Adventure are back! And so are their crazy costumed fans who know every line of dialogue from that 1972 ocean-liner disaster flick!

That's right, Hell in a Handbag Productions has revived (and revised) its campy and drag-filled 2002 musical spoof Poseidon! An Upside Down Musical upstairs at the Chopin Theatre. Yes, Ed Jones' hilarious rendition of the Academy Award-winning song "The Morning After" is back, plus a few new bits.

If you missed Poseidon! the first time during its previous runs at the Theatre Building, the former Bailiwick and the New York International Fringe Festival, rush out and laugh along with it now while you still can. The cast is so large that it's unlikely to be remounted again, plus it probably won't be produced on such a grand scale.

It certainly helps to have seen the original film to get all of the in-jokes and to laugh at the unintentionally campy dialogue that inspired so many silly songs. But it isn't necessary, since Poseidon! authors Cheryl Snodgrass, Scott Lamberty and David Cerda (who also acts in the show) all do respectable jobs at generally spoofing the disaster flick genre.

What the Poseidon! authors aren't entirely successful with is the show's framing device. Set at a New Year's Eve party, Poseidon starts with a pack of obsessive Poseidon Adventure fans who watch the film as costumed characters and act along (or interrupt) from time to time.

Giving a window to fans and their film memories (many of them based on real stories) is sometimes touching, particularly the monologue related by Adrienne Smith about a woman who lost her best friend to AIDS. But more often than not, the spotty disruptions take you out of the show's flow and clash in tone.

Much better are the actors playing the film characters. Ed Jones walks away with the biggest laughs in drag as the ditzy singer Nonnie Parry (particularly when he embraced David Besky as her dead brother, Teddy, in the new song "Did You Like His Music?").

Back also from the original Poseidon! run (and doing smashing work) is Steve Kimbrough in Shelley Winters drag and Michael S. Miller in old-age make-up as the stereotypically Jewish couple of the Rosens. Derek Czaplewski was capable in the Gene Hackman role of Rev. Scott, though I would have liked more mock heroics from him.

Also up for a good laugh was Michael Hampton in the Ernest Borgnine role of Lt. Mike Rogo and Trista Smith as his former prostitute wife, Linda.

As musicalized film spoofs go, Poseidon! tries to do too much at once. But when it's focused just on the film, Poseidon! is camp comedy at its best.

THEATER REVIEW

The Hollow Lands

Playwright: Howard Korder
At: Steep Theatre, 1115 W. Berwyn
Phone: 773-458-0722; \$18
Runs through: Aug. 1

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

For a story whose hero is a man enamored of maps, Howard Korder's play offers its audience precious few guideposts. On one level, this sprawling saga can be read as a diatribe on all-American greed and cruelty (Native Americans and palefaces alike). On another, its picaresque tale of an Irish emigré's progress during the first half of the 19th century can be said to mirror the immigrant experience. Then again, there is every individual's eternal quest to find their own "place" in the universe—a search like as not conducted one step ahead of the law. And let's not forget the propensity of males to leave their homes and women to meekly accept this impulse. Of community leaders—whatever their ideologies—to settle into sanctimonious egotism. And of good intentions to collapse beneath civilization's inevitable entropy.

Korder has never been known for his optimism, but his deconstruction of the entire Westward Expansion—an era spanning nearly a quarter of our nation's history—might have made a suitably gripping airport novel à la Larry McMurtry or Winston Graham. The three hours required for its

execution in the tiny Steep Theatre storefront, however, allows us insufficient contemplative time to keep track of the disparate analogical narrative threads, especially those conveyed in deliberately buzzword-laced, but ultimately enigmatic, manifestos. Further fragmenting our attention is the frequent reorientation demanded by the swift changes of locale and multiple casting.

But as the Mexican Capitan Tresguerras ("three wars") might say, "*Caballo grande, ande o no ande.*" However awkwardly this big horse might run, there can be no denying the scope of its ambitions nor the Steep ensemble's industry in meeting its challenges. Under Jonathan Berry's direction, each actor seizes the moment with valiant concentration manifested in impeccable phrasing, enunciation and text interpretation. Special mention is due Yosh Hayashi's bravura turn as the intrepid—and certifiably crazy—adventurer Samuel Markham Hayes, who dazzles us with oratory that peals with a conviction almost eclipsing our befuddlement over when, where and whom we are confronting.

All that said, Korder's attempt—which clocked in much longer at its premiere, if you can believe it—to duplicate the panoramic sweep of, say, Robert Schenkkan's Kentucky Cycle sets out to do too much and winds up doing too little of it well. Steep Theatre recently earned itself a Jeff award for assertion of style over substance, but it remains to be seen whether this undeniably talented company can pull it off a second time.

SPOTLIGHT

It's tourist season on Navy Pier, so that means Chicago Shakespeare Theater (CST) turns to kiddie fare to appease the teeming masses of tots and tired parents. This summer, CST hopes to rub up some business with a stage version of Disney's 1992 hit *Aladdin*. The hour-long musical has some luxury casting with Larry Yando and Derek Hasenstab (both veterans of the tour of *The Lion King*) playing the respective villains Jafar and parrot Iago. Plus, there's Bill Larkin (*The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* and many Chicago Gay Men's Chorus shows) playing the genie. *Aladdin* runs 11 a.m. Wednesdays, 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays (no shows July 2 or 3) and 2 p.m. Sundays until Aug. 30 at Chicago Shakespeare Theater, 800 E. Grand. Tickets are \$23; \$18 for kids ages 12 and under. Call 312-595-5600 or visit www.chicagoshakes.com. Photo by Bill Burlingham

Farrah Fawcett dies at 62

Farrah Fawcett, the actress renowned for her blonde hair, '70s show *Charlie's Angels* and best-selling poster died June 25. She was 62.

