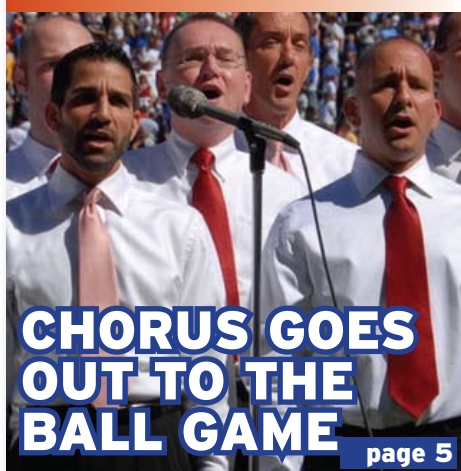


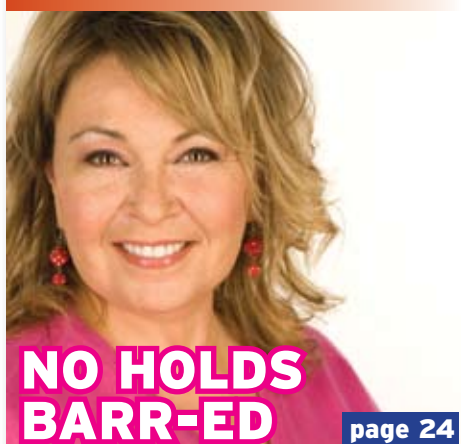
PLAYWRIGHT NICK PATRICCA

page 12



CHORUS GOES OUT TO THE BALL GAME

page 5



NO HOLDS BARR-ED

page 24



Nightspots

pick it up take it home

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HIV Vaccine Trials Stopped

BY BOB ROEHR

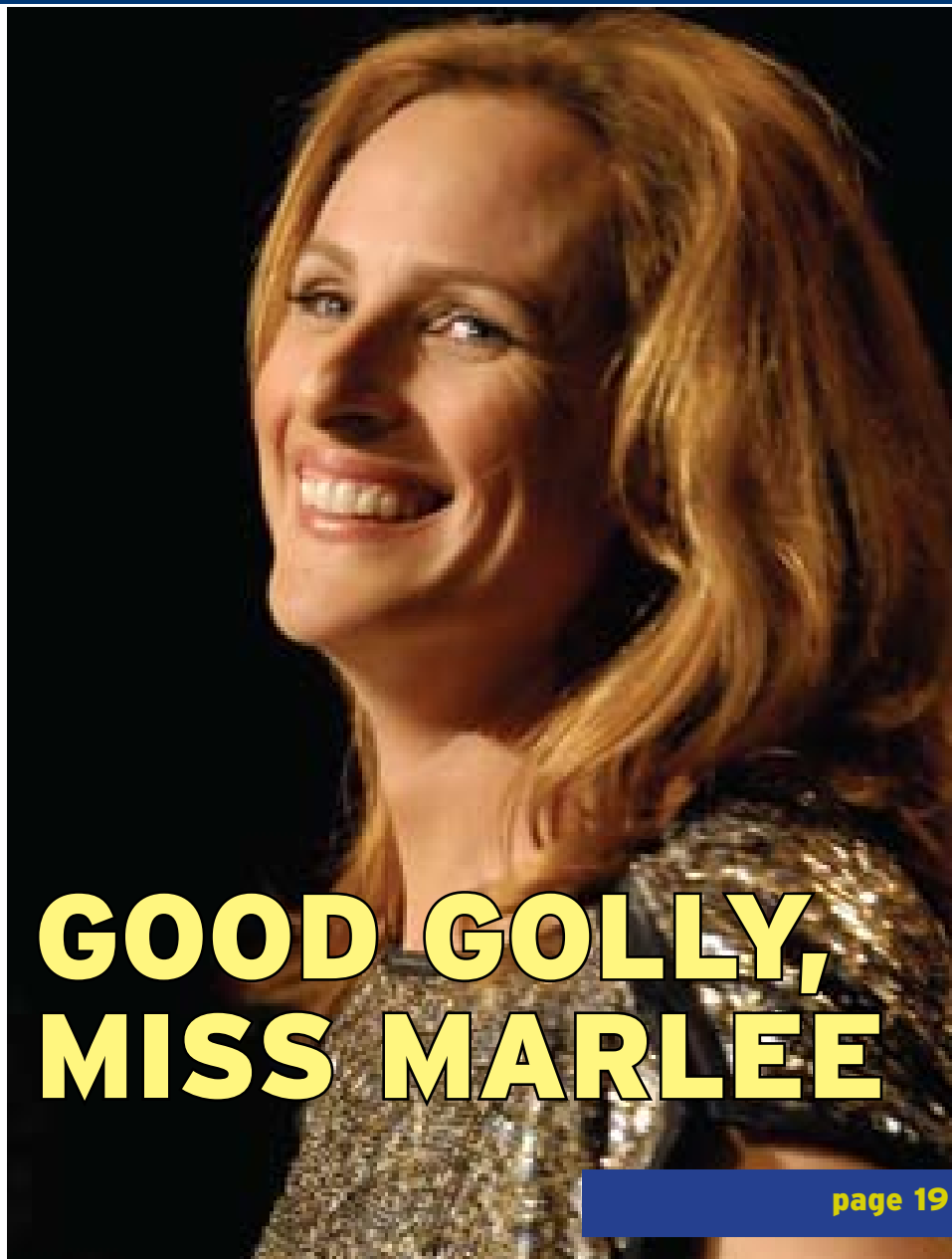
International clinical trials of what many believed to be the most promising vaccine against HIV were stopped on Sept. 21. The STEP study enrolled 3,000 participants in a joint effort by the pharmaceutical company Merck and the NIH National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID). It was begun in December 2004.

The vaccine neither reduced the number of persons who became infected, nor eased the course of disease of those who became infected, according to a scheduled interim analysis. It was conducted by a Data Safety Monitoring Board (DSMB), an independent panel of experts that had access to all of the data that even the leaders of the trial could not see under the rules of the trial.

In fact, those who received at least one dose of the vaccine were slightly more likely to become infected with HIV than were those who received a placebo. But the numbers were small, 24 of 744 and 21 of 762 respectively. Among volunteers who received two doses of the vaccine, 19 of 672 became infected, while only 11 of 691 in the placebo arm became infected.

The findings did not reach what is called statistical significance; the differences might possibly be explained by randomness, rather than

Turn to page 4



GOOD GOLLY, MISS MARLEE

page 19

San Diego Mayor Embraces Same-Sex Marriage

Councilmember Atkins: 'I was stunned speechless'

NEWS ANALYSIS BY REX WOCKNER

Republican San Diego Mayor Jerry Sanders abruptly changed his position on gay marriage Sept. 19, announced that his daughter is a lesbian, and signed a City Council resolution adding San Diego to a friend-of-the-court brief that urges the California Supreme Court to legalize same-sex marriage.

The court is expected to rule on a same-sex marriage case early next year.



Lisa Sanders at her father's Sept. 20 mayoral re-election campaign-kickoff event. Photo by Rex Wockner

"Two years ago, I believed that civil unions were a fair alternative," Sanders said. "Those beliefs, in my case, have changed. The concept of a 'separate but equal' institution is not something I can support.

"I have close family members and friends who are a member of the gay and lesbian community," Sanders continued, fighting back tears. "Those folks include my daughter Lisa, as well as members of my personal staff. I want for them the same thing that we all want for our loved

ones—for each of them to find a mate whom they love deeply and who loves them back; someone with whom they can grow old together and share life's experiences.

"In the end," the mayor said, "I couldn't look any of them in the face and tell them that their relationship—their very lives—were any less meaningful than the marriage I share with my wife Rana."

Very few San Diegans, gay or straight, knew that Sanders' daughter Lisa, 24, is gay, and she has declined all requests for interviews since the big announcement. This reporter did, however, snag a moment with her Sept. 20 at the kickoff event for Mayor Sanders' re-election campaign.

"I'm just very proud of my father," Lisa Sanders said. "And to be a part of this. It's about equality, and he's doing the right thing, and I'm very confident in him."

Openly lesbian City Councilmember Toni Atkins, who steered the resolution through the council, was ecstatic at Sanders' startling about-face, especially given that he had announced just a day earlier that he would veto the measure.

"I thought we were going to have to go through a veto override, and that would have been tough," Atkins said in an interview. "We'd

Turn to page 4

SAGE

Services and Advocacy for GLBT Elders

OCTOBER 2007

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY: FRIENDLY VISITOR PROGRAM

Friendly Visitors are volunteers who provide social visits and companionship to LGBT elders who are homebound or living in a long-term care environment. Friendly Visitors are not chore workers, home health aids or social workers and may not perform any of the duties commonly associated with these roles. In some cases, Friendly Visitors are among the only non-professionals with whom a SAGE client has regular contact.

Please be able to commit to a year of service, once a week for 30 minutes to an hour. Friendly Visitors will complete Center on Halsted's volunteer orientation, in-person interview, background screening and, if accepted to the program, Friendly Visitor training. Friendly Visitors are required to attend a monthly informational support group and submit a simple monthly log via phone, regular mail or email.

FRIENDLY VISITOR OPEN HOUSE

Thursday, OCT 25 — 3:30p – 6:30p

Drop by to learn more about the program and complete an in-person interview. For volunteers accepted into the program, Friendly Visitor Training will be held Thursday, November 8 from 6:00p – 8:00p.

SPECIAL EVENTS

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

Tuesday, OCT 2 — 2:00p – 2:30p FREE

Laura Velazquez, Anti-Violence Project Manager with COH's Anti-Violence Project will discuss partner abuse and hate violence in the LGBT community.

John Baran Senior Center

CITIBANK SEMINAR

Tuesday, OCT 9 — 2:00p – 3:00p FREE

Jeff Rieck, Financial Education Specialist with Citibank will present a financial seminar. Topic to be announced.

John Baran Senior Center

BEGINNING COMPUTERS

Tuesday, OCT 16 — 3:00p – 4:00p FREE

Beginning computers for seniors, new 7-week class starts today.

Dr. David J. Lochman Cyber Center

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

Tuesday, OCT 23 — 12:00pm FREE

A special Latin-inspired lunch with be served at the weekly Coffee and Conversation social gathering.

John Baran Senior Center

HALLOWEEN

Tuesday, OCT 30 — 12:00p – 3:00p

Join us for an early Halloween celebration. Prizes for the best costumes! Costume contest at 1:30p.

WEEKLY EVENTS

All events are in the *John Baran Senior Center* at Center on Halsted unless otherwise noted.

BEGINNING COMPUTERS

Tuesday OCT 16 | OCT 23 | OCT 30 — 3:00p – 4:00p FREE

A new 7-week series begins October 16. *Dr. David J. Lochman Cyber Center*

BRIDGE & EUCHRE

Tuesday OCT 2 | OCT 9 | OCT 16 | OCT 23 | OCT 30 — 6:00p – 9:30p FREE

Experienced and novice players are welcome to this evening of cards. Instruction begins at 6:00p, play at 6:30p; Miles Roothaan, instructor.

www.centeronhalsted.org

Center on Halsted 773.472.6469

SAGE Program Information

773.472.6469, ext. 444

COFFEE & CONVERSATION

Tuesday OCT 2 | OCT 9 | OCT 16 | OCT 23 | OCT 30 — 12:00p – 3:00p FREE

Join us in the *John Baran Senior Center*. This is a safe, confidential place for participants to gather, socialize, and discuss concerns and ideas. Lunch is provided!

NATIONAL COMING OUT MONTH: COMING OUT, COMING HOME SUPPORT GROUP

Tuesday OCT 2 | OCT 9 | OCT 16 | OCT 23 | OCT 30 — 2:00p – 3:00p FREE

This group provides a supportive environment for adults 45 years and older who are beginning their coming out process. Because older adults often have well-established careers and families, the struggles of coming out of the closet later in life are often mixed with creating a new family that blends old relationships with a new community and identity. No registration required.

NEEDLEWORK NIGHT

Tuesday OCT 4 | OCT 11 | OCT 18 | OCT 25 — 6:30p – 8:30p FREE

Crochet! Knit! Needlepoint! Bring whatever needlework you have and enjoy an evening of crafting and conversation. *Second Floor Living Room Seating Area*

MONTHLY EVENTS

HOT TOPICS FOR LESBIANS

Friday, OCT 5 — 6:30p – 9:00p FREE

A social event for older women. Come have some fun and make new friends. This is a casual evening and all women are welcome.

CULTURAL OUTING—MACY'S DAY OF MUSIC

Saturday, OCT 13 — 1:30p – 4:00p FREE

Meet at 1:30p in front of *Symphony Center* for an afternoon of free music. Registration required by OCT 10. Call 773.472.6469, ext. 160 to register.

PLANNING MEETING

Tuesday, OCT 16 — 3:00p – 4:45p

Everyone is welcome at this monthly planning session.

EDUCATION FORUM: UNDERSTANDING SOCIAL SECURITY

Wednesday, OCT 17 — 6:30p – 8:30p FREE

Join us for this free seminar by Citibank at Work. Learn the inner workings of Social Security, including eligibility, benefits and taxation of benefits. Get a better handle on what role Social Security will play in your retirement.

FRIDAY NIGHT AT THE MOVIES

Friday, OCT 19 — 6:30p – 9:30p FREE

Monthly movie night. Look for LGBT and general cinema and documentaries. SAGE participants select the movies, so if there is a film you want to see, let us know.

CHICAGO PRIME TIMERS/CENTER ON HALSTED BOOK GROUP

Tuesday, OCT 23 — 7:30p – 9:30p FREE

All are welcome to this Prime Timers led, Center on Halsted hosted book group. The October book is *The Front Runner* by Patricia Nell Warren.

NIGHT AT THE OPERA: OPERA APPRECIATION

Friday, OCT 26 — 6:30p – 8:30p FREE

Hosted by Jason McVicker, COH's Director of Mental Health Services, and a writer and lecturer on all aspects of opera. A lifelong fan, he first began attending opera in his native New Orleans at the age of 10. Jason has been published in *Opera News* and is a regular contributor to *Parterre Box*, the "queer opera zine."

WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

Monday, OCT 29 — 2:00p – 4:00p FREE

In a recent survey SAGE women voted overwhelmingly for a book club. Here it is! The inaugural book is *Sin in the Second City: Madams, Ministers, Playboys, and the Battle for America's Soul*. Freelance journalist Karen Abbott's vibrant first book probes the titillating milieu of the posh, world-famous Everleigh Club brothel that operated from 1900 to 1911 on Chicago's Near South Side.

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CENTER ON HALSTED

WINDY CITY TIMES

index

NEWS

Group protests Akinola	4
SD mayor backs gay marriage	4
Analysis: Md. court's ban	5
Local events	5
Equality Illinois reception	6
Private club's gay turn	6
AIDS Run/Walk results	6
Chorus; local news	7
World news	8
Nat'l news	9
Crain, letter	10
Business: gay PR firm	11
Quotelines	11

ENTERTAINMENT

A talk with Nick Patricca	12
Theater	16
Marlee Matlin interview	19
Pets	20
Knight at the Movies	21

OUTLINES

Real estate ads	22
Classifieds	23
Roseanne Barr chats	24
Calendar, Dykes	25
Big gay sports week	26



Read about an upcoming tribute to the late composer Gian Carlo Menotti (above) in this week's theater section. See page 16.

photo courtesy of Chamber Opera Chicago



Equality Illinois held a reception to welcome new executive director Amy Bloom. Among the guests were (from left) Barbara Roberts and Ill. Supreme Court Justice Anne Burke. See page 6. photo by Katie Sikora

www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com

This week's online-only features include:
 -Media Watch
 -An interview with lesbian singer Sean Wiggins (right), who will play at T's Sept. 28. Also, see calendar, pg. 25.
 -Theater reviews, including Suddenly Last Summer

photo courtesy of Wiggins' Web site



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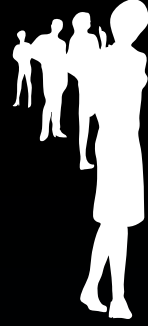
Nightspots

CAZWELL THAT ENDS WELL
 Emmanuel Garcia interviews gay rap sensation Cazwell for his appearance at Berlin.

photo by Male Image Photography.



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JP Calderon - Professional Volleyball Player, Model and Reality Show Participant

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Group Protests Akinola Appearance

BY MAX SMITH

A diverse group of 50 people, organized by The Gay Liberation Network, gathered on Sun., Sept. 23, at Wheaton College to protest the appearance of Nigerian Episcopal Archbishop Peter Akinola at the Emanuel Memorial Chapel.

Since Akinola was enthroned, he has led a crusade to oppose lesbian and gay clergy and to support laws proposed in Nigeria to ban freedom of assembly, freedom of press and speech from all same-gender-loving people in Nigeria. Among those protesting Akinola's presence were The Rev. Elizabeth Stedman, chaplain of

Canterbury Northwestern University Episcopal ministry; The Rainbow Alliance; Gini Lester of The Green Party; and Soulforce, a group that has challenged anti-gay conservative Christians in nationwide tours. Rev. Deborah Lake of the nondenominational Sankofa Way organization in Chicago said, "Akinola has called for the imprisonment of gays," and that the proposed law he supports would even "bar the distribution of food," to gays in need, including those living with HIV.

There was general agreement in the group of protestors that Archbishop Peter Akinola's views were shaped by British colonial control of Nigeria. His approach is to oppose speaking with those who disagree with him: Akinola has allied himself with Episcopalians in Virginia, who treat him as a monarch and want him to replace the Archbishop of Canterbury as the leader of the Anglican Church.

Protest signs included those saying, "End Religious Oppression Worldwide" and "Nigerian Human Rights Abuses Ignored by Akinola." A

dozen Nigerian men recently arrested in a hotel raid on a gay party face a possible death penalty execution by stoning under Sharia law in a northern Nigerian state for the "offense" of

cross-dressing. This type of persecution in the predominantly Muslim section of the country did not begin until after Akinola started his anti-gay campaign.