Fawcett, who checked into a hospital in early April, had been battling anal cancer for three years. CNN.com reported that longtime boyfriend Ryan O'Neal and her friend Alana Stewart were with Fawcett at Saint John's Hospital in Santa Monica, Calif., when she died.

A documentary on Fawcett's battle with cancer called "Farrah's Story" aired on NBC May 15. Among Fawcett's movies were the TV film *The Burning Bed* (1984), *Extremities* (1986) and *The Apostle* (1997).

Fawcett, who starred as an abused woman in *The Burning Bed*, has set aside part of her

estate to help domestic-abuse survivors, according to WENN.com.

Local TV stations will pay tribute to Fawcett. Beginning Saturday, June 27, and all through next week, Me-TV and THIStv will feature tributes to her. Me-TV (WCIU DT 26.2, Comcast Digital Cable Channel 223, DirecTV Channel 23, DISH Network Channel 23) will run episodes of *Charlie's Angels* Monday-Friday, June 29-July 3, at 11 a.m. and 12 p.m. THIStv (WCIU DT 26.4, Comcast 246, RCN 38 and WOW 195) will show *The Nazi Hunter: Beate Klarsfeld Story* July 1 at 7 p.m.; and *Small Sacrifices* July 1 at 3 p.m.

Fawcett is survived by her son, Redmond O'Neal, and her 91-year-old father, James, according to Philly.com.

The service for Fawcett took place at the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels in Los Angeles June 30.

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KNIGHT AT THE MOVIES



Public Enemies

BY RICHARD KNIGHT, JR.

The role of the infamous bank robber John Dillinger fits Johnny Depp as elegantly as one of the many finely tailored suits that he sports throughout **Public Enemies**, Michael Mann's epic gangster picture. That's because the film—scripted by Ronan Bennett, Mann and Ann Biderman—has obviously been tailored to trade on Depp's screen persona: the confident man of few words with the dashing good looks, the always present innate coolness and, above all, the masculine sensitivity that is irresistible to the ladies (and the gay men). The result is an antihero glamorized in much the way that Clark Gable's bad-boy character was romanticized in *Manhattan Melodrama*, the 1934 gangster picture that Dillinger watched just before being shot down by FBI agents outside Chicago's legendary Biograph theatre.

Dillinger's romance with Billie Frechette (played by *La vie en Rose* Oscar winner Marion Cotillard) has also been heightened to the point where it becomes the central motivating force for Depp's character and for the movie. Mann's film, in bringing the doomed romance of the bank-robbing but innately decent Robin Hood figure to the forefront of the story, opts for the time-tested old-fashioned approach of dozens of classic movies from the Hollywood canon. Fresh it isn't, but audiences hungry for an emotionally gratifying, familiar moviegoing experience after a spate of spiritless, characterless special-effects blockbusters will be particularly satisfied by *Public Enemies*. Mann has eschewed his signature battery of editing tics and curbed his propensity for in-your-face graphic violence. (The stylized violence here is more in keeping with any number of cops and robbers movies.) He brings his considerable gifts to bear on what is essentially a traditional crime drama with a romantic flair—a mixture of *The Untouchables* and *Bugsy*. The film offers audiences a great time, letting them luxuriate in a plethora of melodramatic flourishes, the whole awash in vintage Billie Holiday tunes and intricate period detail—and it could just as easily been titled *Chicago Melodrama*.

Depp's Dillinger is portrayed as a gentleman bandit—an honorable thief with standards and a loner's sure sense of confidence, and an effortless womanizer. We see him during a bank robbery tell a poor farmer to put his money away and give up his expensively tailored coat to a shivering female bank hostage. When he meets Billie, working as a coat-check girl, nothing will keep him from his girl. The two dance to a sumptuous version of "Bye Bye Blackbird" by Diana Krall (glimpsed on the bandstand), which immediately becomes "their song." The romance is on and, throughout the rest of the picture, it's back and forth between Cotillard crying for her "Chonny" in her thick French accent and Depp pulling off one daring feat after another.

Prissy, tight-mouthed FBI director J. Edgar Hoover (Billy Crudup, in a nice, cryptic performance)—forever followed by smirking number two Clyde Tolson (Chandler Williams) and a phalanx of good-looking G-men—knows

he needs to bring down Public Enemy number one in order to solidify his power and that of his newly formed organization. After a series of setbacks, Melvin Purvis (Christian Bale, still intense but more subdued than one of his blockbuster characters) seems about to do that when he comes briefly face-to-face with his arch-enemy during Dillinger's brief incarceration—only to see himself and the feds embarrassed time and time again until the infamous Lady in Red comes forward to tip him off to Dillinger's whereabouts.

The overfamiliarity of the story (the material has been the basis for at least five movies) is offset by Mann's elegant technique—Dillinger's arrival in a rainstorm by night at Indiana for transport to a prison is thrillingly shot and edited, as is the shoot-out at Wisconsin's Little Bohemia Lodge (yet another beautiful night sequence). Ostensibly, Dillinger's downfall is caused by the syndicate turning its back on him when his notoriety interferes with their profits, but we are guided to believe that his overconfidence and his inability to let go of his Big Love are the things that really sealed his fate.