TRIALS from cover

be a product of the vaccine used.

However, what is clear is that the vaccine provided no protection, and so the STEP trial and another more recently initiated trial were stopped. No more of the vaccine will be administered while a full and complete analysis of the data takes place. Meanwhile, study participants are asked to continue with their follow-up visits so that they can be monitored and additional data gathered.

Peter S. Kim, Ph.D., president of Merck Research Laboratories, expressed disappointment with news of the interim analysis. "Sadly, developing an effective AIDS vaccine remains one of the most challenging tasks facing modern

medicine."

NIAID Director Anthony Fauci has often explained, "With other viruses, 90+ percent [of those who become infected] can clear the virus, even smallpox and polio." The trouble with HIV is that "the natural immune response is inadequate." He said, with an HIV vaccine, we are trying to create what nature has not been able to create.

"These data are certainly not the ones that we had hoped for," said Mitchell Warren, executive director of the AIDS Vaccine Advocacy Coalition. "However, it must be seen for what it is; the failure of a product to show efficacy in a specific trial...It is in no way the end of the search for an AIDS vaccine."

SAN DIEGO from cover

have had to hurry, as we would have been on a very tight timeline. The fact that he did this—it stopped me in my tracks in the most pleasant way.

"We're not used to that in politics," Atkins said. "We're used to being stopped in our tracks and it's not pleasant. My focus was go go go, and let's get this done, and let's not give an inch—and so, to get that statement from the mayor, I was stunned."

"All I could do was look at him [when he told me]. It seemed like for infinity. You'd expect a profound word to come out of my mouth, but when I finally did speak, all I said was, 'Wow!'"

"I was bowled over and I hugged him."

Atkins said the mayor's office has received a lot of positive e-mail and flowers of thanks.

"I know he's getting some pushback from the other side as well," she said. "But I believe it's

more positive than negative at this point."

Indeed, at the Sept. 20 campaign-kickoff event, Sanders received applause and cheers when he said: "I wanted my family up here [on-stage with me] because over the last couple of years their family life has changed fairly dramatically. Some more than others. Some in the last day or so."

RISKY POLITICS?

It remains to be seen whether Sanders' championing of same-sex marriage will affect his fortunes in next June's nonpartisan primary election. Analysts say he may lose some votes from right-wing Republicans, while, at the same time, picking up support from liberals and the city's sizable gay community, where he already was well-liked. The city's weekly gay newspaper named him and Police Chief William Lansdowne "Persons of the Year" in 2006.

One likely Republican candidate, Steve Fran-



San Diego Mayor Jerry Sanders at his Sept. 20 re-election campaign-kickoff event. Photo by Rex Wockner

cis—who finished 3.5 percentage points behind Sanders in the June 2005 primary—would run to the right of Sanders, but even he supports same-sex civil unions. Possible Democratic candidate Denise Ducheny, who is now a state senator, supports same-sex marriage and is politically to the left of Sanders.

In one scenario, Sanders' support for gay marriage could push some percentage of conservatives toward Francis while Ducheny could draw much of the liberal vote, leaving Sanders squeezed in the middle. In San Diego's nonpartisan primary, if no candidate gets 50 percent of the vote, the top two vote-getters advance to a runoff election.

San Diego has 224,397 registered Democratic voters, 190,647 registered Republican voters, 141,090 registered voters who "decline to state"

a political affiliation, and 27,000 voters registered with minor parties.

Still, Republican Sanders captured 53.6 percent of the vote when he was elected, beating maverick, left-wing Democrat Donna Frye, who got 46.1 percent of the vote. Frye is currently a city councilmember.

Sanders' gay-marriage position also might make no difference at all. San Diego is no longer the conservative city it once was. The nation's eighth-largest city has a lesbian city councilmember and a lesbian state senator. The fire chief is a lesbian. The Republican district attorney is a lesbian. Two superior court judges are gay. Mayor Sanders' press secretary is a gay man. So is his deputy press secretary.



As the alternative weekly CityBeat newspaper put it in a July 18 article, "Forget 'Don't ask, don't tell.' In millennial San Diego, the motto these days is, 'Who knows, who cares?'"

Sanders' tearful speech in which he embraced gay marriage and outed his daughter (video at tinyurl.com/2wa5a3) made national news, and made the head of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force cry.



"Sanders' emotional statement brought me—and I know millions of other gay and lesbian people—to tears," said Executive Director Matt Foreman. "Mayor Sanders will go into the history books as a profile in courage and conviction."

If that's how San Diego voters see it as well, Sanders' decision "to lead with my heart ... to do what I think is right and to take a stand on behalf of equality and social justice" may turn out to have been a good political move as well.

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ANALYSIS: Md. Court Upholds Same-Sex Marriage Ban

BY LISA KEEN

The supreme court of Maryland, on Sept. 18, reversed a lower court decision which had found a constitutional right for gay couples to marry. The decision made Maryland the fifth state high court in less than two years to uphold as legal the withholding of marriage licenses from same-sex couples.

Gay legal activist Evan Wolfson, head of the national Freedom to Marry group, called the decision "deeply flawed" and said the 4 to 3 majority never even tried to answer the key question of how excluding gay couples affects the ability of heterosexual couples to procreate.

The Maryland lawsuit *Conaway v. Deane* challenged the state's marriage law that, in 1973, defined marriage as being only between a man and a woman. The ACLU, which led the challenge, argued that the restriction amounted to sex discrimination against gay people.

But the majority of the court upheld the law as written and concluded that, because gay people have never been legally designated as a "suspect class"—a legal designation for an oppressed minority—the government did not need to show any compelling reason for denying them equal treatment under the law. Instead, said the majority, all the government need show was a simple rational reason—the lowest level of review for the statute.

And the government's simple rational reason—that licenses to heterosexual couples foster procreation and encourage the traditional family structure—is plausible, said the majority.

Gay civil rights supporters were dismayed.

Human Rights Campaign President Joe Solmonese called the decision a "setback." National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Executive Director Matt Foreman called it "demeaning."

"Today is a sad day for all Maryland families," said Jennifer Chrisler, executive director of Family Pride, a national organization that advocates on behalf of LGBT families. But she and others vowed not to give up.

"The struggle for marriage equality is far from over," said Chrisler.

Equality Maryland's Dan Furmansky vowed to continue the fight and called on the state legislature to rewrite the law. That same day, Democratic State Senator Gwen Britt announced she would introduce legislation next year to allow

same-sex couples to marry, assuring the fight would now move to the state legislature, which has approved a state law barring discrimination based on sexual orientation.

Ken Choe, the ACLU attorney who argued on behalf of the gay couples, expressed hope that, unlike the majority of the bench, the legislature would be able to see "that lesbian and gay couples form committed relationships and loving families just like heterosexual couples."

The Maryland Court of Appeals majority decision essentially parroted the harsher of two models for state supreme court decisions that have rejected equal rights for gay couples since 1999. That harsher model—carved out by the supreme court of New York in July of last year—finds nothing in the state constitution to require equal treatment of same-sex couples when it comes to marriage licensing. And it uses the lowest level of legal review to determine whether the state has a legitimate reason to treat gay couples differently. That level of review requires only that the government's reason be "rational."

In New York's case, the court accepted as rational the state's claim that the marriage law was intended to provide a special "inducement" for heterosexuals to marry. That model was essentially adopted by the Washington Supreme Court later in 2006 when it said "the legislature was entitled to believe that limiting marriage to opposite-sex couples furthers procreation ... and furthers the well-being of children by encouraging families where children are reared in homes headed by the children's biological parents." Maryland argued that the purpose of the state's marriage law was "fostering procreation and encouraging the traditional family structure."

The second model—initiated by the Vermont Supreme Court in 1999—finds that the state's constitution requires gay couples be treated equally but passes the buck to the legislature to determine how that will happen. New Jersey adopted that approach in October of last year with its ruling in *Lewis v. Harris*. Both Vermont and New Jersey legislatures chose "civil unions" as the means of providing "equal" benefits.

Last year, other state supreme courts—in Tennessee and Georgia—allowed ballot measures seeking to ban gay marriage to proceed.

Only one state supreme court—the Massa-

chusetts Supreme Judicial Court, in November 2003—has declared that a state's constitutional promise of equal protection of the law requires the state to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples the same as it does to heterosexual couples. The Hawaii Supreme Court ruled that denying same-sex couples marriage licenses was sex discrimination but the legislature passed a constitutional amendment to redefine marriage, thus taking the matter away from the court.

The first ever state supreme court ruling concerning same-sex marriage came in 1971 when

the Minnesota Supreme Court ruled that the state could deny a marriage license to a same-sex couple. That lawsuit, *Baker v. Nelson*, was dismissed by the U.S. Supreme Court with no explanation beyond "want of a substantial federal question." In what might also be considered a piece of the silver lining in the ruling, the majority rejected the notion that the Baker dismissal required it to reject plaintiffs' case out of hand.

A decision on a similar case is now pending in the Connecticut Supreme Court and will be argued soon in the California Supreme Court.

LOCAL EVENTS

To Affinity and beyond: Affinity, a group for Black lesbian and bisexual women, is hosting a young women's drop-in on the first Friday of each month at 5650 S. Woodlawn, garden level, 6-9 p.m. It is free but donations are accepted. See www.affinity95.org.

Mingle file: The Chicago Area Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce is hosting "Mix & Mingle: The Art of Networking" on Thurs., Sept. 27, 6-9 p.m. at Thomas Robertello Gallery, 393 W. Randolph. The event is \$20 for members and \$30 for non-members. Register at www.glchamber.org.

Is it sew?: Gerber/Hart Library will hold its annual benefit, Piecing History Together, featuring The NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt founder Cleve Jones. The bash will take place Saturday, Sept. 29, at the Swedish American Museum Center, 5211 N. Clark. Tickets are \$85 and \$135. Call 773-381-8030 or see www.gerberhart.org.

Let's get personal: As part of the University of Illinois at Chicago's LGBT Heritage Month, author Christian de la Huerta will speak about her personal and professional experiences with religious diversity on Tuesday, Oct. 3, 4-5:30 p.m. in the Behavioral Sciences Building, 1007 W. Harrison. See www.glbc.uic.edu or call 312-413-8619.

Drink in style: Project Runway 2's fashion designer Nick Verreos will make an appearance at Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted, Thursday, Oct. 4, from 7-10 p.m., for a night of Basil Hayden cocktails. RSVP required. See www.centeronhalsted.org.

OUT and about: OUT Magazine columnist Jesse Archer will read from his memoir, *You Can Run: Gay, Glam and Gritty Travels in South America*, on Friday, Oct. 5 at Mary's Attic, 5400 N. Clark St., 8 p.m. See www.Chicagopride.com.

Art attack: The annual Anderson Arts Weekend, featuring artwork and performance, will take place Oct. 5-7. The event is centered at Clark and Berwyn. The art walk and some performances are free. Call 773-728-2995 or see www.andersonville.org/artweekend.

Gone, but not forgotten: A memorial will take place for the one-year anniversary of the death of Rudy Johnson on Saturday, Oct. 6, at St. Hilary Church (California and Bryn Mawr) at 8:30 a.m. Email Mike at m.ski1103@sbcglobal.net for more info.

A NU day has dawned: Northwestern University Gay & Lesbian Alumni (NUGALA) will host a homecoming party Fri., Oct. 12, at Mary's Attic, 5400 N. Clark, 7-9 p.m. The cost is \$5, including buffet. See http://alumni.princeton.edu/~ffr-gala/sc_index.asp.

Getting down to business: "La Prensa Latino Business Expo: Make the Connection" will take place Sat., Oct. 13 at The Canopy, 708 S. Goodwin, Urbana. Among the people attending will be CEOs, IT managers and purchasing agents. Call 217-351-1037 or see www.laprensadechampaign.com.

Remembering Egan: A memorial will take place Sun., Oct. 21, for activist, teacher and writer Ferd Egan. His life will be celebrated 2-5 p.m. at Cafe Teatro Batey Urbano, 2647 W. Division. Call the Crossroads Fund at 773-227-7676 for more information.

Sex 'n church: For University of Illinois at Chicago's LGBT Heritage Month series, Dr. Kelly Brown Douglas will talk about her book, "Sexuality and the Black Church: A Womanist Perspective," on Thurs., Oct. 25, 3-4:30 p.m., at the African American Cultural Center in Addams Hall, 830 S. Halsted. See www.glbc.uic.edu or call 312-413-8619.

Lunch date: Personal PAC will hold its Annual Awards Luncheon at noon on Mon., Nov. 5, at the Hyatt Regency Chicago, 151 E. Wacker. The event features actress and pro-choice activist Kathleen Turner. Tickets start at \$150. Call 312-422-0005 or see www.personalpac.org.

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Equality in Action

On Thurs., Sept. 20, over 150 people gathered for a cocktail party to support Equality Illinois' gay rights work and to welcome the organization's new (and first female) executive director, Amy Bloom. (Bloom has been involved with nonprofit organizations for almost a decade, including a successful tenure over the past three years at Howard Brown Health Center.) Among the guests were Illinois First Lady Patti Blagojevich, Illinois Supreme Court Justice Anne Burke, Mayor Daley's chief of staff Lori Healey, Cook County Judge Mary Roberts, former city treasurer Judy Rice and Vernita Gray of the Cook County State's Attorney's office. Also present was state rep candidate Deborah Mell, daughter of Alderman Dick Mell and Blagojevich's sister. If she is elected, Mell would be the first openly lesbian member of the Illinois General Assembly. Photo of (from left) Bloom, Mike Bishop and Paula Basta by Katie Sikora; more images at www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com

Private Club Allows Same-Sex Partners

BY ANDREW DAVIS

One of Chicago's exclusive clubs has become a bit more inclusive.

The board of the Union League Club of Chicago, 65 W. Jackson, recently passed a resolution giving domestic partners—including same-sex individuals—the same privileges that spouses have, according to Dick Barry, the club's communications manager.

Jonathan McCabe, the club's manager, told *Windy City Times* that Union League is "pretty much a reflection of the community." Regarding how the development occurred, "earlier this year, somebody wanted to look at [allowing] domestic partners, so the board agreed," McCabe said, who added that the only debate revolved around "the appropriate definition of a domestic partner."

McCabe—who felt that the development involving domestic partners is "an appropriate change"—said that he expects that "there are members of our community who will add a domestic partner onto their accounts, and there are people who may or may not have chosen Union League Club who will look favorably upon [the resolution] at this time."

The Union League Club of Chicago was established in 1879 as a civic organization, McCabe said.

7,000 Participate in Run/Walk

BY ANDREW DAVIS

The AIDS Run/Walk that took place Sept. 15 in Grant Park was quite a success.

Over 7,000 individuals took part in the event, a marked increase over the approximately 5,500 people who participated last year, said Mark Ishaug, executive director of AIDS Foundation of Chicago, which sponsors the event. When asked why so many more people were involved this year, Ishaug cited "good planning; great outreach to community agencies, churches and corporate teams; and the most important thing—which I had no control over—the weather. It was a gorgeous day.

"Hundreds of runners and walkers came out to help us commemorate those we've lost and speak out for those living and still in need of services. The stars were aligned."

However, despite the fact that this year's event was successful (bringing in over \$400,000 so far to those organizations that participated), Ishaug told *Windy City Times* that there still is some distance to go, even with such corporate backers as McDonald's, Pepsi and CNA. "We're trying to continue to get the word out that AIDS is not over, and we're doing a good job—but we're so far from doing a great job," he said. "We have to turn this into a huge event. We have to go from 'great' to 'greater,' and I know we can do it."

Court Admits Asylum Seekers' Obstacles

The Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals has acknowledged that individuals seeking asylum based on their sexual orientation face unique obstacles when attempting to accomplish their goals, according to a release from Heartland Alliance.

Dominic Moab, a Liberian man living in Chicago, sought asylum in the United States in August 2005 after reportedly being brutally beaten on several occasions because he is gay. In *Moab v. Gonzales*, the Seventh Circuit found that Moab should not have been expected to discuss his homosexuality with immigration officers within hours of his arrival at O'Hare International Airport.

Asylum seekers can request asylum when they arrive at U.S. airports without travel documents and tell immigration officers they are afraid of persecution in their home country. Moab's asylum claim was originally rejected by an immigration judge because he had not discussed his fear of persecution based on his sexual orientation; however, he raised the matter in his asylum application and court proceedings.

"We think it reasonable that Mr. Moab would not have wanted to mention his sexual orientation for fear that revealing this information could cause further persecution as it had in his home country of Liberia," Judge Kenneth F. Ripple wrote in the Seventh Circuit opinion.

Moab was represented on a *pro bono* basis by Richard Johnson of the law firm Hughes, Socol, Piers, Resnick & Dym, Ltd.

Tunney's Father Passes Away

William J. Tunney, father of 44th Ward Alderman Tom Tunney, passed away Sept. 20. He was 90.

William Tunney was the beloved husband of the late Ann, *nee* Higgins. In addition to the alderman, William leaves behind children William, Ann Marie, Edward (Dianna), Kevin (Kathy) and John (Pam) Tunney, Jean (Kris) McGrath and Deborah (John) Hunt. Tunney was also the fond brother of the late John, James, Pat, Michael, Margaret, Tom and Martin Tunney; and dear grandfather of Courtney, Colin, Charles, Emily, Redmond, Daimhin, Erin, Ryan, Kaitlin, Deirdre, Meredith, Michael, Kevin, Margaret, Kari, Jay, Brigid and the late Meaghan and Grant Tunney.

A memorial mass took place Tues., Sept. 25, at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church, 690 W. Belmont. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to the Misericordia Foundation, 6300 N. Ridge, Chicago, IL 60660. Condolences may be sent to: Alderman Tom Tunney, 1057 W. Belmont, Chicago, IL 60657.


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LOCAL NEWS

Student receives LGBT leadership award

Western Illinois University (WIU) political science major James Peterson was awarded the college's Martin Dupuis/Mukti Fund Award for Leadership.

The award recognizes one LGBT student leader each year. According to a WIU press release, Peterson has been very involved at the university, taking part in events such as World AIDS Day, Take Back the Night and others. He has worked as a mentor, and serves as the president of two clubs while also taking part in several campus activities.

Republicans honored for LGBT support

Two local Republican politicians were recognized for their LGBT-friendly actions at the Log Cabin Illinois' Spirit of Lincoln Celebration Awards on Saturday, Sept. 15.

According to Log Cabin Illinois, the organization presented Sen. Christine Radogno (41st) and Rep. Elizabeth Coulson (17th) with "Uncommon Courage" awards. Radogno was feted for voting in support of adding "sexual orientation" to the 2005 Illinois Employment Non-Discrimination Act and Coulson was honored for being the only Republican in the Human Services Committee to vote in support of this year's civil union bill.

Hearty Boys to release cookbook

The Hearty Boys, Food Network stars and local caterers Dan Smith and Steve McDonagh, will release their debut cookbook on Oct. 1.

"Talk With Your Mouth Full: The Hearty Boys Cookbook," according to publisher Stewart, Tabori & Chang, features 125 food and drink recipes. In addition to recipes for main courses, appetizers, desserts and more, the book includes personal stories about the catering business.

The Hearty Boys have their own Chicago catering business, HB: A Hearty Boys Spot.

Russian to Speak at Shepherd Rally

Gay Russian leader Nikolai Alexeyev will be the keynote speaker at the 9th Annual Matthew Shepard March on Sat., Oct. 6. The rally/march, organized by the Gay Liberation Network (GLN), will begin at 8 p.m. in the parking lot located on the corner of Halsted and Roscoe streets in Lakeview.

For the past two years, Alexeyev has led the efforts of Russian lesbians and gays to win the right to publicly organize, braving police arrests and physical attacks by neo-fascists and religious zealots, according to a GLN press release.

"The Gay Liberation Network is proud to host Alexeyev because his example of tenacious organizing demonstrates how rights have always been won, regardless of country," said GLN co-founder Andy Thayer.

On Wed., Oct. 3, 7-9 p.m., GLN will host a solidarity reception with Alexeyev at the Gerber/Hart Library, at 1127 W. Granville. For more information about either event, call GLN at 773-209-1187, e-mail LGBTliberation@aol.com, or visit www.GayLiberation.net.

Another victory for local GSA

An Illinois school board recently reversed a committee's decision to ban a Gay-Straight Alliance from meeting on campus.

According to an American Civil Liberties Union press release, a Rockton, Ill., school board voted 5-2 on Wednesday, Sept. 19, allowing the Hononegah High School club to form after a months-long battle. The club was proposed by

students in May, according to the organization, and the school's legal attorney had supposedly warned the committee that their decision went against the federal Equal Access Act.

In the press release, John Knight, director of the LGBT Project at the ACLU of Illinois said he was pleased with the board's decision. "And we're so proud of the students from the GSA for standing up for their rights and demanding the equal treatment that the law requires," he stated.

New Howard Brown CDO

Howard Brown Health Center recently announced its new chief development officer.

According to a press release, Paul R. Fairchild, who recently worked for Heartland Alliance, will fill the position effective immediately. He previously served as director of development at Horizons Community Services and is a current Lesbian Community Cancer Project board member. Howard Brown president Michael Cook described Fairchild as a "tireless fundraiser and strong advocate" in a statement released by the organization.

Second local teen gets probation for anti-gay flier

The second of two Crystal Lake teenagers accused of distributing anti-gay fliers at their high school received one year of probation and community service on Wednesday, Sept. 19.

The felony hate crime charges against her and the other teen have been dropped. The judge ruled that the girl will not have to serve any more time if she doesn't violate the terms of her probation, according to the Daily Herald. She had spent 18 days in jail for the May incident.

The teen will also serve 40 hours of community service for misdemeanor charges of disorderly conduct and resisting arrest. Her friend had received a similar sentence.

Project Plans HIV/AIDS Writing Contest for Youth

The Hear Me Project is hosting a national HIV/AIDS story-writing contest.

The contest is open to those between the ages of 14 and 22 as of Dec. 1, which is the deadline (and is also World AIDS Day). The original submissions can be fictional or non-fictional and must be about personal vulnerability to HIV/AIDS. The characters in the story must be impacted by HIV/AIDS. Also, the maximum length for stories is five pages.

Judges include celebrities such as entertainer Hilary Duff, actress Jasmine Guy and film director Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu.

For entry forms and more info, see www.HearMeProject.org.

YWCA Names Award Recipients

YWCA Metropolitan Chicago has announced its 2007 recipients of the Leader Luncheon Outstanding Achievement and Racial Justice Awards. The luncheon will honor women leaders in a variety of fields, including business, communications and racial justice.

This year's honorees are:

—**Business:** Padmasree Warrior, Motorola's executive vice president and chief technology officer;

—**Communications:** Terri Hemmert, WXRT radio personality (first female morning drive personality in Chicago);

—**Professions:** The Rev. Susan Thistlethwaite, 11th and first female president of the Chicago Theological Seminary;

—**Promise:** Sarah Levy, founder of Sarah's Pastries & Candies; and

—**Racial Justice:** Cheryl Robinson Jackson, first female president and CEO of the Chicago Urban League.



Hitting the Right Notes

On Sat., Sept. 22, the Chicago Gay Men's Chorus dazzled the thousands of fans at Wrigley Field with its stirring rendition of the national anthem. It was the fourth time the group has performed the song at the home of the Chicago Cubs.

Members of the Rev. Fred Phelps' Westboro Baptist Church planned to picket the chorus' appearance; however, according to security officers, only two protesters showed up—and they quickly disappeared. Photo by Kat Fitzgerald; more images at www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com

Awards will be presented on Thurs., Oct. 18, at the Hyatt Regency, 151 E. Wacker. Tickets are \$175 each. Contact Ed Swanstrom at 312-762-2757 or Edward.swanstrom@ywcachicago.org.

Call 773-574-4157 or see www.almachicago.org.

Runway ALMA Gears Up

The fashion show "Runway ALMA: All Decked & OUT!"—sponsored by the Association of Latino Men for Action (ALMA)—will take place Fri., Oct. 12, at Germania Place, 108 W. Germania (near North and Clark), 7 p.m.-12 a.m.

There are three levels of ticket pricing: Level 1 (\$100) attendees can attend a VIP reception, get two drink tickets, receive a gift bag and have VIP seating at the fashion show; Level 2 (\$75) guests get special seating, a drink ticket and a gift bag; and Level 3 (\$50) attendees get general seating.

BEHIV to Host Benefit

Better Existence with HIV (BEHIV), a Chicago and Evanston-based AIDS service organization, will host a number of events in the afternoon on Sun., Oct. 7, to benefit its massage therapy program (including one that BEHIV Executive Director Eric Nelson is hosting at @mosphere, 5355 N. Clark, at 3 p.m.). The event, a "tag day" at bars in Andersonville and Edgewater, will include activities such as guest bartending, raffle drawings and drink specials.

For more info, contact Nelson at 847-475-2115, ext. 104 or ericnelson@behiv.org.

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—**D.S. in Florida**

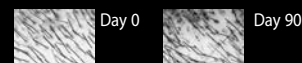
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—**A.R. in California**

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WORLD ROUNDUP

BY REX WOCKNER

President Chávez: I'm not gay

Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez says he isn't gay.

"I've been accused of everything," Chávez said Sept. 15 at a rally in Barquisimeto. "The only thing they haven't accused me of is being homosexual. Well, now they've started to accuse me of being homosexual. I don't have anything against homosexuals because I respect whichever human condition, but the thing is: I consider myself sufficiently macho to pulverize any accusation along those lines.

"It doesn't matter to me," Chávez continued. "Let them say about me whatever they have the urge to. ... I couldn't care less that they say what they say about me, and that they threaten me with what they threaten me with."



The Nicaraguan sodomy-law protest in Mexico City. Photo courtesy of Amnesty International

Protests target Nicaraguan gay sex ban

Amnesty International activists staged various protests and embassy and consulate visits targeting Nicaragua's ban on gay sex Sept. 13—in Berlin, Stockholm, Montreal, Mexico City, Santiago, Asunción and Taipei.

Nicaragua is one of only two nations in North, Central or South America than ban gay sex (the other is Guyana). Nicaraguan Penal Code Article 204 states, "Anyone who induces, promotes, propagandizes or practices in scandalous form sexual intercourse between persons of the same sex commits the crime of sodomy and shall incur one to three years' imprisonment."

"This article potentially criminalizes not only gay men, lesbians and bisexual people in same-sex relationships, but is vague enough to permit the prosecution of individuals for activities such as campaigning for LGBT rights or anyone providing sexual health information or services," said AI LGBT coordinator Tony Pitman. "Anyone imprisoned under this law would be considered by Amnesty International to be a prisoner of conscience."

Pitman urged activists around the world to "flood the Nicaraguan authorities"—in Nicaragua and at diplomatic outposts—with protest letters calling for repeal of Article 204.

Elsewhere in the region, several Caribbean islands still ban gay sex, including Barbados, Grenada, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, and Trinidad and Tobago.

Iraqi gay group needs money for safe houses

The London-based group Iraqi LGBT says it has run out of money to fund its five "safe houses" in Iraq.

Targeted gays flee to the houses to hide out from the Mahdi Army, the police and other "militant death squads" that have executed "hundreds" of gay people solely for being gay, the group said.

"Since the U.S. invasion of Iraq, gay people in Iraq have suffered particularly intense persecution," Iraqi LGBT said in its plea. "The United

Nations and the U.S. State Department have issued reports documenting some of the more recent killings."

The group said each safe house costs about \$1,800 a month to operate—\$800 for rent, \$400 to pay two armed guards and \$600 "for gas, fuel for electricity generators, food, clean drinking water, hygienic supplies and the like."

Each house has between 10 and 12 residents, the group said.

Iraqi LGBT said it has been funded in the past by its own members, friends, Heartland Alliance, the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission, and Rev. Patricia Ackerman, an Anglican priest.

Checks or money orders can be sent to K. Sahi, 13 Campden Hill Mansions, Edge Street, London W8 7PL, England. More information is available at <http://iraqilgbt.uk.blogspot.com>.

Portugal expands gay equality

Portugal's new penal code, which took effect Sept. 15, includes several new laws concerning sexual orientation, PortugalGay.PT reported.

Same-sex couples are now treated the same as opposite-sex couples in areas such as domestic violence, murder (the penalty is higher if the victim is one's partner) and obstruction of justice (the penalty is lower when one is protecting a partner).

The code also enhances the penalty for murders committed because of a victim's sexual orientation, and criminalizes the organizing, assisting or promoting of group actions that "foment discrimination" based on sexual orientation, under penalty of one to eight years in prison.

It also makes it illegal to "promote ... violence against a person or group of persons based on sexual orientation" in the media or on the Internet, under penalty of six months to five years in prison.

The code also equalizes the age at which it is legal to have sex—14, if there is no "abuse of inexperience"; 16, otherwise—and the laws on sexual abuse.

The maximum penalty for any crime in Portugal is 25 years in prison.

—Assistance: Bill Kelley

Thursday, Sept. 27
7:30 p.m.
Nicole Hollander
Tales of Graceful Aging From the Planet Denial

Wednesday, Oct. 3
7:30 p.m.
Missy Lavender
You Go Girl: But Only When You Want To

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NATIONAL ROUNDUP

BY ANDREW DAVIS AND AMY WOOTEN

The Advocate asked Democratic presidential candidate **Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton to respond to lesbian rumors.** New York Daily News broke the story one week before the magazine's article was to be published, causing the gay publication to post the interview online. According to the article, Clinton said, "People say a lot of things about me, so I really don't pay any attention to it. ... It's not true, but it is something that I have no control over. People will say what they want to say."

A federal appeals court upheld a lower court's decision to dismiss a lawsuit filed by a trans woman who was fired by the Utah Transit Authority two years back, and upheld the **ruling that transsexuals aren't covered under federal non-discrimination laws,** according to www.365gay.com. At the time Krystal Etsitty was fired, she was wearing women's clothing and taking hormones.

The American Civil Liberties Union, according to a press release, is urging the Georgia Court of Appeals to **dismiss a judge's contempt order against a lesbian mother.** The county judge had ordered that the child that Elizabeth Hadaway wants to adopt be taken away because of her sexual orientation. The child has since been returned to Hadaway, but she wants the judge's order that she spend jail time dropped.

According to the Southern Voice, a **Newark, N.J., gay rights group is calling on the city's major to investigate the August triple murder of three college students as a hate crime.** The article states that local gay activist James Credle and others say that at least one of the victims was gay, according to what they have learned.

The **Maryland Court of Appeals recently upheld the state's 34-year old statute that bans same-sex marriage,** 4-3, reported The Baltimore Sun. The majority opinion, written by Judge Glenn T. Harrell, Jr., said that any change should be done by the state legislature.

California Gov. **Arnold Schwarzenegger recently announced that he will veto any same-sex marriage bill that lands on his desk,** including the most recent bill passed by the state

Correction

The photo of Wayne Besen in the Sept. 19 issue should be credited to Rex Wockner.

Windy City Times regrets the error.

legislature, reported the Associated Press. The governor vetoed a similar bill in 2005.

At the recent start of a Brooklyn Supreme Court trial involving one of four men accused of killing a gay man last year during a robbery, **the defendant's lawyer claimed that his client, who is accused of committing a hate crime, is gay,** according to the New York Times. According to the article, Anthony Fortunato's lawyer claims his client planned to come out to his friends the night of the incident, and that the prosecution's main witness is gay, as well.

In California, the West Hollywood gay dance spot Mickey's recently burned to the ground, according to GaySocialites.com. Reports said that the fire started in a malfunctioning air-conditioning unit in the basement, and that the flames were fueled by liquor meant for thousands of green appleinis.

The Pentagon plans to discontinue software that spied on anti-war and gay-rights groups, according to EDGEBoston.com. The database was put together under a program called TALON (Threat and Local Observation Notices) that was started four years ago to monitor terrorist threats to U.S. security forces.

In Alabama, **21-year-old Robert Holly Lofton Porter received two consecutive life terms for killing a gay man,** Scotty Joe Weaver, according to 365Gay.com. Porter was the second to be sentenced for Weaver's murder; Christopher Gaines, 22, received life without parole after pleading guilty. Weaver was murdered in 2004; after the murder, the killers took the body to a dirt road and set it on fire.

A memorial for Latina lesbian activist Yolanda Retter Vargas will take place at the West Hollywood, Calif., Metropolitan Community Church on Sept. 29. Vargas contributed to a number of significant books on lesbian/gay culture and history, including the Lambda Literary Award-winning *Queers in Space: Communities, Public Places, Sites of Resistance* (1997). Vargas recently died of cancer at age 59, Gay.com reported.

In a one-hour talk with gay journalists, New Jersey Gov. Jon Corzine said that he expected same-sex marriages to be approved in his state, but **that he would not work on that achievement until after the 2008 presidential election,** according to Gay City News. "I don't think I'd like to see this debated in a presidential election year," Corzine said. "It's an incitement to people who will make policies on a whole broad range of issues that will keep the *status quo*."

In other news, **a gay man was appointed to the Colorado state legislature,** according to www.365gay.com. Mark Ferrandino, former head

of Colorado Stonewall Democrats, will replace Rep. Mike Cerbo. Cerbo endorsed Ferrandino.

In New York, an Albany court **has dismissed a challenge to the state comptroller's decision to treat out-of-state same-sex marriages the same as out-of-state heterosexual ones,** 365Gay.com reported. In 2004, the comptroller at the time assured a gay man that his Canadian same-sex wedding would be treated the same as any other regarding retirement benefits. The Arizona-based Alliance Defense Fund filed a challenge, using the July 2006 ruling by the state's Court of Appeals, the state's top court, that upheld New York's ban on same-sex marriage.

Mónica Taher Leaves GLAAD

Mónica Taher officially announced her resignation as the People of Color Media Director for the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) on Sept. 21.

At GLAAD, Taher played an important role in creating change in Spanish-language media working along side television, radio, and print media executives in order to change the way they discuss LGBT issues.

Taher leaves GLAAD to become the Press Relations Director for Azteca America. Azteca America, is one of the nation's largest Spanish-language media networks.

In a letter to friends and colleagues Taher writes, "I am exhilarated to have the opportunity to become a part of another front to keep pushing for more visibility of LGBT Latina/os."

Taher's last day at GLAAD is Oct. 3.

—Emmanuel Garcia

—Andrew Davis

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...VIEWPOINTS...

The rise of the gay 'sex police'



CHRIS CRAIN

Don't let their political stripes fool you. These moralists are every bit the true believers as their Bible-thumping forebears

Bad boys, bad boys, whatcha gonna do, whatcha gonna do when they come for you...

Don't just look to your right, my friend. The "sex police" are closing in from the left as well, and they're every bit as dangerous.

It is the height of irony that just as the U.S. finally shakes loose from decades of repression by the moralists on the right, the emerging power of the Net has given rise to a new breed of sex police, this time from the ideological left.

Ever since the Puritan Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock, a certain portion of the American populace has always been fearful that someone, somewhere might actually be having some sexual fun. To put a stop to such heresy, the states enacted all sorts of regulation against "deviate sex," "acts against nature," and laws forbidding sodomy, adultery and fornication.

When technology threatened to outpace these "sex police," they procreated more regulation, this time prohibiting the sale of condoms and birth control, sex toys and abortion. Whatever the claims about life beginning at conception, these laws were really about making the consequences of sex severe enough to discourage its attempt.

The regulations were aimed, conveniently enough, at the sexual conduct of "others"—those who failed to heed the Good Book's supposed commandment to enter into heterosexual marriage and copulate only for the purpose of procreation.

No doubt, some decent proportion of these sex police were true believers in the moral law they used police power to enforce. Fortunate to be born heterosexual and inclined toward monogamy, these laws worked well enough for them, and they no doubt believed those filthy "others" would benefit as well, if only they'd pay heed.

Then came the sexual revolution of the '60s and '70s that freed the great majority of Americans from the notion that sex must be confined to marriage and procreation. Not far behind was the Gay Liberation Movement, which extended that argument to the minority of us born homosexually-inclined.