The movie would have us believe that on the afternoon of his death Dillinger walked unnoticed into the office of the task force designed to bring him down, gazing at photographs of

himself and his mostly dead compatriots, even engaging distracted policemen in conversation before strolling out again. Later, Mann even gives Dillinger dying words that a compassionate G-man secretly imparts to a tearful Billie. Naturally, this being a supreme example of revisionist history, they have to do with Their Song. It hardly matters that there's not been much heat between Depp and Cotillard in evidence or that there's not much fealty at this point to the facts.

Like Robert Mitchum, James Dean, Greta Garbo and a few others in their heyday, Depp makes for a smashing antihero who audiences won't just mind seeing die onscreen, but will actually revel in. Depp is a singular, mesmerizing screen presence who has yet to have a single on-screen love interest who can compete with the audiences' moony affection for him. Mann knows this, and though he stuffs this vastly entertaining epic with a raft of familiar character actors (everyone from Lili Taylor to Stephen Dorff), it all comes down to those smoldering eyes. When Depp wailed "I'm burning for you baby" at one point in *Cry Baby*, he was speaking for his worshipful audience. Lurching around in the *Pirate* movies; supremely evil in *Sweeney Todd*; weirdly childlike in *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*; and geeky and phobic in *Sleepy Hollow*, *Public*

Enemies once again gives us the dreamy Depp of *Finding Neverland* and *Chocolat*.

I'm burning for you, baby.

Check out my archived reviews at www.windycitytimes.com or www.knightatthemovies.com. Readers can leave feedback at the latter Web site.



Read an interview with Pedro's Alex Loynaz online at WindyCityMediaGroup.com.

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Pride Fest: It's electric



Chicago's annual Pride Fest—a celebratory prelude to the Pride Parade—celebrated its seventh year June 26-27 with vendors, food and performances on two stages. The festival took place on Halsted from Addison to Grace. Some highlights were PETCO's Pet Pride Parade, disco diva Thelma Houston and actress/singer Deborah Gibson shaking her love to the crowds. Text and pictures by Jerry Nunn

On the Rocks



Hundreds of Black LGBTQ individuals went to Montrose Beach after Sunday's Pride Parade for the Rocks Pride Day Party. The event, which kicked off Chicago's Black Pride events, is an annual tradition. Photos by Wes Lawson

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'04 BMW 330ci CONVERTIBLE.....5-Speed, Leather, Loaded, Grey, P3391A.....	\$19,995	'09 Subaru Forester X.....Automatic, Air, Sage Green or Red, P3416/P3399.....	\$18,995	'07 Subaru Tribeca NAVI.....Leather, Sunroof, Grey, P3408.....	\$21,995
'06 Acura TL.....Auto., Leather, Sunroof, Heated Seats, 26K, Grey, P3343A.....	\$19,995	'07 Subaru Tribeca Ltd.....Leather, Sunroof, Charcoal, P3405.....	\$19,995	'07 Subaru Tribeca Ltd.....Leather, Sunroof, Charcoal, P3405.....	\$19,995
'07 Mercedes Benz Z30C Sport.....Leather, Sunroof, Pewter, #4904A.....	\$17,995	'08 Subaru Forester Prem.....Auto, Sunrft, Alloys, Red or Blue 2-to-Choose.....	\$17,995	SUBARU IMPREZAS	
'07 Honda Accord HYBRID.....Auto., Leather, Sunroof, Loaded, Grey, #4375A.....	\$17,995	'06 Subaru Forester X-Prem.....Sunrft., Heated Seats, Alloys, Grey, 26K, P3382.....	\$16,995		
'07 Volvo S60 T5.....Auto., Leather, Sunroof, 24K, Black, #F3243A.....	\$17,995	'06 Subaru Forester LL Bean Edition.....Sunroof, Leather, 50K, 4777A.....	\$15,995	'08 Impreza Prem. 4-Dr.....Auto, Sunrft, Alloys, Trac. Control, Black, 3K, P3409.....	\$16,995
'07 Honda Civic HYBRID.....Auto., Air, Full Power, Silver, 19K, P3385A.....	\$15,995	'02 Volvo XC70 AWD Wgn.....Leather, Sunroof, 1-Owner, Alloys, 66K, 4825A.....	\$9,995	'08 Subaru Impreza Prem. 4-Dr.....Auto., Trac. Con., Alloys, Ipod, 9K, P3396.....	\$15,495
'06 Honda Accord LX 4x4.....1-Owner, Silver, 27K, Like New 4828A.....	\$15,995	'06 Subaru Forester X.....Automatic, Air, Full Power, Beige, 33K, P3402.....	\$13,995	'08 Impreza Prem. 4-Dr.....Auto., Trac. Con., Alloys, Ipod, Spoiler, P3300A.....	\$14,495
'07 Honda Accord LX.....Automatic, Air, Full Power, 4724A.....	\$15,495	'06 Subaru Forester X.....Automatic, Air, Full Power, Grey, 52K, P3348A.....	\$13,495	'07 Subaru Impreza SE.....Auto., Sunroof, Alloys, Black, P3378.....	\$12,995
'06 Honda Accord EX.....Automatic, Air, Sunroof, Alloys, 41K, P3393A.....	\$14,995	'03 Subaru Forester Prem.....Automatic, Sunroof, Alloys, Silver, 4950.....	\$9,995	SUBARU LEGACY / OUTBACKS	
'06 Jeep Liberty Renegade 4x4.....Auto., Sunroof, Alloys, Silver, P3370A.....	\$13,995	'09 Subaru Tribeca DVD/NAVI.....7 Passenger, Black, 9K, P3352.....	\$28,495	'09 Subaru Outback.....Automatic, Air, Full Power, Bronze or Gold, P3344/45.....	\$18,995
		'09 Subaru Tribeca Ltd.....7 Passenger, Leather, 4-to-Choose, All Colors.....	\$23,995	'09 Subaru Legacy 2.5I SE.....Sunrft., Alloys, Auto., 3-to-Choose, #P3303/64/88.....	\$16,995
				'08 Subaru Outback 2.5I.....Automatic, Full Pwr., Bronze P3406.....	\$16,995