With some strategic help from the U.S. Supreme Court, the progressives won the battle. In the 1960s, the Court struck down laws that prohibited the sale of condoms and birth control, first to married couples and then to singles. In the '70s, down came most abortion laws.

Then, after the Reagan Revolution fizzled, the Court struck down sodomy laws in the landmark case of Lawrence vs. Texas, effectively erecting a zone of privacy around that most private of personal decisions, relating to sexual intercourse and intimacy.

But now that zone of privacy is under threat from an entirely new version of "sex police," mostly gay men with an unrelenting penchant to tongue-wag. In their minds, the scarlet letter "A" has been replaced by the scarlet letter "H," since hypocrisy rather than adultery is the ultimate sexual sin in their crosshairs.

These new moralists aren't Puritans by any means, but they are true believers nonetheless—so convinced of their own moral authority that they would (ab)use the power of technology to invade the sexual privacy of others in ways their Bible-thumping forebears could only dream of.

As a gay newspaper editor, I heard from them with growing frequency. One week they'd be shopping a recording on a gay phone sex hotline by an anti-gay Virginia congressman. Another week it would be compromising photos on the anonymous personal profile of a conservative journalist, who's openly gay and among the country's most effective gay rights advocates, but who's committed the sin-crime of writing something about sex they deemed inconsistent with his personal sex life.

The rise of the blogs freed these sex cops of having to deal with annoying journalist-gatekeepers, so now they can go directly for the jugular, or for the groin more often than not.

To read their blog posts, and the chorus of comments calling for more "red meat" closet cases, is to see them for what they are: sexual moralists filled with venom that their version of "the others," their political opponents, might somehow, somewhere, actually be doing something (they deem) inconsistent with their public persona.

These sexual police don't waste time seeking majority support to pass regulations governing "appropriate" sexual conduct; they decide who's broken the rules all by themselves. They don't need bumbling undercover cops as enforcement thugs, they troll all on their own, tracking down leads in on-line chatrooms, phone sex lines and pornhouse "tearooms."

Their unbridled zeal inevitably leads to excesses that repulse all but the most faithful. From anti-gay politicians their scrutiny moved on to influential staffers, and when too many trails turned cold and the masses yelled for more, they slumped for embarrassing party pics of even the most junior congressional or White House staffers, just out of college.

And like their mirror-image ideological foes, they claim credit where it isn't due. "Outing activist" Mike Rogers has garnered a whirlwind of press coverage for the Larry Craig sex scandal, but why, exactly?

The Craig scandal broke not because of Rogers but because some other sex cop leaked the Minneapolis airport arrest report to the Roll Call newspaper. Rogers tried to "out" Craig months earlier and succeeded only in convincing the Idaho Statesman to join him in trolling public toilets, passing around Craig's photo. In the end, the Statesman—annoying journalist gatekeepers again—didn't even publish the results of their months-long sexual witch hunt until after the scandal had already broke.

These leftist sex police can't even claim the end justifies their mean-spirited means, since their track record for "change" is minimal: The Virginia congressman was replaced by someone every bit as conservative and Craig will be too, most likely. But they do succeed in reinforcing the image of gay sexuality as nasty, anonymous and devoid of any connection to love and family. Congratulations on that one.

It's long past time for the rest of us to set aside the snickering at the public fall of gay rights opponents and speak out against these "sex police" on the left, who do us no favors and are not our allies.

Chris Crain is former editor of the Washington Blade, Southern Voice, and gay publications in three other cities. He can be reached via his blog at www.citizenrain.com.

...LETTER TO THE EDITOR...

Dear Editor,

As local elected officials, we have an obligation to our constituents to provide them with a voice in Springfield. This year, we spoke with many local groups and organizations about their needs and concerns to help deliver improved services.

When crafting a new state budget, we worked to pass a responsible spending plan that serves those most in need, including persons with disabilities, immigrant and refugee families, the homeless and individuals suffering from AIDS. Further, we worked to provide needed funding for local schools, park districts, fire stations, municipalities, economic development and to assist our senior citizens.

This funding was secured in order to provide our most needy residents with the services they rely on. However, Gov. Rod Blagojevich disagreed. He not only cut these crucial local projects from the budget, but in doing so he insulted the integrity of many worthy community groups by labeling the funding as "pork." Now the ability of these organizations to provide needed programs to the

families they serve has been severely damaged.

We are hosting a community forum at 7pm on Thursday, Sept. 27 at the Mundelein Center Auditorium of Loyola University, 1020 W. Sheridan Rd. in Chicago to hear from area community organizations and local governments about how the governor's harmful budget cuts may affect their operations and ability to provide services.

We encourage anyone who is concerned about the loss of these needed projects to attend this hearing. It is important that we build the necessary support for an override of the governor's vetoes, and your attendance at this forum can help build the necessary momentum. We look forward to seeing you there.

Sincerely,
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BUSINESS: Hearing It Through the grapeVine

BY ANDREW DAVIS

Yet another public-relations firm has opened its doors, but grapeVine—which has offices in New Jersey and California—is unlike most others because it specializes in gathering gay and gay-friendly celebrities. (Some of the agency's clients include trans personality Amanda Lepore, gay writer Gil Burgess and actor Michael Carbonaro of *Another Gay Movie*.) Windy City Times recently talked with Steven Le Vine (who co-owns the firm with Stephen J. Lucin) about his plans for the firm.

Windy City Times: How did this company start?

Steven Le Vine: Stephen and I had each started our own companies within the past two years. His was called SJL Public Relations, and he was doing civic service and focusing more on the gay community; mine was grapeVine Promotions, and I was focused on entertainment.

We ultimately put our companies on hiatus, and we decided to join forces and take the entertainment and LGBT aspects and put them together. There are a couple of similar companies, but they're strictly PR while we focus on PR and also want to put on events and raise awareness. (We're having our clients perform at a Sept. 28 event, "One Night Only: Code Red," in Manhattan.) So, I see us branching out into an LGBT entertainment firm.

Right now, it's just Stephen and [me]. We would like to grow, but we'd like to keep it as a boutique firm.

WCT: How do you go about luring a client from another firm?

SLV: Our clients were not being represented. We sent out business letters; some people will respond and others won't. However, you also connect through your clients, by recommendations. It's almost like a relationship.

WCT: Is there any client you're dying to get?

SLV: Ooh—good question. Stephen and I agree that, while we target the LGBT media and clients, we also want to take on straight clients who are gay-friendly.

I don't know if she'd go for it, but I'd love to get [singer] Tori Amos. I know people who are connected with her and I've tried to [do] PR; however, she's mostly based in England so I think [working with her] would be kind of hard.

WCT: Are you ever concerned about client discrimination? For example, are you worried about a movie producer considering one of your clients for a role and saying, "Oh, he's with the gay firm?"

SLV: It's always going to be an issue. One of the things we want to do is make it easier for our clients and [eventually] actors who are in the closet would not have to be afraid of being only given gay roles—or no roles at all.

WCT: You hinted at this a minute ago, but where do you see your firm in five years?

SLV: I'd like to eventually open an office in Manhattan, but we're in New Jersey because that's where I was raised. Also, it's not too far from New York City and Philadelphia.

I'd also like to open a bigger office in L.A.—and have 20-30 people in each office.

WCT: So you don't want to be Oprah.

SLV: [Laughs] Do I want it to be an empire? I don't know. In PR, you don't need that many employees; I like a more personal touch with my clients.

See www.theprgrapevine.com for more info.

QUOTELINES

BY REX WOCKNER

"TAPPING OF THE FOOT IS PRETTY STANDARD FOR MEN

who cruise in toilets. They will usually go to the stall at the far end of the strip of toilets. They will see each other and usually decide to go someplace else. The vast majority have no interest in being seen. They may be meeting in public locations, but they will be as discreet as possible."

— Keith Griffith, owner of *CruisingForSex.com*, discussing the Sen. Larry Craig toilet-sex scandal with ABC News, Aug. 28.



Tapping of the foot is pretty standard for men who cruise in toilets.

—CruisingForSex.com owner
Keith Griffith



Photo by Rex Wockner

not gay and never have been.' And in between his 1982 denial and last year's, he called President Bill Clinton a 'naughty boy' and talked of giving the president a little spanking for his Oval Office tryst and denial of it." — Mary Ann Akers writing on the *Washington Post's* blog about the Sen. Larry Craig toilet-sex scandal, Aug. 28.

"PEOPLE IN CALIFORNIA HAVE TO BE PREPARED to march in celebration or in protest. If he signs it, then there should be a massive celebration, and if he doesn't sign it, there should be a humongous demonstration of anger, which there wasn't last time. It's shocking that the gay population in California has been invisible on all this. You also need to have a massive protest before Schwarzenegger acts. Tell him, 'Sign that bill or else.' You need to have a lot of angry gay people. You tell him, 'We are angry you sold us down the river so far, and we won't let you do it again.'" — Author and activist Larry Kramer to this column Sept. 1 on Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's expected veto of a bill legalizing same-sex marriage. Schwarzenegger vetoed an identical bill in 2005—the only time any U.S. legislature has voted to open the institution to same-sex couples.

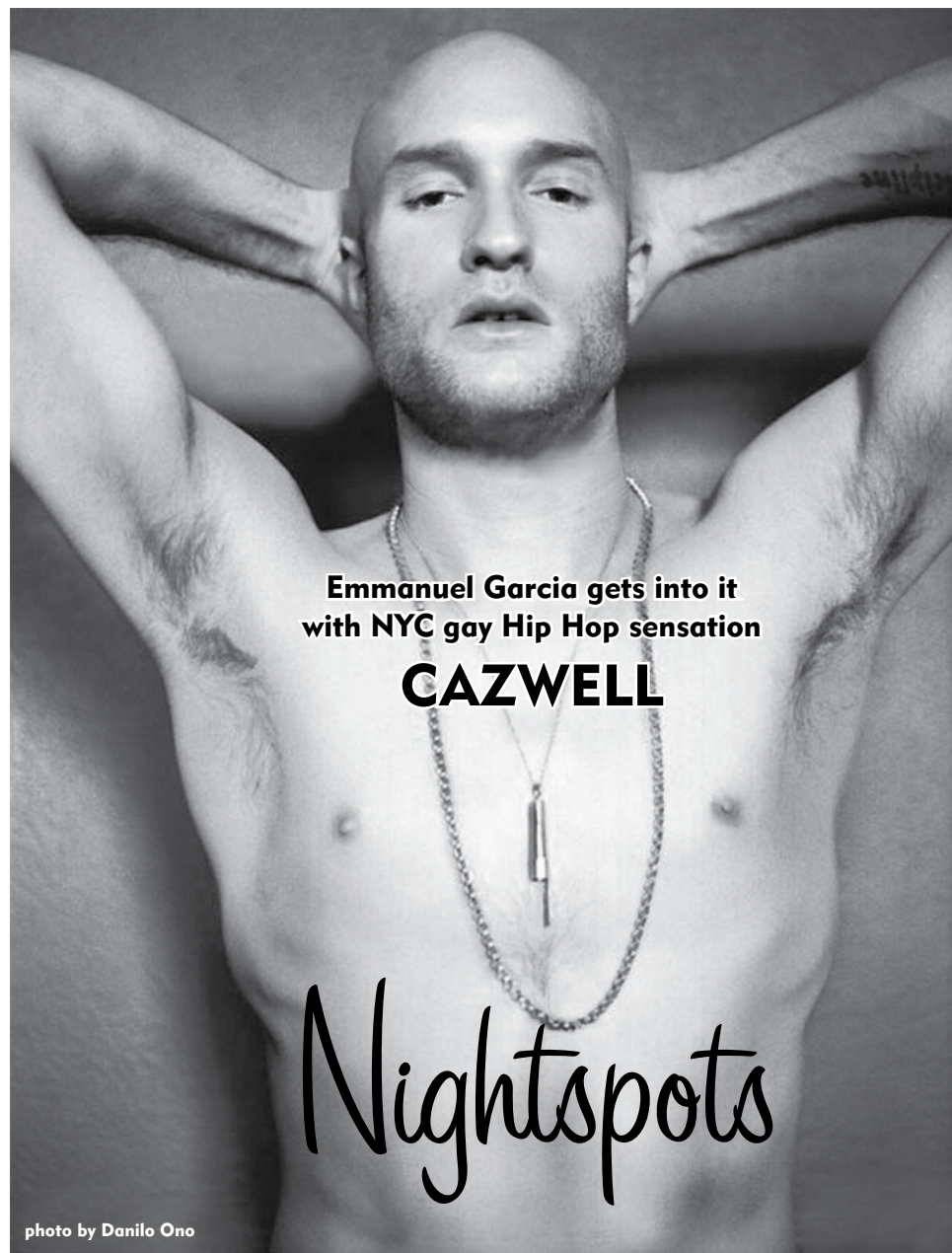
—Assistance: Bill Kelley

"MY GUT WRENCHED WHEN I READ OF SEN. LARRY CRAIG'S BATHROOM ARREST.

I remembered my own late-night encounter with the law at a Garden State Parkway rest stop following a political dinner in north Jersey. I pulled into the rest stop, parked my car, flashed my headlights, which was 'the signal,' and waited. Glancing in my rearview mirror, I saw a state trooper approaching. I desperately tried to convince the trooper of my innocence, showing him my former prosecutor's badge, a gift from the office when I left. The trooper radioed his office and returned. 'I never want to see you here again,' he said. I survived for another day. I was in my late 20s. It would be another 25 years before my parallel lives collided and I was coerced out of the 'closet.'" — Former New Jersey Gov. James McGreevey writing in the *Washington Post*, Sept. 3.

"SEN. LARRY CRAIG ... HAS BEEN PUBLICLY DENYING ASSERTIONS

that he's gay since at least 1982, when a whisper campaign implicated him in a House page scandal. Back then he called allegations of homosexual conduct 'despicable.' Last year he called new charges brought by notorious gay-rights activist Mike Rogers 'completely ridiculous.' On Monday, Craig denied 'any inappropriate conduct' in a men's room at the Minneapolis airport (even after he pleaded guilty). And today, he declared 'I am



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photo by Danilo Ono

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GOINGS ON

WINDY CITY TIMES' ENTERTAINMENT SECTION



'L' BENT; RAISING THE BARR

Actress Marlee Matlin (left) and entertainer Roseanne Barr chat. See pages 19 and 24.

THEATER

'Girl' trouble.
Page 18.

KNIGHT AT THE MOVIES

'Kingdom' comes.
Page 21.

CALENDAR

Step up to the
'mic.'
Page 25.The Defiant Playwright:
Nick Patricca

BY TRACY BAIM

Nick Patricca has served a critical role in Chicago theater since the 1970s, when he wrote groundbreaking plays inclusive of gay characters. As a gay playwright, his work has been respected both in our community and in the Chicago—and Europe—mainstream theater scene. His most recent world premiere is *The Defiant Muse*, running through Oct. 28 at Victory Gardens Theater.

In the play, "Sor Juana Ines de la Cruz, the most celebrated writer in Mexican history, duels with the imaginary Don Juan, her literary alter ego, to reveal the spiritual process through which she discovers her true power and identity," states the theater's Web site. "Her chambers become the salon of the New World where artists, scientists, scholars and philosophers converse without fear of the Inquisition. And after a devastating betrayal, Sor Juana writes the brilliant essay affirming the rights of women to participate as artistic and political leaders in the creation of culture and community."

Patricca, an ensemble playwright at Victory Gardens, sat down for an interview for the Chicago Gay and Lesbian History Project that I am working on; featured below are excerpts.

Tracy Baim: What was your understanding about the larger world, when you were in seminary in the 1960s, and how that was starting to define you, and your identity?

Nick Patricca: Well, the civil-rights issue was the dominant one, and the changes in the church. The election of [John] Kennedy was the first big change, and then the beginning of Vatican Two, and the civil-rights movement. So I became actually involved in civil rights in '65; it was my next to last year in seminary. So those

were the three great events. Kennedy's election was very transforming, the second Vatican council, we were very involved in that so there was a tremendous change, and in a sense the best and the brightest, unfortunately, left the seminary and I think that the church is suffering today from that. I think the mediocre bishops have inherited the church.

TB: So let's move you to the PhD program in '66.

NP: The University of Chicago Divinity School was [seen in a media report as] the finest and best divinity school for the study of religion in the world. ... I loved Chicago as soon as I saw it. ... [When] I came in to Chicago, I hadn't realized how segregated the city was. I used to walk to the South Side ... through Jackson Park. It dawned on me that I was the only white person in the entire neighborhood. ... But I was quite naive because I grew up side by side with Black people. Italians and Blacks used to fight each other but it was sort of ritualized on Saturday night. And it's calm during the week.

From '66 to '70 I was living on the South Side and then, because race was so obvious of an issue, I got involved with the civil-rights movement right there in Hyde Park. Then I met Dr. Eric Cast, who lived in Hyde Park, and he asked if I want to do community health work with him. He just put a white coat on me and we went out and he said; "Now you're going to be a Physician's Assistant." ... The Black Panthers were very controversial because it was the whole idea of Black power. I had left SNCC in '65 because I was there when SNCC changed from the Student Nonviolence Coordinating Committee to the Student Violent Coordinating Committee because of the Black power issue. And so I was not into the Black power thing as violence, but only as empowerment, and because I understood that I had to take a position against violence. I was always ambivalent about [the Black Panthers'] approach to reality, because I supported their idea that you develop grassroots community involvement and you work with people ...

TB: The time that you were with the Black Panthers in Chicago was their peak years. What were some of the issues, being a gay man within that environment?

NP: I started to grow my hair long, and I was also starting to wear jewelry. I didn't have an earring, oddly enough, but I had necklaces and I had rings. And [this one doctor] came up to me one day and he said to me, "You know you can't have long hair, and you can't wear jewelry and you can't wear rings because that makes you look unmanly." He said also, "You have to wear the right jacket, because authority is important, and the Black Panthers want us to wear, you will wear white." And I said I'm not a doctor, and he said it doesn't matter, it's about authority; he said I had to wear a white jacket, and [that] I had to put a stethoscope around my neck. So I knew he was wrong, and I knew they were wrong, because the Black people liked the fact that I wore jewelry.

TB: What were you aware of in 1969 in terms of what was happening with the gay movement?

NP: I got into the gay movement because of women. I was involved with the South Side Dance Collective, which was women working together; "Women identified women" was the term and they were developing. Marge Whitney [and] Lucina Cathman were developing artistic work to express the idea of women's liberation. To me it was very natural that what we were talking about was gender and sexual liberation, so I got involved with the first gay consciousness-raising group at the University of Chicago, which was Murray Edelman, and Kevin Burke and myself and ... and others.

... So what we did is we started critiquing our own experiences and ourselves, and eventually we all decided that we should move north. I was the first to move north, we thought that we had enough talk, we should go live. I would take el trips up north and I decided—I feel very proud of this—that I was like the first to discover Belmont and Halsted [3322 N. Halsted], and moved

there in 1970. As I said, I rented a house, [and rented it out to a] woman's collective, although men lived in it, and Kathleen Thompson ran the bookstore on the first floor, which was called *Pride and Prejudice*.

TB: How would you define what that building was like in terms what worked and what didn't work, and was it kind of this defacto first community center?

NP: Well, it worked and it didn't work, as everything did. Some of the problems were the mixing of cultures. I had never in my life met "Americans." I grew up Black Italian; I had met some Jewish people. I had never really met Midwest people, especially from Oklahoma. ... The cultural differences were very significant.

TB: In the early part of the 1970s you were splitting your time between New York and Chicago.

NP: I got my PhD in 1972 and, although I was very happy as a teacher, and successful as a teacher, it was clear to me that that still wasn't enough. I started writing poetry, and I published a lot, [in] early gay journals. I was going to New York and spending half the year in New York, and working there in St. Marks on the Bowery Health Clinic, because I was still interested in healthcare. I also began working with the development of gay theater in the bars *The Stud* and *The Eagle*. At first I was just a participant, then I actually started performing my own poems and writing monologues, and that led me naturally into starting to write for theater, which I didn't really do until 1977.

TB: This is the pre-AIDS era. What was it like being a gay man in the 1970s in Chicago?

NP: It was deceptive; it was both exciting and it was deceptive. The exciting part was that it really felt like one could explore one's sexuality. The rhetoric of sexual freedom was that through the exploration of one's sexuality, one would get to know one's self and, ideally, come to knowledge. I mean this might sound pretentious, but really get to knowledge. I mean knowledge of

the other, or God or whatever. But what happened, in fact, was that the exploration of sexuality degenerated very quickly into promiscuity in a bad sense. Which led eventually to the catastrophe of AIDS, among other things. You could see it way before that, my work in the health clinics was like a natural transition ... I was seeing gonorrhea and syphilis all the time in all elements of the community. But then all of the sudden you're hit with gay men, primarily ... it was just an amazing tidal wave of syphilis and gonorrhea. Then it was chlamydia, and all sorts of strange diseases that no one knew what they were. I actually believe I saw AIDS before anyone knew what AIDS was. ...

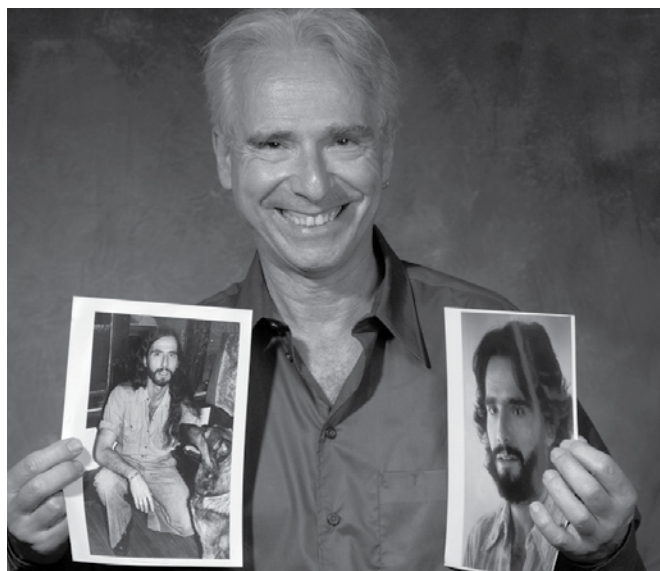
I was convinced that we were dealing with something that was really odd in 1980. And I did not like anything I heard the first couple times I heard about it. I thought things got too politicized and we weren't doing science, it's like the current Bush administration; we're never doing science, we're always doing someone's ideology.

TB: Let's talk about the late '70s for the Victory Gardens work.

NP: In 1977, I almost died myself from several cases of hepatitis. When you face death young, you have to say no, or what am I doing? So I decided I was going to write for real. And I had never admitted to being a writer until much later, but I decided to write. I started writing monologues for the theater, and I put it together into my first play. Bill Norris, who actually got a copy of it, he called and said 'I want to do your play'. ... So that was 1977, I spent three years under his mentorship putting it together ... the first production [of *The Examen* was] in 1980 at the Victory Gardens ... I've been with Victory Gardens [ever since].

TB: What was it about, and why was it a groundbreaking play in Chicago?

NP: *The Examen* was kind of prophetic in that it described the life of a man who became pope almost by accident; who was homoerotic, but



Nick Patricca holding images of himself in the 1970s. Photo by Hal Baim

did not have a sexual relationship with anyone. More importantly, he has a vision of how the church should change. And he died one month after being in office, and this was, like, uncanny, because in 1979 that actually happened, and I had written that in 1977. In 1979 it actually happened to John Paul the First.

TB: And it was groundbreaking because, in a mainstream environment, had there been a gay production in Chicago?

NP: It wasn't billed as gay; it was primarily billed as Catholic and political, but certainly Rick Paul got the gay message, and because of the play he became my friend and I started working with Rick. And Bill Norris got the message because he's gay and he saw that possibility; in fact, he played the pope. Rick Paul wanted me to join *Lionheart* [gay theater], and I did. So we started a collaboration; in fact, he did [the set for] my next play, *The Fifth Sun* [at Victory Gardens], which was probably my most successful play to date.

The Fifth Sun had its world premiere in 1984; it's about Monsignor Oscar Romero, the martyred

archbishop of El Salvador. I had students that were doing work in Central America, one of them had been killed, and I went down. I was in Honduras and I was in Nicaragua, and I became very interested ... in liberation theology in practice around education, how you build community, and it was around literacy, and I've continued that through until today, this idea that you can use literacy as a means to build community, and instead of giving people the "solution," you let them achieve their own solution and implement it into their own lives. ... That play has been translated into many languages and been done all over the world, and I continue to get emails and photos of people who have done it.

TB: Can you speak about *The Defiant Muse*, at Victory Gardens Theater?

NP: [It's about] Sor Juana Ines de la Cruz, a Mexican nun of the 17th century who was a fantastic woman, a genius. I've waited 17 years for this, and the play has gone through many forms, but I am very proud of this play. It won the Onassis Award. ... Then the next play is a Civil War play. A lot of the critics actually say that

I am too European and that I don't write for American audiences, so I'm going to give them an American play about our civil war, and this is going to be about Sarah Emma Tomlinson, who was a woman who passed as a man, and she was actually part of the first secret service treasury department spies. They didn't know she was a woman but she was, and they had picked her off of the battlefield because she was so heroic, and made her a secret service agent. She was the spy who infiltrated Confederate lines for the Union. ... [She's] amazing, and I was lucky enough to find her autobiography, which was published in 1865; [I got] an autographed copy on the Internet for \$60.

TB: I want to end with a couple of the works that you have done that you felt maybe had impact in the mainstream about gay people generally.

NP: My work, in terms of its impact on the gay community, is probably more through my poetry, and less through my theater. Although some of the *Lionheart* productions, *The Lemon Tree*, but that was basically poetry, *Dream Machine* was a lot of fun, and that had a philosophical message, and a theological message. My *Oh, Holy Allen Ginsberg* play, sad to say, really did not do well in Chicago, but again, it did great in Dublin and it won the Oscar Wilde Award, and I think it's partly—and I mean this with affection for Chicago critics and audiences—that the Irish understood it, and they understood all of the literary allusions, and they weren't afraid of literature, and they weren't afraid of people who spoke literately. And so I think that my gay impact in theater is more in Europe. I did gay stuff in Rome, in Israel, in Bulgaria; I had a lot of impact in Europe, but very little I think in the United States, except through my poetry.

Read the entire interview with Nick Patricca at www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com.

ONLINE THIS WEEK...

THEATER REVIEWS OF:
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THE BUSY WORLD IS HUSHED
SUDDENLY LAST SUMMER
ELMINA'S KITCHEN

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SPOTLIGHT

Phantom



The disfigured monster that haunts the opera house and seduces sopranos is back! But it's not Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber's overblown version that people think is wonderful, but isn't. This *Phantom* is a better-written, deeper version of Gaston Laroux's 1911 potboiler novel by the American team of Arthur Kopit (book) and Maury Yeston (music and lyrics). In Chicago, the Kopit/Yeston *Phantom* has been staged at the old Candlelight Dinner Playhouse and will be staged next spring at Theatre at the Center. Meantime, the reliably excellent Porchlight Music Theatre offers an intimate production of *Phantom* at Theatre Building Chicago, 1225 W. Belmont, through Nov. 1; 773-327-5252; \$34-\$35. Photo of Lara Filip and Peter Oylo by Paul Grigonis



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> **Co-ed Open Gym: Volleyball** — 8:00p – 10:00p **FREE**

TUESDAYS: OCT 2 | OCT 9 | OCT 16 | OCT 23 | OCT 30

> **Bridge & Euchre** — 6:00p – 9:30p **FREE**

Experienced and novice players are welcome to this evening of cards. *John Baran Senior Center*

> **Introduction to Computers** — 5:30p – 6:30p **FREE**

Dr. David J. Lochman Cyber Center

WEDNESDAYS: OCT 3 | OCT 10 | OCT 17 | OCT 24 | OCT 31

> **Women on Wednesdays** — 5:00p – 9:30p

A weekly social & networking event for women only. 21 & older.

> **Women's Open Gym-Basketball** — 5:00p – 7:00p

> **Women's Game Night** — 6:00p – 8:00p

> **Dyke Mic 2.0** — 8:00p – 9:30p

(Under 18 @ 7:30p) **\$10 donation**

> **ALMA Volleyball** — 8:00p – 10:00p

THURSDAYS: OCT 4 | OCT 11 | OCT 18 | OCT 25

> **Men's Open Gym-Basketball** — 6:00p – 9:00p

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Productions. For more info and tickets: 800.838.3006 or visit. www.gayco.com.

SATURDAYS: OCT 13 | OCT 20

> **NAMES Project Chicago AIDS Memorial Quilt Workshops.** Come for assistance with creation of a quilt panel. Open to public. — 10:00a – 1:00p **FREE**

SUNDAYS: OCT 7 | OCT 14 | OCT 21 | OCT 28

> **Worship Services by Achurch4me MCC**

Hoover-Leppen Theatre — 11:00a **FREE**

> **Pillar of Love Fellowship Church Services**

John Baran Senior Center — 1:00p **FREE**

SPECIAL PUBLIC EVENTS

Tue Tuesday, OCT 2 — 6:00p – 8:00p FREE

02 Cornerstones of Investing: Part of the Money Matters seminar series.

Tuesday, OCT 2 — 6:30p – 8:30p \$10

Conversation with Author Carlos Mock. Join us for a reading, discussion and book-signing of Mock's latest book, *Papi Chulo*. RSVP at www.centeronhalsted.org.

Fri 05 Friday, OCT 5 — 7:00p Self pay
Windy City Rainbow Alliance of the Deaf (WCRAD) Coffee Social.
Caribou Coffee, 3500 N. Halsted St., Chicago

Sat 06 Saturday, OCT 6 — 11:00a – 1:00p FREE
Saving for College: What every parent should know about preparing for a child's education.

Fri 12 Friday, OCT 12 — 7:00p – 12:00a \$50 - \$100
Association of Latino Men for Action (ALMA) Gala
Fashion show, silent auction, hors d'oeuvres, cash bar. Ticket info at 773.574.4157 or almachicago.org.
Germania Place, 108 W. Germania Place, Chicago.

Friday, OCT 12 — 9:30a – 11:00a FREE
Matthew Shepard Anniversary. Become part of the launch of MatthewsPlace.com and a national conversation about disenfranchised LGBTQ youth. RSVP to creid@centeronhalsted.org.

Sat 13 Saturday, OCT 13 — 10:00a – 12:00p
\$40/couple; \$25/individual
Baby Maybe—Adoption Is an Option. Considering artificial insemination, surrogacy, adoption? Hear from organizations and legal experts on your options.

Sun 14 Sunday, OCT 14 — 11:00a FREE
achurch4me Worship Service: "Building Bridges That Liberate and Unite" by Rev. Deborah Elandus Lake, Executive Director of Sankofa Way Spiritual Services.

Thu 18 Thursday, OCT 18 — 5:00p – 7:00p FREE
Fourth Annual Candlelight Vigil: Bringing Violence Out of the Closet. Center on Halsted's Anti-Violence Project and community cosponsors gather to remember LGBT victims and survivors of violent crimes.

Wed 24 Wednesday, OCT 24 — 6:00p – 8:00p \$10
What Do You Want to Be When You Grow Up?
Learn to evaluate your skills and set goals for strategic career moves. Part of the Women and Money Matters series. RSVP at www.centeronhalsted.org.

Fri 26 Friday, OCT 26 — 6:00p – 10:00p \$10
26 Creative Convergence: When Artists Come Together.
Join us for multimedia performances by LGBT artists who will interpret selections by artists.

Sat 27 Saturday, OCT 27 — 6:00p – 10:00p
\$12/WCRAD members; \$15 nonmembers
WCRAD Annual Halloween Party. Hors d'oeuvres, best costume contest, raffles, entertainment. *Hydrate Bar, 3458 N. Halsted St., Chicago*

Sun 28 Sunday, OCT 28 — 2:00p – 6:00p \$20/family
28 A Family Halloween. Celebrate Halloween with our ghosts and goblins.

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CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60613 tty: 773.472.1277

YOUTH EVENTS

Tue 02 Tuesday, OCT 2 — 5:30p **FREE**
Yoga

Thu 11 Thursday, OCT 11 — 5:30p **FREE**
Celebrate National Coming Out Day with other youth

Thursday, OCT 11
GLOCY (Gay Lesbian Outreach Center for Youth).
Explore and talk about spiritual matters.

Wed 31 Wednesday, OCT 31 — 5:30p
Halloween. Wear your costumes!

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Mon. – Thurs. Group time: 5:30p
Sat. Programming: Noon – 5:00p

MONDAYS

- > **Meditation/Feelin' Good** — Learn relaxation techniques, practice the art of meditation & learn how to care for yourself.
- > **Young Men's Group** — Discussion group for men who identify as gay, bisexual, and transgender.
- > **Zee's Discussion Group** — Youth-guided discussion.

TUESDAYS

- > **Up and OUT** — Coming out group. Sign up required with Joe Brown at jbrown@centeronhalsted.org.
- > **Teen Talk Group** — Discussion facilitated by a youth intern, focusing on topics that impact teen's lives.
- > **Above the Belt** — Art and discussion designed to address issues related to dating, relationships & violence.
- > **FREE and Confidential HIV Testing by CHRRPY** — Ask to speak with Luis

WEDNESDAYS

- > **Youth Gym** — 4:00p – 5:00p, 7:00p – 8:00p
- > **Job Club (Computer Lab)** — 4:00p – 5:00p
Professional career services for ages 13–24.

GROUPS

- > **Dance Class** — Prepare for a performance.
- > **Women's Group** — Led by & for lesbian & bi women.
- > **BELONG/Peer Education** — Learn the ABCs of HIV and inform your peers.
- > **What's in Your Future?** — Hear from those who've "made it" in their lives and careers.

WEDNESDAYS & SATURDAYS

- > **Film Making through After School Matters** — Contact Val Newman at vnewman@centeronhalsted.org to participate in this film-making project. Participants will earn a stipend.

THURSDAYS

- > **Youth Gym** — 4:00p – 5:00p, 5:30p – 6:30p
- > **Your Future** — Goal-oriented? Want to go back to school or find a job? If yes, this group is for you!
- > **Let's Talk About Sex** — Education about HIV & safer sex.
- > **Art Group** — Express yourself!

FRIDAYS

- > **Youth Volleyball Games** — 4:00p – 6:00p Ages 13–24.
Challenge other youth programs in a volleyball game.

SATURDAYS

- > **Art Expression, Movie Making and Movie Watching**
- > **Drag/Diva Workshops** — Check Web site for times.

Youth programming supported in part by:

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UBS

MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMS

WEEKLY GROUPS

MONDAYS: OCT 8 | OCT 15 | OCT 22 | OCT 29

> **Women's Support Group** — 7:00p – 8:30p **\$15/week**

TUESDAYS: OCT 9 | OCT 15 | OCT 23 | OCT 30

> **Coming Out, Coming Home Support Group** — 2:00p – 3:00p **FREE**

> **Bisexual Women's Support Group** —

6:30p – 8:00p **Fee based**

> **When You Care: Support for Those Whose LGBTQA**

Loved Ones Are Struggling with Substance Abuse —

7:00p – 8:30p **Fee based**

WEDNESDAYS: OCT 10 | OCT 17 | OCT 24 | OCT 31

> **Mental Health Rainbow Group** — 3:00p – 4:00p **FREE**

THURSDAYS: OCT 11 | OCT 18 | OCT 25

> **HIV Support Group for LGBT Individuals** —

7:00p – 8:30p **FREE**

SATURDAYS: OCT 13 | OCT 20 | OCT 27

> **Men's Support Group** — 1:00p – 2:30p **\$15/week**

MONTHLY EVENTS

Tue 09 Tuesday OCT 9 — 7:00p – 8:30p **\$5 donation**

The Gifts of Grief: Forum on LGBT Grief and Loss Issues— Film screening and discussion on challenges of grief and loss. Register at ekeating@rainbowhospice.org

Thu 11 Thursday OCT 11 — 8:30a – 7:30p

\$25; \$10 students with ID

Fuertes Palabras: The First Latino/a LGBTQ-A Conference
More info and register at www.centeronhalsted.org.