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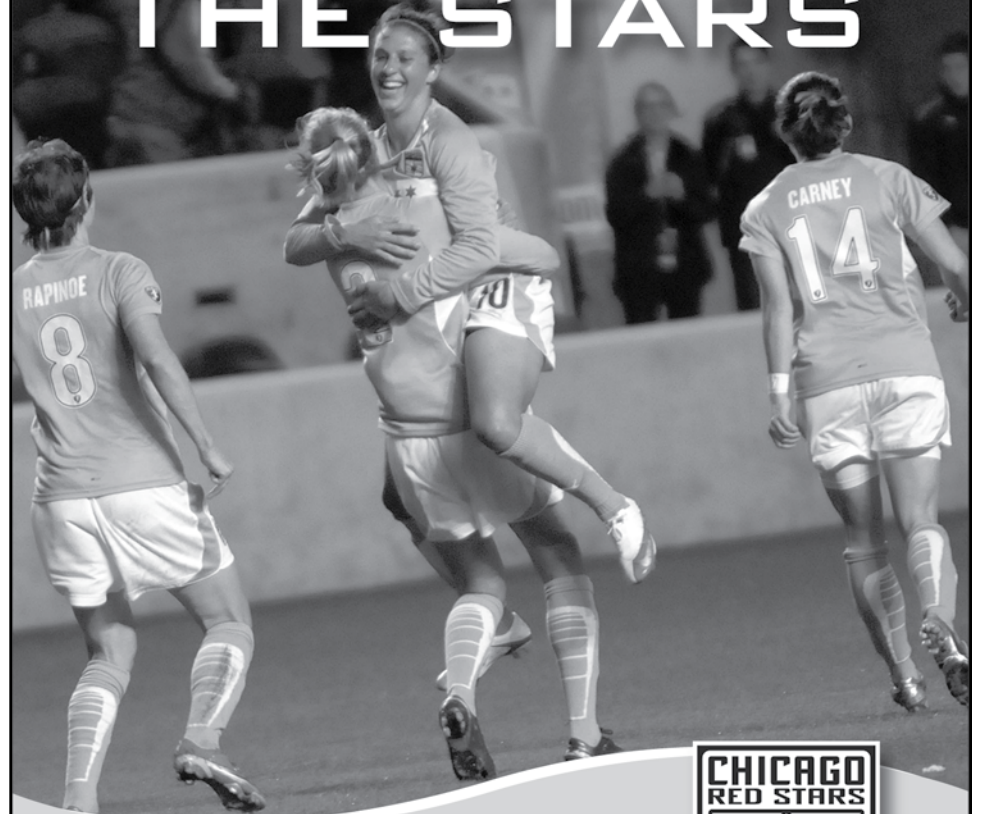
And we cannot wait to make sure fairness for LGBT people and people with HIV are part of our nation's health care reform.

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WHAT TO DO?

Wednesday, July 1

4 Women Only, dedicated to new women artists and hosted by Kat Fitzgerald. 9 p.m. Uncommon Ground, 1401 W. Devon; 773-465-9801 and www.uncommonground.com

Cathy Richardson's San Fran Band and Anne. Part of 29th Annual American Music Festival. Fitzgerald's, 6615 Roosevelt, Berwyn. 708-788-2118 www.fitzgeraldsnightclub.com or www.CRBand.com

Community reception honoring Center on Halsted staff 6 - 9 p.m. \$5 donation in support of cultural programming at COH. Silent auction, youth programming and book signing. Center on Halsted's 3rd floor Gallery

Gay Liberation Network 7 p.m. Gerber/Hart Library 1127 W. Granville Ave.

Windy City Black Pride VIP Reception PrideIndex.com Esteem Awards Ceremony. 6-10 p.m. Sidetrack, 3349 N Halsted St. 773-477-9189 lsmith@windycityblackpride.org. www.sidetrackchicago.com, www.prideindex.com

Thursday, July 2

Black Pride: 'How Do I Look' film screening. Followup to 'Paris Is Burning' / 7:30 p.m. Free. Director Wolfgang Busch will be available for a Q & A The Center on Halsted 3656 N. Halsted

Chicago Gay Men's Chorus Over the Rainbow tribute to the legendary Judy Garland and commemoration of the 40th anniversary of the Stonewall Inn riots. Encore performance, Mayslake Peabody Estate, 1717 W. 31st St., Oak Brook \$25/\$18/\$15 www.cgmc.org 630-206-9566.