Sat 20 Saturday OCT 20 — 10:00a – 1:00p **\$15**

> **Women's Coming Out Workshop**

> **Men's Coming Out Workshop**

> **Many Loves: Workshop for Individuals Practicing or Curious about Non-monogamy.** Explore issues of non-monogamy.

12-STEP PROGRAMS

FRIDAYS: OCT 6 | OCT 13 | OCT 20 | OCT 27

> **Gay & Straight Together NA** — 11:30a – 12:45p

> **CMA Beginners Group** — 7:00p – 9:00p **FREE**

> **SCA Group** — 7:15p – 8:45p **FREE**

For information, call 773.243.2301 or visit www.scachicago.org

SUNDAYS: OCT 7 | OCT 14 | OCT 21 | OCT 28

> **SCA Group** — 7:00p – 8:30p **FREE**

For information, call 773.243.2301 or visit www.scachicago.org

> **Sober Horizons** — 9:00a – 11:00a **FREE**

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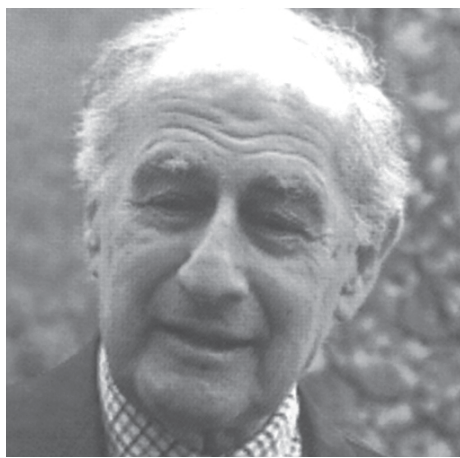
Measure for Measure

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

The big musical guns of autumn are firing—the seasons of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Lyric Opera of Chicago are well underway. But there are numerous other choices for lovers of serious instrumental music and opera, many of them produced on an intimate scale and at modest ticket prices.

One of the major opera events of October will be **A Brilliant Life, A Brilliant Night!**, a three-night Chamber Opera Chicago tribute to composer **Gian Carlo Menotti**, presented Oct. 5-6 at the Music Institute of Chicago (in Evanston) and Oct. 13 at the Oak Park Arts Center. The Italian-born Menotti (a U.S. citizen most of his long life) died last February at the age of 95. His longtime companion, composer Samuel Barber, died in 1981, the two having first met in 1928 while still adolescents.

The tribute program will feature highlights from 11 Menotti operas, among them his beloved Christmas classic *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, plus *The Medium*, *The Consul*, *The Last Savage* and *The Saint of Bleecker Street*, among



Gian Carlo Menotti.

others. The will be performed by a company of more than 30 singers plus a chamber orchestra, under the baton of Victoria Bond. The entire production will be staged by Menotti's adoptive son and artistic heir, Francis Menotti (a grad of the old Goodman School of Drama, by the way).

Tickets for *A Brilliant Life, A Brilliant Night!* are a bargain at \$25; 312-951-7944. But wait, there's more! Chamber Opera Chicago is giving away a free preview at 7 p.m., Oct. 1, at the Chicago Cultural Center, preceded by a 6:30 p.m. conversation with Menotti and Bond.

Another chamber vocal ensemble, **VOX 3**, offers an 8 p.m. program on Oct. 3 at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church (1218 W. Addison; they'd better hope there isn't a Cubs playoff game that night) at 8 p.m.. Under the title **East versus West**, a quartet of singers with piano accompaniment will offer a program of songs by Schoenberg, Weill, Carl Orff, Peter Ruzicka, Hanns Eisler and Paul Dessau. The concert is free, although donations are welcome.

In West Suburban Glen Ellen, the **McAninch Arts Center (the MAC)** at the College of DuPage offers a nearly non-stop roster of fine and popular performing arts including music, dance and theater. A few of the upcoming MAC events are: the **New Philharmonic Orchestra** playing works by Mahler and Tchaikovsky, Sept. 28-29, \$33; star sitarist **Anoushka Shankar** (daughter of Ravi Shankar) in recital, Oct. 6, \$34; and multiple Grammy winner **Pat Metheny** (guitar) with Christian McBride (bass) and Antonio Sanchez (drums), Oct. 12, \$75. Tickets: 630-942-4000 or www.AtTheMAC.org.

FYI: We don't claim to understand it, but on Sept. 25 "Weird Al" Yankovic completely sold out the MAC, with some tickets as high as \$100.

The **American Opera Group** launches its 11th season in Oak Park with an Oct. 14 gala, the first annual **Emerging International Artists Gala**



Anoushka Shankar. Photo courtesy of the McAninch Arts Center

Evening, at the Oak Park Arts Center. There isn't a lot you need to know—there will be lots of music, *hors d'oeuvres*, cash bar, the usual—but you must know this: Those attending are requested to come costumed as their favorite operatic or Broadway musical character, and a prize will be awarded for the best costume. Come, now, all you opera queens—here's a chance to try out your Halloween outfit and see if it plays in Peoria, or at least Oak Park. Why, some smart cookie might come dressed as Gian Carlo Menotti or at least a *Night Visitor*! The musical entertainment will feature 16 artists under musical director J. David Stech. Tickets: www.americanoperagroup.org or 708-434-0485; \$12-\$60.

Up the lakeshore in Beer Town (a.k.a. Milwaukee), **Early Music Now** begins its 21st season with a delightful concert of Spanish secular music featuring The King's Noyse, an ensemble of five viols, lute, percussion and four singers who will toss off a program entitled **The Musical Salads of Mateo Flecha** (1481-1553), who was court composer to the Spanish royal family. We don't know what his music has to do with greens. The concert is Oct. 19 at the Helene Zelazo Center for the Performing Arts on the campus of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Tickets: earlymusicnow.org or 414-225-3113; \$20-\$38.

Symphony Center will host its 11th annual free, marathon Day of Music on Oct. 13, sponsored by Macy's, the store you love to hate. Marathon, of course, is open to definition: The first couple of years Symphony Center held a Day of Music, they were 24-hour events. This year, the "marathon" is only eight hours, 2-10p.m. Be that as it may, all events are free and will include performances by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra with Branford Marsalis as soloist, the Civic Orchestra of Chicago, folk singer Ella Jenkins, the Lincoln Quarter, a punk marching band called Mucca Pazza and much more—truly something for everyone. For the complete rundown of performance times, call 312-294-3000 or www.cso.org/dayofmusic.

CRITICS' PICS

The Crucible, Steppenwolf, through Nov. 11. Arthur Miller used the Salem Witch Trials as a stand-in for America's anti-communist 1950s "witch hunt." His work is as powerful and necessary today as then, regrettably, as Bushites smear opponents as unpatriotic. *JA*

Cymbeline, Chicago Shakespeare Theater, through Nov. 11. For the third time, director Barbara Gaines has made Shakespeare's wildly improbable and rarely performed problem play into a thoroughly entertaining (and campy) melodrama. *SCM*

War, Seanachai Theatre at the Storefront, through Oct. 7. Don't be fooled by the title—Roddy Doyle's affectionate take on working-class Dubliners at Pub Quiz (a.k.a. Trivial Pursuit) echoes proletarian comedies from *The Honeyymooners* to *The King of Queens*. *MSB*

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge and Morgan

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BOYS NIGHT OUT

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Marlee Matlin
(Jodi)



Daniela Sea
(Max)



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(Comedian)



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Sandy Solis
(Kit Kat Drag Diva)



Tracy Ross
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THEATER REVIEW Some Girl(s)

Playwright: Neil LaBute
At: Profiles Theatre Company,
4147 N. Broadway
Phone: 773-549-1815; \$25-\$30
Runs through: Oct. 28

BY CATEY SULLIVAN

Even if you've never seen him before in your life, you'll recognize Guy, the infuriatingly irresistible and eminently recognizable antihero of Neil LaBute's *Some Girl(s)*. He's The One—The One you fall in love with, who makes you believe in the possibility of enduring joy and whose mere

presence turns the world into a place of luxurious, galloping elation. And he's the guy who moves on without warning, leaving indelible yearning, confusion and humiliation in his boyish wake.

He meant well, Guy (Darrell Cox) earnestly explains to an ex—the emotionally crippled—with the casual ease of somebody tossing out an old pair of socks. To which the ex responds in an icy stab of exquisite clarity: "Oppenheimer meant well. Pol Pot meant well."

Playwright LaBute, director Joe Jahraus and off-Loop leading man Cox fit together like perfectly cut puzzle pieces. And while *Some Girl(s)* isn't LaBute's best work, the intoxicating convergence of precisely the right actor, director and playwright make Profiles' production a twisted



Darrell W. Cox and Jessie Fisher in *Some Girl(s)*. Photo courtesy of Profiles Theatre

treat of emotional heft and devious humor.

The set up is formulaic, but effective: On the verge of getting married, Guy is looking up old girlfriends and trying—or so he tells himself—to right a parade of wrongs that range from abandoning his high school sweetheart on prom night to molesting his best friend's 11-year-old sister.

True to form, LaBute doesn't make Guy an easily vilified cad. Rather, Guy falls somewhere in the squeamishly gray territory between pathological monster and deeply flawed humanity—he's a selfish Peter Pan who can't be completely condemned because he truly has nary a clue as to how solipsistic he is. Guy is also charismatic, charming and heart-breakingly loveable even when he's talking utter horseshit. Confronted with his unthinking cruelties, he says things like "I can't help it, I'm complex," and actually believes it. LaBute's bitter humor gleams in Cox's depiction of a self-absorbed manchild whose very memory reshapes things in his favor.

As the women of Guy's past, Kristin Collins, Jessie Fisher, Sara Kaufman, Susan Price and Julie Zarlenga provide a vivid, human timeline of Guy's deplorable romantic life. Fisher, as a wild-child artist whose free love veneer masks a deep-seated vulnerability, is tersely heartbreaking when giggling, she shrugs, "I was not always your number one priority. Not by a long shot." And then comes the knife: "It's never cool to be number two in a relationship. You prick."

As an academic who manages to exact a degree of revenge on Guy, Price is whipcord of well-directed anger while Collins, as the high school sweetheart who never made it to the prom, embodies the phrase "contents under pressure" as she tries to deal with the resurgence of barely concealed wounds.

THEATER REVIEW The Magnificents

Playwright: Dennis Watkins
At: House Theatre of Chicago at the Viaduct,
3111 N. Western
Phone: 773-251-2195; \$17-\$22
Runs through: Nov. 3

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

So how does a magician, heir to three generations of prestidigital art, tell us about his grandfather? In a magic show, of course, with card tricks, and circus clowns and spooky-tunes recalling Max Fleischer's funny-shivery cartoons. And who better to direct this fanciful memoir than Molly Brennan of the guignolesque 500 Clown?

But *The Magnificents* is not just another slam-bang artsy-cutesy everything-and-the-kitchen-sink carnival from House Theatre of Chicago. At the heart of the slapstick and slippery-shuffle is playwright Dennis Watkins' elegy for his grandfather, who—like his counterpart in the play—schooled his descendants not only in the mechanics of their craft, but in the humility necessary for its proper practice.

Our milieu reflects the *fin de siècle* trappings associated with the golden age of legerdemain, a decor extended to the collage-animation dream-sequences, together creating an ambience reminiscent of E.T.A. Hoffmann. This motif is also reflected in *The Old Man*, who speaks with a surly German accent, while his wife communicates in a vaguely Eastern European double-talk (much of their dialogue drawn from Watkins grandpère's actual words, if the playbill notes of Watkins *petit fils*—his persona, the silent orphan Boy apprenticed by the old couple—are to be believed).

And then there's the magic—not mere stunts, hurled into the action like bricks down a chimney (except for a plodding second-act ballad conspicuously lacking in the delicate fancy preceding it)—but integrated into the narrative, each one carrying its full share of the story, as when open-heart surgery is depicted as a sawing-in-half turn, and death comes in an Asrah levitation. Along with the enraptured Boy, we delve the mysteries of scarf-and-wand manipulation, and marvel at the ancient cup-and-ball switcheroo.

But we also gasp in alarm when *The Old Man* coughs red foam balloons; sigh in sentimental bliss when the clock is, literally, turned back for a courtship waltz by the aged lovers; and are inconsolable when a vanishing canary refuses to reappear, until its safe return. The Sparrow may be HTC's fall dazzler, but this small twinkling gem generates sufficient Ta-DA! to earn our attention.

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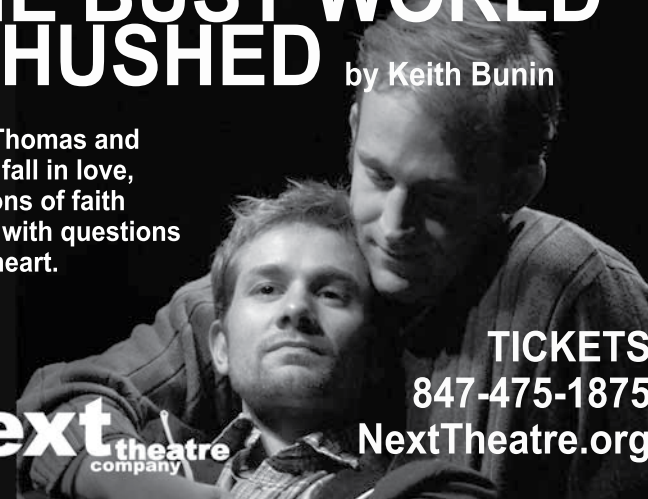
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Marlee Matlin's Great Lesbian Adventure

BY KARMEN RATKOVIC

Karmen Ratkovic is a political activist in Croatia, working with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) on a wide range of issues. She is also a Deaf lesbian activist, and has been working to expand the visibility of lesbians in her country. One way she has done this is through sports, in organizations such as qSPORT and Bura, a lesbian soccer team, that played in the Gay Games last summer in Chicago. The following e-mail interview was conducted with actor Marlee Matlin in early September.

Academy Award winner Matlin will be in Chicago for a gala benefit featuring her co-stars from The L Word (Jennifer Beals, Daniela Sea and BETTY), along with comic Marga Gomez, Sat., Oct. 6, at The Chopping Block, 222 Merchandise Mart. Chefs Art Smith and Shelley Young will also be featured at this Celebrity Cook-Off benefit for Gender PAC, a national gender-rights group. See www.gpac.org.

Karmen Ratkovic: How do you live in the surrounding of hearing people? Do you have anybody who is Deaf, that is, do you have any contact with Deaf people?

Marlee Matlin: My family [husband and children] are not deaf and most of my friends at work and at home are hearing. I grew up in Chicago, where my entire family was also hearing [mom, dad and two brothers as well as various aunts, uncles and cousins]. But most of my friends growing up in Chicago were deaf and my classmates were deaf as well. Today, I have some close friends who are deaf, but again, most of my daily friends and acquaintances are hearing. I do well going back and forth between Deaf and hearing worlds. It's the way I've always been.

KR: What was it that moved you to be an actress? Is your choosing the career of the actress in any relation with your Deafness? How has Hollywood stereotyped you and what roles are available?

MM: I've wanted to act since I was seven years old; that's when I did my first play, The Wizard of Oz. My mother said she took me to the International Center on Deafness and the Arts because she saw a desire in me to perform in front of people, and ICODA provided opportunities for deaf children to participate in the arts and drama. But I don't know if I chose acting because I was deaf. I chose acting because I was good at it!

As for Hollywood stereotyping me, Hollywood stereotypes everyone—men, women, young actors, old actors and actors with disabilities. Hollywood is all about fantasy and drama, and that means we all play characters that are larger than life. Often, this includes stereotypical behavior, behaviors that audiences can easily identify with. As for me, I shun stereotypes and I refuse to take roles which make me look silly or stupid as a Deaf person. It's also the reason why a lot of the roles I take are ones that I have created together with the writers and producers. Whether it's been the Dancing Bandit character I played on Picket Fences or the pollster I played on The West Wing or Jodi Lerner from The L Word, the characters I've played have avoided the stereotypes of Deafness and have broken new ground in the portrayals of Deaf characters. I'm proud of having opened the doors for other actors in Hollywood who are Deaf.

KR: Your brother is gay. How do you feel about that? What can you tell us about the relationship with your brother in regard to your Deafness and his homosexuality—is there any influence in any direction? How about your view of gay people; how do you understand/see them, their challenges, problems, etc.?

MM: My brother is my brother, gay or not. His being gay never factored into how we thought

of him in our family or how much we loved him. However, you could say our relationship has been defined by the fact that I'm Deaf and he's gay because we both come from communities that are in the minority. I think that has drawn us closer to each other. And as Ilene Chaiken, the executive producer of The L Word, said to me as she was developing my character, the issues facing Deaf people parallel the issues facing the LGBT community because both operate as minorities who are misunderstood by the general population. I found this fascinating but not surprising. In any case, as Matlins we are a very close and loving family, and whether we are Deaf, gay, Jewish, etc., we lived by the idea that every person deserves love and respect despite what people label as "differences."

KR: Here in Croatia, we've got no opportunity to see your acting in The L Word, but I'm fascinated by your roles in Children of a Lesser God and recently in What the Bleep. Anyway, I want to know what moved you to choose to join The L Word. How do you feel in this role?

MM: I was challenged by the very nature of the role in The L Word. It was so different than anything I had ever played before. I've always asked to play roles that were new and challenging and playing a lesbian artist is certainly new for me! I was fortunate to have been cast alongside my friend, Jennifer Beals, who made the transition into playing a lesbian quite easy. She was assuring, as well as funny and she put my mind at ease when it came to playing something I had never played before. I love the cast and crew of The L Word and the role of Jodi Lerner is one of the most fascinating characters I've ever played!

KR: Since taking on The L Word role, you have attended many gay and lesbian events and benefits [in various places], including Chicago, your hometown, where your brother introduced you. Can you tell us how being seen as more of an "activist" on the issue of gays and lesbians feels?

MM: I've always been a supporter of minority communities and issues, so when I was asked to come out and support the LGBT community, I was glad to lend my name and presence. I don't necessarily consider myself an activist as much as I consider myself as a woman with an opinion. I wish I had time to be a full-time activist but I'm not so good at politics. But I am good at speaking my mind and my mind has always told me that no one, whether straight or gay, has the right to be discriminated against simply because of their sexual preferences. So, if there's discrimination out there or people are not realizing their rights, I'm happy to speak out on their behalf and use my public position to focus attention on the issue. That's what I can do best as an actor!

KR: Can you tell us any favorite parts about playing opposite Jennifer Beals on The L Word, and where this role is going this coming season?

MM: We loved laughing and giggling when we first worked together. Jennifer had already been playing a lesbian for three years on the show and this past season was my first time. She made fun of the way I kissed and held her, and she challenged me to do it better—to do it right. But I told her that I was doing it right!

All through my process of learning, she put my mind at ease and made it so easy for me to slip into the role of the lesbian artist, Jodi. We also playfully argued about who had the better clothes (Jennifer chic, Marlee funky) and our past roles. I often kidded her about Flashdance (she pretended she didn't like to talk about that movie) and she often kidded me about Children of A Lesser God, which I made when I was 19



Marlee Matlin at the Human Rights Campaign Chicago gala in June. Photo by Kat Fitzgerald

and looked very different! She is so much fun.

As for this coming season, I can't say what's going to happen, but I can tell you it's going to be very intense—more so than last year—and if you have a chance to watch, tune in!

KR: In your role on The L Word, are you happy with the way the writers have handled your Deafness, making it a critical part of your character and her politics?

Turn to page 27

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THEATER REVIEW iHole

Playwright: GayCo Ensemble
At: GayCo at Center on Halsted's Hoover-Leppen Theatre, 3656 N. Halsted
Phone: 800-838-3006; \$15
Runs through: Oct. 20

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

What a wonderful feeling it must be for Chicago's gay and lesbian sketch comedy troupe GayCo to have a secured home at the new Hoover-Leppen Theatre in the Center on Halsted. Now if only GayCo had attracted (or papered) a sold-out crowd to the opening night of its latest revue iHole.

Sorry to say that the opening-night audience didn't get GayCo's ingenious spoofing of the film 2001: A Space Odyssey at the top of iHole. Instead of a towering black monolith worshipped by prehistoric simians, GayCo comments on our own techno-obsessions of today by replacing it

with an enormous Apple iPod.

That enormous slick iPod introduces and counts down the sketches in iHole, and is augmented by two side screens that spoof those ubiquitous iPod dancing silhouettes. It's all a handsome framing device, but what GayCo offers up isn't quite as polished as it could be.

GayCo certainly isn't bereft of great ideas. iHole is right on target, with its skewering of quirks about the gay community and its pop-culture obsessions. It's just that there is something lacking in the execution, energy or just that final finishing comic button that made many sketches feel limp on opening night.

Part of the problem is that some ensemble members are not up to the comic levels of their co-stars in iHole. Whether playing an aged Jane Addams trying to rehabilitate ex-Titan male porn stars or a woman on the phone disputing the bizarre sex-related charges on her credit card bill, Mandy Price consistently knocked her sketches out of the park.

Price's co-stars offer up funny stuff, like Judy Fabjance's comic song about under-the-surface

resentments of being a non-biological lesbian mother and Kelly Beeman's sure-fire way to pick up dates at T's bar in Andersonville. It's just that the two women pale in comparison to Price.

The guys—Jim Bennett, Andy Eninger and Robin Trevino—each offers more comic consistency, particularly Eninger's very telling song about small-town gay guys who emigrate to Chicago to lead "cosmopolitan" yet ultimately conventional lives. Still, some sketches—like the time-traveling powers of the new iPhone and a "suspicious-looking package on the CTA"—needed an extra oomph to set the audience in stitches.

I'm not sure how iHole director Mary Beth Burns could have pushed the performers to spin more zip into the show, especially since I found bits about Prairie Home Longtime Companion and the life-cycle of the 17-year "ci-gay-da" to be hilarious. Unfortunately, the spotty audience attendance on opening night didn't exactly help the laughs to flow.

Joffrey Names Artistic Director

Ashley Wheater, a longtime ballet master of the San Francisco Ballet and an alumnus of Chicago's Joffrey Ballet, has been named as Joffrey's new artistic director, according to the Associated Press.

Wheater, 48, will take over for co-founder Gerald Arpino. Arpino, 84, became artistic director emeritus in July; he co-founded the troupe in 1956 with its namesake, the late Robert Joffrey.

Tovah is Hepburn

Four-time Tony Award Nominee Tovah Feldshuh will portray Katharine Hepburn Dec. 19-23 in the Chicago premiere of Tea at Five, a one-woman play. The production will be performed at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts in Skokie, 9501 Skokie.

Tickets are \$35-\$45; call 847-673-6300 or visit www.northshorecenter.org.



BY TERRI KLINSKY

Peer pressure is a powerful thing. Each September, The Midwest Doxie Fest takes place in Hooterville, uh, Danville, Ill. We attended a couple years ago and swore we would never go again. It was a three-hour trip each way and had many overall-clad participants—Not that there's anything wrong with that. This year, our Chi-

cago Dachshund Group decided that we should not only go, but also rent rooms at the lovely Comfort Inn and make a party out of the trip. Anyone who knows me knows that I don't like to leave my neighborhood, let alone the city limits, but since all the cool kids were going and Danica is the peer-pressure poster child, we decided to go. Being a neurotic weather watcher, I started looking each day to see if it was going to rain. Our hotel reservations could be cancelled up until the morning of the event and it being an outside event, I figured if it were going to rain, we would cancel. Kim, the leader of our group said "No, don't worry about that. We have canopies and everything; rain will not be a problem for us!" A classic case of famous last words.

We took off on a beautiful Saturday morning, not a cloud in the sky. When we got about a half hour outside of our destination, the skies exploded with a wild thunderstorm and pounding rain that came sideways. I could hardly see the road. We called Kim and asked what it was doing over there. She replied that they were under the canopies near the creek. The creek? Oh good! We got to the park where the event was and it was a mess—puddles



all over; short, wet, miserable dogs on picnic tables; and everyone huddled under the three canopies that Kim had bragged about. There was moving water all around our feet and we have very short dogs. Fun? Not so much. We kept thinking it would let up. It did not. I have to tell you that while canopies are nice and provide some shelter, we all got soaked anyhow. People all around us started packing up in the down-

pour and heading out of the park. We made the decision to do the same and head over to the hotel. After taking apart the canopies and packing, we traveled to the hotel. There is nothing quite like sitting in a car sopping wet with two drenched dogs. To make it even more fun, we were all foolishly following Lisa, who claimed she knew the way to the hotel. After a lengthy tour of Danville and a long wait for a train to pass, we made it to the hotel.

There was nothing to do but clean up and gather in Kim's suite (yes, they really call it a suite) and start drinking. Fifteen people and 11 dogs really do fit into a suite at a Comfort Inn! We then ordered from the only restaurant around, the Big Boy. In fact, it is the last Big Boy left in Illinois. Fifteen people can get stuffed for only \$110, too.

So, while the fest was not exactly what we thought it would be, we did manage to have a great time with our group. We were on the road back to civilization Sunday morning by 7 a.m.

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The Kingdom, Manda Bala

BY RICHARD KNIGHT, JR.

Two movies opening this week—the political thriller **The Kingdom** and the riveting documentary **Manda Bala** (Send a Bullet)—have more than a dangerous foreign location in common. Both focus on current events in places that are teeming with extreme violence, fanaticism, corruption, mistrust of outsiders and the heightened dangers that come as the chasm between rich and poor widens. Both deeply unsettling movies are terrific examples of their particular genre, and leave one feeling uneasy long after they're over.

Over the credit sequence for **The Kingdom** we get a quick, informative overview of the history of oil production in Saudi Arabia, which sets the stage for the violent opening sequence. In return for U.S. protection we read, the Saudis have set up protected areas for U.S. oil workers known as "The Kingdom" that, in all but geographical location, emulates the United States. A lively softball game is in progress within the closely guarded compound, but the complex is attacked by a small band of terrorists—and there are horrifying results. The Saudis do not allow a special FBI unit headed by Jaime Foxx and including Jennifer Garner, Chris Cooper and Jason Bateman to enter the country to investigate.

As expected, Foxx doesn't take "no" for an answer and, after some fancy footwork, he and his crew are allowed limited access to the crime scene in **The Kingdom**. Once there, however, the frustrating limits and social protocols the team of investigators are forced to endure seem designed to hamstring their every effort to find the culprits and speaks loudly to the cultural differences between the United States and the Middle East.

Foxx and his team, determined to investigate what transpired, slowly win over their suspicious Saudi compatriots, especially the head of their security force. By the time permission is finally granted for the team to proceed outside the confines of the protected area, this incredibly



THE KINGDOM

dangerous proposition feels palpable and has scary consequences for the team. At that point, the movie escalates into a nail-biting cat-and-mouse last half hour that's terrifically entertaining.

Actor-director Peter Berg (who makes a cameo) follows his inspirational **Friday Night Lights** with a solid political thriller that also serves as a cautionary tale. But the ironic message of **The Kingdom**—that both sides are committed to winning at any cost, whether through peaceful means or violence—is not subtle, but also isn't slammed over moviegoers' heads. (However, for once could one of these action heroes not have one of those angelic-looking little kids waiting with wide-eyed innocence for their daddy's safe return?) Perhaps the highest rave I can give the filmmakers is that, while driving home from the screening in heavy city traffic, I saw the possibility of a terrorist attack on every street corner.

Residents of Sao Paulo, Brazil—a city of 20 million people—would understand my trepidation. As **Manda Bala** (**Send a Bullet**) which opens exclusively this Friday at Piper's Alley, tells it, this is one of the most dangerous places on earth. This powerful and disturbing documentary, one of the best of the year, was produced and directed by first-timer Jason Kohn. It vividly shows the effect the long-term, huge divide between rich and poor has had on Brazil. Kohn's fascinating and horrifying movie is augmented by the hottest soundtrack of the year; the sultriness of the Brazilian music underscores the film's alluring, dangerous subject matter and adds tension and bite. Sun-drenched Sao Paulo, the movie's primary location, is packed with dense glass and chrome skyscrapers, ringed by massive slums and is beset with violent crime, especially kidnapping. The rich ride around in bulletproof cars or fly high above the reach of the kidnapers in private helicopters. The massive city has 80 officers in its anti-kidnapping unit (who proudly display their arsenal of weaponry), a drop of water in an ocean of crime and corruption.

Many of the Sao Paulo's wealthiest opt to have tracking devices implanted under their skin so families can trace them should they be kidnapped. But enterprising kidnapers stick grenades on the victims (or in their mouths) to keep potential rescuers at bay, and footage of one of these victims opens the movie. Cutting off the ear(s) of the kidnap victims is so common that a plastic surgeon who's an expert at replacing them has grown rich because of the surplus of patients; the surgeon and one of his patients are extensively interviewed. Later, there is an interview with a masked professional bank robber and kidnapper—an unapologetic man with nine children to support who still lives in the slums surrounding the city and fancies himself a modern-day Robin Hood.

Kohn also focuses a great deal of footage on a corrupt politician who investigators suspect siphoned off government billions meant for the into his personal coffers—yet who remains popular with his poverty-level constituents. One of the politician's money-laundering schemes involved the country's largest frog farm and, throughout **Manda Bala**, Kohn repeatedly returns

to footage of the thousands of frogs that end up being consumed by the wealthy of the country—an apt metaphor for a culture that continues to thrive feeding on its own.

Check out my archived reviews at www.windycitytimes.com or www.knightatthemovies.com. Readers can leave feedback at the latter web site, where there is also ordering information on my new book of collected film reviews, **Knight at the Movies 2004-2006**.

Entertainment Briefs

A new tell-all book by The Brady Bunch's Maureen McCormick (Marcia) allegedly reveals a **lesbian fling between her and Eve Plumb**, who played her on-screen sister Jan Brady, according to www.sfgate.org. However, according to NationalLedger.com, the book's publisher has denied that a lesbian affair is mentioned.

Desperate Housewife star **Eva Langoria is excited to work with the show's new gay couple**, according to [The Times of India](http://TheTimesofIndia.com). Tuc Watkins and Kevin Rahm will play the show's first gay couple (Bob and Lee) on Wisteria Lane. "I am really excited about the gay neighbors; it is about time," she said.

Jodie Foster's character in the Spike Lee film Inside Man has inspired a new ABC drama, according to [Digital Spy](http://DigitalSpy.com). The new show, called **The Fixer**, will revolve around a high-powered female executive in New York who secretly solves problems for the city's upper-crust individuals.

David Hans Schmidt has pled guilty to attempting to extort \$1 million from actor Tom Cruise, IMDB.com reported. Schmidt had asked for the money in exchange for photos he had gotten of Cruise's wedding to Katie Holmes. Schmidt now faces up to two years in prison and a large monetary fine.

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THE NEW YORK TIMES, Stephen Holden

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Everything's Coming Up Roseanne

BY AMY WOOTEN

Self-described "domestic goddess" and former brash, blue-collar TV mom Roseanne Barr is swooping in to the Chicago suburbs to stir things up with a brand new stand-up show.

It seems fitting that the Sept. 29 stop of Barr's tour will be in the Paramount Theatre in Aurora, where there is a current ongoing battle in that city over the opening of a Planned Parenthood clinic. After all, Barr is becoming more vocal about politics and current issues than ever before. Her 13-year blog at www.roseanneworld.com is updated every day about topics from the recent birth of another grandchild to the goings-on in Jena, La. Her main focus right now, no matter which platform she uses, is to convince people to think.

Her show will be no different. "Expect to laugh and think and have a good time," Barr told Windy City Times.

Windy City Times: What brought you back to your stand-up roots?

Roseanne Barr: I just had something to say, and the desire to get out there and do it.

WCT: Did it have a bit to do with the political climate?

RB: It did. 9/11 was when I went, "Aw hell, I'm back. I'm back." I really wanted to get out and say something.

WCT: And now is a good time because people really need to laugh.

RB: I think that's true. They need to think. I think you need to think before you laugh. That's why stand-up is so powerful.

WCT: I know you're definitely not a fan of



Roseanne Barr.

Bush or Cheney.

RB: I'm not a fan of [Hillary] Clinton or any of them, either. I don't like any of them. They are all a bunch of bums, and not one of them, on either side, is saying anything that makes me want to vote for one of them. They are all crooks.

WCT: In that case, if you could handpick anybody to run this country, who do you think would do a really great job?

RB: I think [Al] Gore. I think we should elect him again. He's the only president in how many years that's actually been elected by popular vote of the people. He should serve. I think he should come back and run again. People need him.

WCT: Would you ever consider running for a political office?

RB: See, everybody is talking to me about that. You know what? I should do it. Maybe I will some day.

WCT: What could you see yourself doing? Are we talking president here?

RB: Yeah! I should run for president. Or just to be able to influence what is talked about. It's really important in this next election. The things they talk about and the platform they run on it [are] so important. It's so important that it isn't

stolen from people, and just be about a bunch of rich, corporate guys, while all the people's wages get lower and they lose their houses. Seriously, that's kind of why I want to stay out there and talk.

WCT: Do you think the media is doing a really poor job of informing people?

RB: There is no real media. They are just a bunch of fan sites for the Republican Party. On the Internet, there is journalism. There are people who are saying things.

The change is coming. Everyone who supported these Republicans better watch out, because they will be gone. [Laughs.] ... I think people will throw all the bums out sooner or later. They have to!

WCT: Speaking of the Internet, you blog a lot!

RB: Yeah, I blog every day. I was like the first person to blog. I've been blogging for 13 years, back when I could only get six people to pick it up.

...I like to keep thoughts out there. I think what I have to say is representative of people who are being hurt. I kind of do it as service to them.

WCT: On Roseanne—years ago—you chose to place issues important to the gay and lesbian community in the forefront. I was wondering, given today's political climate, what do you think the reaction would be?

RB: Well, I think the whole thing of gays on TV is all over the place now. There's nothing political in television anymore, though. It's kind of a wash. It really doesn't say anything. I think people who have nothing to say, whether they are gay or straight, shouldn't be allowed to get on television now.

WCT: In April, you made some comments on your radio show that, eventually, many people in the gay and lesbian community agreed with, but caused a lot of controversy.

RB: Once this was settled, some people were like, "Wait a minute." When it came out, it was all out of context and everything. They are coming around to agree with me. My point was, "Where are the gay and lesbian voices?" They are a huge and powerful demographic. I want them to say, "Stop the war." In addition to all the gay issues they talk about all the time, I want them to also say, "Stop the war in the name of the gay and lesbian people who are fighting it." They are a large part of the army. I want them to say that. It's needed. That is what I was trying to get out there, but it came out wrong. Well, like I like to say, I've cut down the drinking. [Laughs.] But I just went nuts because I wasn't hearing anything about the war from the gay and lesbian community. ...For one thing, a large part of our army is gay and lesbian. And they aren't saying it!

WCT: They are getting kicked out all the time, too.

RB: And they are getting killed. C'mon. We have to pull together—gay, straight, women, men, working people—the only hope we have is to get out of these little demographic boxes they've put us into and reach across our separation to join together and fight the power. That's what I was trying to say, that's what I've always said and that's what I'm trying to say now.

WCT: Do you think part of the problem is that people aren't concerned with what is happening right now?

RB: It's advertising. It keeps people silent and passive and separated from other people. They keep you in the house so you can keep watching their shit, so you can buy more shit. They keep you inside, so you don't go outside and join the real world.

I love to talk to people about these things.

WCT: That's what people need to do.