Windy City Black Pride Information Central, 12 p.m. - 4 p.m. Chicago South Loop Hotel, State St. #2600 S. State St. 312-225-7000 Info lsmith@windycityblackpride.org

Windy City Black Pride Opening Reception 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. Chicago South Loop Hotel State St. #2600 S. State St. 312-225-7000 Info: lsmith@windycityblackpride.org

Windy City Black Pride Diva Suites Presented by The Anita Davis Dance The-

ater 8 p.m. - 10 p.m., Doors 7:30 p.m. \$ 20 Harold Washington Cultural Center 4701 S Dr. Martin L King Jr., Dr. 773-924-5156 info@anitadavidance.com, www.anitadavidance.com

Windy City Black Pride Opening Celebration Le'Chocolat Part 3: "The Menage' et Trois" Presented and Sponsored by Luxe Entertainment 11 p.m. - 4 a.m. \$15/\$25 VIP Express Entry The Menage' @ Morretti's, 1645 W Jackson Blvd 312-850-0208 www.myspace.com/lximanagement

Friday, July 3

Black Pride Comedy Night featuring Mz Ruff N Stuff & Friends, 7:30 p.m. \$8 Circuit Niteclub, 3641 N. Halsted

Black Pride Dance party for men of color. Usually attracts over 1,000 men. \$15. 10 p.m. till 4 a.m The Prop House 1675 N. Elston

Equality Illinois First Friday Networking Event 6 - 8 p.m. Sidetrack, Glass Bar, 3347 N. Halsted St www.equality-illinois.org/

Queer Queens of Qomedy 7:30 p.m. with a special 10 p.m. game show performance. Both shows will be filmed live and are expected to air on national television later this year. Lakeshore Theater \$25 advance/\$30door/\$35 VIP; 773-472-3492 or www.lakeshoretheater.com

Windy City Black Pride Poetry Slam 6 p.m. - 10 p.m. \$ TBD. Bronzeville Community Clubhouse. 3847 S Giles Ave. 773-548-7555 www.bcchouse.com

Windy City Black Pride Celebration and Life, performance by: Lil' Mo, R&B singer and songwriter. 10 p.m. - 3 a.m. Performances 12:30 a.m., Congress Theater, 2135 N. Milwaukee; www.windycityblackpride.org

Youth Pride Center presents the Black Gay Prom, \$10 individual youth (under 23)/\$15 couple. \$99 special prom room rate (double occupancy - 4 in a room). Fireworks. Special guest DJ - Angel X - all the way from L.A.! \$5 shuttle bus from South Suburbs. Mikelle 708-336-0242 info. Wit Hotel 201 N State St.

Saturday, July 4

Annual LGBT Author Reception, 10 or more authors from around the country come to read, network & sell their newest releases. Free, 4 p.m.- 6 p.m. Circuit Niteclub, 3641 N. Halsted

Annual Poetry Slam \$8 to spit & \$5 to sit. cash prizes. 7 - 9 p.m. Circuit Niteclub 3641 N. Halsted

Black Pride Party for men of color \$15 10 p.m. till 3 a.m. Shadow Bar, 811 W. Randolph

Sexy Saturday, Syleena Johnson (Chapter 4: Labor Pains), 10 p.m. - 3 a.m. Part of Windy City Black Pride. Congress Theater, 2135 N. Milwaukee Ave. Tix info to come at: www.windycity-blackpride.org/PrideEvents.html

Sidetrack 4th of July Barbeque 2 p.m. Sidetrack, 3347 N. Halsted St

Windy City Black Pride Workshop, 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. Free. Bronzeville Community Clubhouse 3847 S Giles Ave. 773-548-7555 www.bcchouse.com www.windycityblackpride.org

7th annual White Party. Over 1,200 women of color all dressed in white! Three floors, 3 Dj's. \$20 . 9 p.m. - 4:30 a.m. Metro Chicago, 3730 N. Clark

Sunday, July 5

Black Pride Party in the Park. Noon - 8 p.m. Music, dancing, food, fun, vendors. Rainbow Beach

Windy City Black Pride, Park Festival presented and sponsored by Windy City Black Pride with Chicago Park District 12 p.m. - 7p.m. Sherman Park, 1301 W. 52nd St. (Between 52nd & 55th and Racine)

Tuesday, July 7

Homolatte: Queer Words and Music hosted by Scott Free. Yermiyahu Ahron Taub / Good Asian Drivers. Free. 7:30 p.m. Big Chicks Tweet, 5024 N Sheridan 773-728-5511 www.homolatte.com

Thursday, July 9

Bent. Landmark drama set in 1934 Berlin. Two men wearing the pink triangle in Dachau find comfort and courage.

8 p.m. F/F/S, 3 p.m. Sun. Through Aug.15 Preview \$15, run \$25. Q&A with director, actors on July 12, 26, Aug. 9. Theater Center, 2257 N. Lincoln Ave. www.hubrisproductions.com

NewTown Writers Fortnightly Writing Workshop 7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. Gerber/Hart Library 1127 W. Granville Ave. www.newtownwriters.org

Queer Spirit Chicago Drop-In Guided Meditation a weekly guided meditation. For both beginners and experienced spiritual seekers. Each week will focus on a new topic or concept (Attend any or all sessions). 11 a.m.-11:45 a.m., Mondays (weekly) & 6 p.m.-7:15 p.m. Tuesdays (weekly). (ongoing)\$10 (\$5 for Seniors/Youth with valid I.D.). culture@centeronhalsted.org or 773-661-0763 or www.centeronhalsted.org

Friday, July 10

Twilight Becomes Night, screening and reception. 7:30 p.m. \$10. Chicago Filmmakers, 5243 N. Clark. RSVP info@localfirstchicago.org

GLBT fairy tales, The Cousins Grimm, and a new comedy about gay marriage, Two Spoons. Bailiwick's 2009 Pride Series, through Aug.23. Hoover-Leppen Theater, Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted. Tix \$25/\$30 at 773-883-1090, 1-800-838-3006, or www.brownpapertickets.com

Saturday, July 11

ALMA's fabulous Boat Cruise off Navy Pier tix at www.almachicago.org

Rooftop Hip-Hop, one-hour class in fundamentals of hip hop dance for all ages and dance levels. 11 a.m. - noon Saturdays (weekly). \$10 (\$5 for Seniors/Youth with valid I.D) culture@centeronhalsted.org or 773-661-0763 or www.centeronhalsted.org

Old Town School of Folk Music 12th annual Folk and Roots Festival through Jul 12. Noon - 10 p.m. \$8. Welles Park, 4400 N.Lincoln Ave. between Montrose and Sunnyside in Chicago's Lincoln Square neighborhood. www.chicagofolkandroots.org 773-728-6000

Wed.-Sunday, July 1-5



THE PRIDE MOVES ON

Windy City Black Pride and Chicago Windy City Black Pride will hold various events during the first week of July.

Photo from 2008 Windy City Black Pride event by Emmanuel Garcia

Friday, July 3



POPPY LOVE

Poppy Champlin will be among the comedians at Queer Queens of Qomedy at the Lakeshore Theatre, 3175 N. Broadway.

Photo by Beck Starr

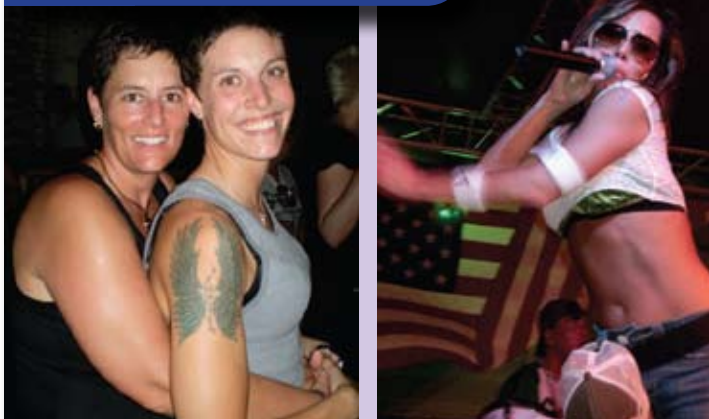
Tuesday, July 7



GREAT SCOTT

Scott Free will host Homolatte: Queer Words and Music at Tweet, 5024 N. Sheridan.

Bash and carry



Andersonville's Backlot Bash—at the parking lot of Cheetah Gym, 5248 N. Clark—became a two-night affair this year (June 27 and 28), giving hundreds of women the chance to get their party on more than usual. Photos by Mel Ferrand. More photos available online at www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com

Having a blast



There were gals galore at the annual Girl Blast, which once again took place on the parking lot behind Ann Sather restaurant, 909 W. Belmont, after the Pride Parade on June 28. Photos by Mel Ferrand. More photos available online at www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com

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SAUGANASH (4333 W PETERSON AVE): New construction town homes for rent in Sauganash. 4 story high, 2 car garage, from 2400-3300 sf. 100% masonry construction, red smooth brick facade, custom limestone designed copper bays and gutters, 3-4 bedrooms, recreational and study room, minimum 3 full bathrooms and powder room with marble and granite countertops, Kohler and Grohe plumbing fixtures in polish and brass finishes, cherry hardwood floors, 9' ceilings, woodburning fireplace, custom kitchen cabinets, Kohler 6' whirlpool, stainless steel appliances, spacious closets, private sunroof deck, central air and heat, intercom and alarm system, fire alarm system, sound system. Utilities are not included. Pets welcome. **Price from \$2,000-\$3,000/mo. Please call 312-666-2330, after 5pm and weekends 312-907-6539 (ask for Chedo). lakesidec@gmail.com.** (07/01/09-4)

STUDIO

1332 W. HOOD AVE. - EDGEWATER STUDIOS: Sunny Studios w/ ALL utilities included. Laundry in building. Close to lake, transportation & shopping. Credit check required. **\$595/mo w/ no dep. Avail. Now and August. Call 773-392-4550. www.landstarrealty.com.** (07/22/09-4)

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Thursday, July 2 • Open at 3pm
Sidetrack Comedy Night 8pm - 2am

Friday, July 3 • Open at 3pm
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Saturday, July 4
Open 1pm-3am • BBQ from 2pm
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Sunday, July 5 • Open 1pm
Show Tunes 4 - 9pm
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BILLY MASTERS

"Put it this way, I've experimented definitely, but I have never had a steady girlfriend."—Fergie admits to being bisexual. I love when people confirm my blind items in a mainstream interview.

Poor Farrah Fawcett couldn't get a break. Just as the world was learning of her passing, Michael Jackson up and died. Suddenly Farrah was old news. Everyone on Twitter started sharing MJ stories. Jane Fonda wrote, "He lived with me for a week on 'Golden Pond' set after 'Thriller.'" Larry King (who scrapped a Farrah tribute to weigh in on Jackson) said, "I interviewed Michael Jackson when he was 12 and with the Jackson 5." Cher called into "Larry King Live" and talked about going to see "Dreamgirls" with Jackson (presumably on Broadway). When Larry mentioned Farrah, Cher quipped, "This is a rough day for me." Atta girl.

Michelle Pfeiffer has said she'd like to revisit one of her former roles. No, not "Grease 2"—she doesn't even like talking about that one. No, she wants to play "Catwoman" again: "It would be really fun. I don't think that's going to happen. I think they like to get a new face for the different characters, and I understand it. But, yeah, that was really fun. I had a good time." FYI, she'd also be up for revisiting her role in The Fabulous Baker Brothers.

Last week, "Broadway Bares" was the place to be in NYC. The 19th edition of this annual flesh-filled fundraiser raised a record \$808,819 for Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS. Of course, little Nick Adams and his chiseled physique was center stage. But he wasn't the lead. That honor fell to the equally scrumptious Daniel Reichard from "Jersey Boys". Also notable in the hotness department were Travis Nesbitt, Marty Thomas, and Spencer Liff (who seemed to be mighty cozy with Nick, by the by). I'll run some pics from the gala event on BillyMasters.com.

Adam Lambert is in a tizzy because demos he recorded a few years back are being releasing on CD. Obviously Hi Fi Recordings (ironically, the current studio of Melinda Doolittle) is capitalizing on Adam's sudden fame. Obviously Lambert's annoyed that someone is making money off him. But he was paid for the recording sessions and signed a release. What did he think? That this company was dishing out money on for songs to sit on a shelf? The CD, "On With The Show", will be released later this month and will contain 11 tracks—9 of which were co-written by Lambert himself. Adam allegedly went to the studio last month to hear the finished mixes and was pleased with the results. We'll run the first single, "Want" (which he did not write), on BillyMasters.com.

Every time Rosie O'Donnell has done a radio interview, she's said how strange she feels work-

ing in that medium. She's repeatedly dismissed any possibility of doing a radio show. That was then, this is now. Rosie has signed with Sirius XM for a "Rosie Radio" starting in the fall. On weekdays at 10AM, Rosie will interview celebrity guests, take calls, and talk about her life. Why the change in attitude? "Two hours of talk show entertainment without having to wear makeup. Perfection. I can't wait!" And if she gets a box in her house like my buddy Lynn Samuels (on Sirius Left 146), she won't even have to go to the studio. When the box is working, that is.

I must confess, I never paid much attention to Cristiano Ronaldo. He's certainly hot, but I never really cared one way or the other about the sexy Portuguese soccer star with a penchant for taking off his shirt (you'd think he'd be right up my alley). I certainly don't believe that nude photo (which I'll post on BillyMasters.com) is legit. But I was intrigued when I saw some recent snaps of him outside an LA club. He had a flower tucked behind his right ear and was wearing a pink hat. His explanation? "I can see why, if you weren't comfortable with your sexuality, you might not wear it. But I'm very comfortable so it's not a problem for me. Men wear pink these days. OK, not many men wear flowers, but it's good to be different." Last week, we found out how comfortable he is—while in Las Vegas he was photographed lying poolside while some strange man rubbed his abs! Seems Cristiano needed a full-body massage, and this guy was willing to comply. I don't get it, but I'll post the pics on our website.

Our "Ask Billy" question has been sitting in my Inbox for a couple of months. Frankie in Chicago writes: "I saw Il Divo and they are so hot—especially David Miller. Does he ever take his shirt off? Is he gay, or at least bi?"

I am not a fan of Il Divo, but I did know Miller during his pre-Divo, legit operatic career. He's definitely a tall drink of water. He also is engaged to marry singer Joy Kabanuck next month, but that means very little to moi. However, back in 2004, Miller appeared in the Franco Zeffirelli production of "Rigoletto" in Parma, Italy. If you know Franco, you know he lives to get hot guys naked (check out the infamous dream sequence from his film of "Otello"—and turn on the AC!). Anyhoo, when the curtain came up, a bleached-blond Miller was there in a robe and the skimpiest loincloth seen on the operatic stage. He sings his first aria while cavorting with numerous nubile ladies—and shows quite a bit of athleticism. While he's not entirely right for the role (and displays the girliest laugh this side of the Adriatic), I'm not gonna nitpick. But I am gonna post the footage on BillyMasters.com.

Turn to page 25

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Michael Jackson: 1958-2009

Iconic singer Michael Jackson died June 25 after suffering cardiac arrest in Los Angeles. He was 50.

Jackson family attorney Brian Oxman said he was told by brother Randy Jackson that Michael Jackson collapsed at his home in west Los Angeles.

The "King of Pop" was one of nine children from a famous musical family that includes superstar sister Janet; the family is from Gary, Ind. Jackson first gained fame with the pop group the Jackson 5.

Jackson's death came as he prepared for a major comeback next month with 50 shows in London's O2 Arena, according to CTV.ca.

Among his albums were Off the Wall, Bad, Dangerous and 1982's Thriller. Thriller, considered one of the top-selling albums of all time, was the first album to have seven Billboard Hot 100 top 10 singles, including "Billie Jean" and "Beat It." The 13-time Grammy winner's many other hits include "Man in the Mirror," "Off the Wall" and "Smooth Criminal." He also made a splash with various aspects related to his performing, including the "moonwalk" dance move and the habit of wearing one glove.

In recent years, he was in the news for his financial and legal troubles, including the auctioning of personal items, allegations of child molestation and the battle over his Neverland ranch.



Portrait of Michael Jackson by Thom Bierdz (ThomBierdz.com).

Various celebrities reacted to Jackson's passing. On her Facebook page, singer Annie Lennox stated that Jackson "was a phenomenal musical genius..." Madonna reportedly could not stop crying over the news, and the legendary Dame Elizabeth Taylor, one of the singer's closest friends, was too stunned to initially comment, according to AFP.

On June 28, top Black performers turned out for the BET Awards. The emotional highlight was a brief appearance by Janet Jackson, who said, "To you, Michael is an icon. To us, Michael is family, and he will forever live in all of our hearts," according to Reuters.

Besides his family, which includes parents Joe and Katherine, Jackson is survived by three children—Michael Joseph Jackson Jr., Paris Michael Katherine Jackson and Prince Michael Jackson II.

BILLY from page 24

When everyone's completely forgotten about Ed McMahon, it's definitely time to end yet another column. By the time you read this, I will be on my way to Europe. An opportunity arose that was too good to refuse. Now, I can almost hear your thoughts—will Billy continue to bring us fresh, undiluted gossip while trav-

eling? Need you ask? Have I ever let you down? The latest and greatest gossip can always be found on www.BillyMasters.com. I'll even answer e-mails. Just drop a note to Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before anyone takes a look at Rosie's box! Until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible.

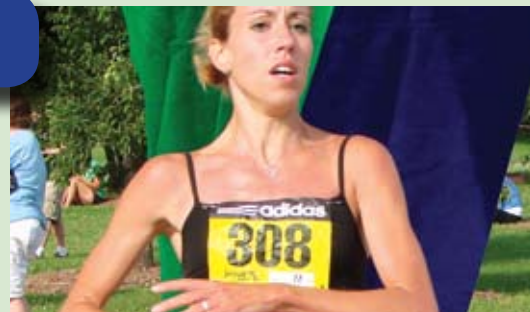
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Run and games



The 28th annual Proud To Run took place June 27, and included both a 5K and 10K race as well as a 2-mile fitness walk. It started at Montrose in Lincoln Park between Cricket Hill and Montrose Harbor. The event, in addition to celebrating fitness, also celebrates the eclectic gay and lesbian community. Over 1,000 individuals had registered. Photos by Terri Klinsky

SPORTS/RECREATION

Player dies at Chicago's Pride Bowl

BY ROSS FORMAN

Tragedy struck June 26 at the second annual Pride Bowl gay flag-football tournament: Jorge Lopez of the Michigan Panthers passed out on the sidelines during the team's game against the New York Pieces Bulldogs and died shortly thereafter.

His exact age was unknown, but tournament officials said he was in his 40s. He played quarterback.

"He passed out cold during the game and died in the ambulance on the way," to the hospital, said Shawn Albritton of the Chicago Metropolitan Sports Association (CMSA), which sponsored the tournament, held at Montrose Beach.

"This is so sad; I've never been a part of anything like this."

The game continued while Lopez was on his way to the hospital. CMSA officials informed the Panthers about Lopez's passing during its second game, against the Denver Summit, and the team elected to finish that game.

The Panthers' game against New York was

scheduled to start at 11:15 a.m., and the temperature was in the low 80s with little humidity. "It was beautiful weather," Albritton said.

Lopez previously played gay flag football while living in San Diego. He was living in Oxford, Miss.

'Queen' crowns champions

BY ROSS FORMAN

Steve Kopp and Jake Conrad played volleyball in the annual 2-on-2 Queen Of The Beach tournament on June 27 at Montrose Beach as Team Misty & Kerri.

However, they could have been dubbed Team Champions. Kopp and Conrad captured first-place in the top-tiered Queen Division.

Meanwhile, Will MacKenzie and Carlos Novenario (Team We've Seen Beyonce) captured first place in the Princess Division. Brian Zinser and Ed Budtz (Team Thelma & Louise) were the champions in the new Ladies-In-Waiting Division.

There were 30 teams in the 2-on-2 tournament.

"It was a great tournament, a lot of fun," said tournament co-director Bill Helton. "The event was bigger than last year and as much, if not more, fun."

"The competitors were all relaxed and easy to work with. And the level of play, especially in the upper division, was really good."

There also was a 4-on-4 portion of the tournament, with 10 teams and two divisions.

Team Hot Boys (Emil Ocon, Alex Legaretta, Julio Yopez and George Sanchez) were the champions in the top-tiered Queen Division. Team Volley of the Dolls (Adam Becker, Hing Chan, Gabriel Lara and Adam Wargacki) captured the Princess Division.

The tournament attracted players from Minnesota, Indiana and Florida.

Force win playoff game

BY ROSS FORMAN

Trish Harper and Martha Dantuma each had two touchdown receptions on June 27, leading the Chicago Force to a 28-14 playoff win at the Seattle Majestics.

The Force move into the Western Conference championship game against Kansas City at the July 11. The win in Washington state ousted the conference's No. 1 seed and a previously undefeated club.

"This was a very big win," said Force general manager Linda Bache.

The Force led 7-0 at halftime, then 21-0 after three quarters.

The Majestics cut it to a 21-14 game in the fourth quarter before the Force iced the win with a 55-yard touchdown toss from quarterback Sami Grisafe to Harper.

The Force defense was anchored by from Kim Marks, while Jamie Menzyk sacked the Seattle quarterback on that team's last drive for a key 15-yard loss. Mary Valene and Shannon Ten Broeck also had solid defensive efforts.

Red Stars to face Ireland

The Chicago Red Stars will face the Republic of Ireland Women's National Team in an exhibition soccer match on Sunday, July 5, at 3 p.m. at the Village of Lisle-Benedictine University Sports Complex Stadium, Lisle.

The match will mark the first time Chicago's Women's Professional Soccer league side has faced a national team opponent.

Individual tickets start at \$20; call 866-WPS-2009 or visit www.chicagoredstars.com.



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