RB: We definitely need to start talking to each other again.

The show takes place Sept. 29, 8 p.m., at Aurora's Paramount Theatre. See www.paramountarts.com for more information.

Deep Inside Hollywood

BY ROMEO SAN VICENTE

Sean Penn and Matt Damon on Castro Street

The long will-it-or-won't-it-be-made story of the film adaptation of Randy Shilts' book *The Mayor of Castro Street* has taken another turn. With news of Gus Van Sant's attempt to shepherd the project to fruition comes fresh casting news: Sean Penn is attached to play San Francisco's pioneering gay activist/public official, the late Harvey Milk, and longtime Van Sant collaborator Matt Damon is in talks to star as Milk's assassin, Dan White. Over the course of this project's lengthy coulda-been/shoulda-been life, a number of actors have simply aged out of the title role, Robin Williams included. Hopefully, Van Sant will have the wherewithal to make cameras roll sooner rather than later, or else Zac Efron will eventually be old enough to take the lead. If all goes as planned, look for Mayor sometime in 2009.

Jennifer Hudson Assists Parker in City

Her instant gay audience cred solidified with one performance—the drama-queen-to-end-all-drama-queens Effie White in *Dreamgirls*—Jennifer Hudson has decided to preach it to the choir once again by getting herself cast in 2008's *Sex and the City: The Movie*. It would appear that Hudson's appearance on the cover of *Vogue* endeared her to the fashionable powers that be (that Oscar win probably helped a little, too), and the former *American Idol* star will co-star as Carrie Bradshaw's (Sarah Jessica Parker) assistant. This, of course, begs the question of how much assistance a character who sits in cafes, shops for shoes, and lightly taps on a laptop actually needs, but the inclusion of Hudson still feels like a welcome and adorable layer of pink frosting on an already crowd-pleasing cupcake. Hopefully, she'll be allowed to sing, too.

Paul Reubens Helps Push Daisies

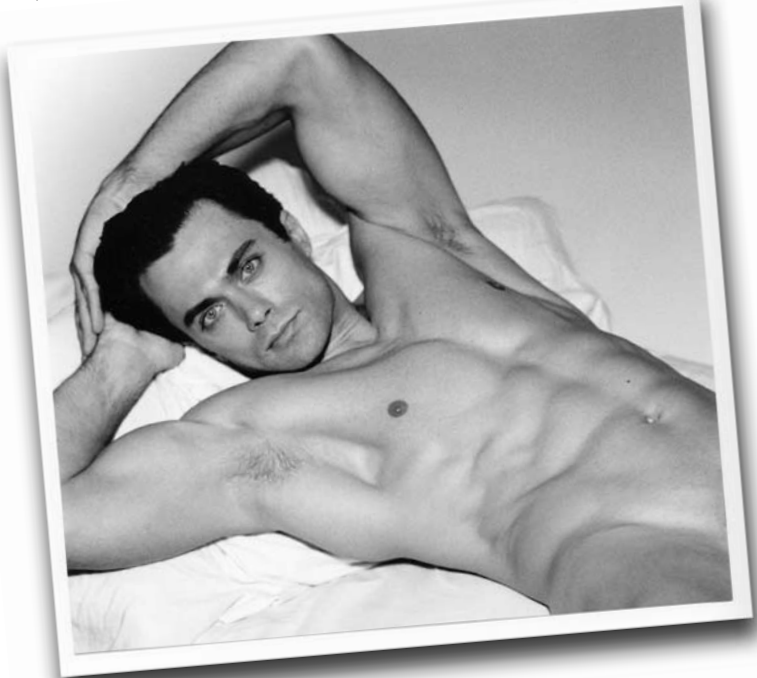
For a TV program that hasn't even aired yet, *Pushing Daisies*—the oddball police procedural/unrequited love saga of a man (Lee Pace) who brings the dead back to life to solve the mystery of how they died—is already racking up coolness points. Created by gay screenwriter Bryan Fuller (creator of cult fave shows *Wonderfalls* and *Dead Like Me*) and due this month, the show's already the most critically acclaimed and hotly anticipated thing on ABC's fall schedule. Now comes the inclusion of Paul Reubens, whose resurgent career received a jolt of adrenalin last year with his hilarious turn as deformed royalty on *30 Rock*. The erstwhile Pee-Wee Herman will star as the unusually named traveling anti-depressant salesman Alfredo Aldoriso, who becomes involved in the whimsical, resurrection-themed goings on. Whether his character will end up among the living or dead, however, is a mystery.

Romeo San Vicente's tone-deaf personal assistant never even made it in to sing for Simon, Randy and Paula. Romeo can be reached care of this publication or at DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com.

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WHAT TO DO?

Wednesday, Sept. 26

Association of Latino Men for Action Gay Wednesday Nights at Bocadillos. Proceeds benefit ALMA. 8 p.m. - 1 a.m., \$5 suggested donation, 6739 Ogden Ave., www.almachicago.org

Berlin Disco Obsession. 954 W. Belmont, www.BerlinChicago.com

Center on Halsted Women and Investing. First of a five-part Women and Money series of financial literacy workshops. 6-8 p.m., free to the public, 3656 N. Halsted St., www.centeronhalsted.org

Center on Halsted Wednesday programming: Youth Gym (4-5 p.m. and 7-8 p.m.); Job Club (4-5 p.m.); Dance Class; Let's Talk About Sex; What's in Your Future? (hear from those who made it in lives and careers). All groups meet 5:30 p.m., 3656 N. Halsted St., www.centeronhalsted.org

Center on Halsted When You Care: Stepping in to Help a Loved One Who is Losing Control of Their Alcohol or Drug Use. 7-8:30 p.m., free, 3656 N. Halsted St., www.centeronhalsted.org

Davenport's Luba Mason, the collage tour (and Sept. 27), 773-278-1830, www.davenportspianobar.com

Gay Liberation Network Meeting to plan for Matthew Shepard March (Oct. 6). 7-9 p.m., Gerber/Hart Library, 1127 W. Granville Ave., www.gayliberation.net, LGBTliberation@aol.com, 773-209-1187

Dyke Mic 2.0 All-ages open mic for queer women of all gender persuasions; co-hosted by JT Newman and Nikki Patin. Extended through end of December; every Wednesday. 8-10 p.m., \$10, \$8 with student ID, Center on Halsted Hoover-Leppen Theatre, 3656 N. Halsted St., www.centeronhalsted.org, www.myspace.com/dykemic2, dykemic@gmail.com

Mental Health Rainbow Group Weekly meeting. 3-4 p.m., free, Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted St., www.centeronhalsted.org

Sir Spa Free monthly workshop: Walking the Tightwire: How a balanced life can help you achieve more. 6:30 p.m., 5151 N. Clark St., www.sirspa.com/tightwire.html

Thursday, Sept. 27

2007 Regional Budget Hearing Hearing with state Reps. John D'Amico, Sara Feigenholtz, Greg Harris and more to discuss governor's cuts and reductions to the state budget. 7 p.m., Loyola University, Mundelein Center Auditorium, call 312-814-4887 for more info

Association of Latino Men for Action Support group: Amigos Apoyando Amigos. Every Thursday. 7-9 p.m., free,

Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted St., contact 773-661-0926 or email program@almachicago.org if interested, space limited

Broadway Youth Center Queer It Up! an LGBTQ community youth project. 6-7:30 p.m., 3179 N. Broadway, for more info contact Lara at 773-935-3151 ext. 225 or larab@howardbrown.org

Center on Halsted What Makes a Family? Part 1. Adam Pertman discusses LGBT adoption and the changing definition of American family. 6-8 p.m., free to the public, 3656 N. Halsted St., www.centeronhalsted.org

Center on Halsted Transgender Town Hall Meeting. 7-9 p.m., 3656 N. Halsted St., www.centeronhalsted.org

Center on Halsted Thursday programming: Youth Gym (4-5 p.m. and 5:30-6:30 p.m.); BELONG (team building and conflict resolution); Art Group. All groups meet 5:30 p.m., 3656 N. Halsted St., www.centeronhalsted.org

Center on Halsted HIV Support Group for LGBT Individuals. 7-8:30 p.m., free, 3656 N. Halsted St., www.centeronhalsted.org

Chicago National Organization for Women 10th Annual Women Who Dare reception, celebrating Marcena W. Love and T. Khyentse James. 6-9 p.m., \$75, The Newberry Library, 60 W. Walton St., Ruggles Hall, cnowweb@yahoo.com, 312-578-9351

Crew Women Wanna Play Too with naughty raffle prizes and drink specials. 4804 N. Broadway, www.worldsgreatestbar.com

Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault 30th Anniversary Celebration with professor/poet Dr. Nikki Giovanni of Virginia Tech University and actress Gabrielle Union. 5:30-7:45 p.m., Red Lacquer Room, Palmer House Hilton, www.icasa.org or 217-753-4117 for more info

Out & Equal Workplace Summit 2007, the premier conference on LGBT workplace equality. Three days of professional workshops, speakers, networking events and more. Thru Sept. 29, Hilton Washington, Washington, DC, for details see www.outandequal.org

Women and Children First Nicole Hollander: Tales of Graceful Aging from the Planet Denial. 7:30 p.m., 5233 N. Clark St., 773-769-9299, www.womenandchildrenfirst.com

Friday, Sept. 28

Crew Fratboy Friday with Hot Jock Contest. 4804 N. Broadway, www.worldsgreatestbar.com

Hydrate Ralph Rosario. 3458 N. Halsted St., www.hydratechicago.com

Sean Wiggins Performance at T's, 5025 N. Clark, at 8 p.m. Tickets cost \$5. See www.tsbarchicago.com or www.seanwiggins.com

West Suburban Gay Association Dinner at Bohemian Crystal. 7:30 p.m., 639 N. Blackhawk Dr., Westmont, www.wsga.com, west_burbs_gay@yahoo.com, 630-512-0100

Saturday, Sept. 29

African American Women Evolving, Inc. A Black Woman's Journey: Freeing Our Minds, Loving Our Bodies & Filling Our Spirits symposium with workshops, performance, etc. Malcolm X College, 1900 W. Van Buren, register at www.aawonline.org

American Library Association Authors of And Tango Makes Three participate in free Read Out event for Banned Books Week. 1-4 p.m., 435 N. Michigan Ave.

Chicago Dragons Rugby Club Home match vs. Westside Condors. 1 p.m., Lerner Park, 7000 N. Sacramento, more info at www.chicagodragons.org

Chicago House World Tour 2007, Chicago House's annual black tie event. Celebrate splendors of Italy at Bella Notte di Mille Stelle (Night of a Thousand Beautiful Stars). 7:30 p.m. - midnight, \$250-\$350, Renaissance Hotel, details at www.chicagohouse.org, can RSVP now at 773-248-5200 ext. 303

Circuit Nitro theme event: Valley of the Kings and Queens. DJ Tony Moran, Chicago Beef and more. \$20 admission, \$10 advance, 3641 N. Halsted St., www.circuitclub.com

Gerber/Hart Library Piecing History Together Gala. Keynote speaker: Cleve Jones, founder of The NAMES Project. 7 p.m., Swedish American Museum Center, 5211 N. Clark St., \$85 general tickets, \$135 benefactor ticket includes pre-event champagne reception with Cleve Jones (6 p.m.), info@gerberhart.org, www.gerberhart.org

Hydrate Susan Morabito. 3458 N. Halsted St., www.hydratechicago.com

Maneuvers 23rd Annual Purple Party. Prizes for most purple attire; liver performances all night; \$2 Purple Hazes, \$5 Purpletinis. No cover for those in purple, 118 E. Jefferson St., Joliet, 815-727-7069, www.jolietmaneuvers.com

Sunday, Sept. 30

Berlin Prince Night. No cover. 954 W. Belmont, www.BerlinChicago.com

East Lake View Neighbors 9th Annual Oktoberfest. 3-7 p.m., \$20 advance donation, \$25 at door, Murphy's Bleachers, 3655 N. Sheffield, www.eastlakev-

ewneighbors.org
Hydrate DJ Jeannette. 3458 N. Halsted St., www.hydratechicago.com

Jan Schakowsky LGBT Champagne Reception. 3-5 p.m., Mary's Attic, 5400 N. Clark St., \$75, tickets by calling Sarah at 847-424-1998 or email atsarah@janschakowsky.org

West Suburban Gay Association Cruise and lunch along the Fox River in St. Charles. 1:30 p.m., St. Charles Paddlewheel Riverboats, 2 North Ave., St. Charles, www.wsga.com, west_burbs_gay@yahoo.com, 630-512-0100

Women and Children First The Poems of Donna Humphrey: If I Were a Poet. 4:30 p.m., 5233 N. Clark St., 773-769-9299, www.womenandchildrenfirst.com

Monday, Oct. 1

Chicago Writers' Block Opening night of 2007 New Play Festival, featuring Honey West as raunchy comedienne Belle Barth with Gerald Bailey in a concert reading of If I Embarrass You, Tell Your Friends." 8 p.m., \$15, \$10 for students, seniors and theater industry members, Theatre Building Chicago, 1225 W. Belmont, RSVP at 773-929-7367 ext. 5

Tuesday, Oct. 2

Homolatte Brian Bouldrey/Michael Van London. 7:30 p.m., Big Chicks/Tweet, 5024 N. Sheridan, free admission, www.homolatte.com

Lake View Citizens' Council Evening on the lake. Three-hour cruise along the shores of Lake Michigan. Departs from pier at 7 p.m., general admission \$75, raffle tickets \$30 each, call 773-880-5822 for more information

Wednesday, Oct. 3

Dyke Mic 2.0 All-ages open mic for queer women of all gender persuasions; co-hosted by JT Newman and Nikki Patin. 8-10 p.m., \$10, \$8 with student ID, Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted St., www.centeronhalsted.org, www.myspace.com/dykemic2, dykemic@gmail.com

Gay Liberation Network Solidarity reception featuring Russian gay leader Nikolai Alexeyev. 7-9 p.m., \$25 suggested donation (all proceeds go to the Organizational Committee of Moscow Pride), Gerber Hart Library, 1127 W. Granville Ave., www.gayliberation.net, LGBTliberation@aol.com

Women and Children First Missy Laverder: You Go Girl: But Only When You Want To. 7:30 p.m., 5233 N. Clark, www.womenandchildrenfirst.com

Wednesday, Sept. 26



NIKKI SITUATION

Nikki Patin (above) is one of the hosts of Dyke Mic 2.0 at the Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted.

photo by Kat Fitzgerald

Saturday, Sept. 29



WORLD PARTY

The Chicago House World Tour 2007 will take place at the Renaissance Hotel, 1 W. Wacker, at 7:30 p.m.

photo from the 2006 gala by Mel Ferrand

Dykes To Watch Out For ARCHIVE episode

It was 20 years ago today...So, are you two still together?



The Ultimate Sports Week

BY ROSS FORMAN

James Platt is doing the cross-country, overnight trip next week for his sporting passion.

He'll start in Phoenix, where he'll compete in the annual Gay Softball World Series, which runs Oct. 2-5, with the championship game at Rose Mofford Softball Park. Then he's off to New York City, where he'll compete in Gay Super Bowl 7, which runs Oct. 5-7 at East River Park.

The gay sporting world truly is in full swing with both the softball and flag football championships overlapping, and the longest-running gay hockey tournament, the 13th annual Friendship Tournament, held Oct. 6-8 in Toronto.

"It's a very big [period], that's for sure," said Joe Cappelletti, the local softball commissioner who has participated in six past Gay World Series' though he's not playing this time.

The Chicago Metropolitan Sports Association (CMSA) is sending five male teams to Phoenix: Touche and Spin Cougar in the B-Division, Hunter's and Brighton Development Drillers in C, and Marty's Straight-Up in D.

Plus, four women's teams will be participating: Mood Swings, Nubians and Star Gaze Fusion in the B-Division, and Calo Bous in the C-Division.

"I think all of the men's teams have a good shot [at winning], especially Spin which took second-place last year [in the Series] and Touche which won its [CMSA] division.

"I think we've got five good teams going."

There will be 118 teams competing in the Gay World Series, with about 1,400 players from across the United States and Canada. Comedian Scott Thompson will appear at the opening ceremony for the Series.

"For so many players, just qualifying for the Gay World Series is one of their goals for the season," Cappelletti said. "It truly is the best of



A player at last year's Gay Softball World Series. Photo by Ross Forman

the best, a huge event."

Jack Neilsen, 32, of Chicago, was a Gay World Series champion in 2006 and on a third-place team in 2005. He's playing for Marty's Straight-Up this year.

"The Gay World Series is the highest honor for gay softball in the country," Neilsen said. "Playing in the Gay World Series has been one of the best times I've had playing softball over the years."

The Gay World Series is being held about six weeks later than normal, thus it conflicts with the Gay Super Bowl. Marcia Hill, president of CMSA, said there likely are "lots of upset" athletes because the events are running simultaneously. "Most players had to choose one or the other," she said.

One such person is Glen Rexing, captain of the Touche team. He also has played for the Chicago Flames flag football team, but is opting to play

strictly softball this time. Still, the Flames are a top contender for the Gay Super Bowl crown, seeded No. 2 among the 16 participants.

"Having lost to New York last year in the finals, we're very excited to be going to New York this year to play in the Gay Super Bowl," said Chicagoan Brian Walker. "We're very excited about our team and our chances. We think we have a good chance to get to the title round."

The Flames lost to New York last year in the finals by a touchdown. Chicago was the 2005 Gay Super Bowl champion, and Will Ward was that year's MVP as quarterback.

Gil Minor is now the Flames' quarterback; Ward now sees action as a receiver and on defense.

"I think we have a good team, very well balanced ... as balanced, or more, than last year," said Minor, 37, playing in his second Gay Super Bowl. "Our strength is our speed, and in flag football, speed is king. Plus, our defense is real good."

The Flames feature several speed demons, including Ward, Ahkeem Waterford, Ty Law and team newcomer Brian Kane.

Plus, the Flames have tall offensive targets for Minor. Walker and team newcomer Dan Shaver are each 6'6". "Offensively, we're very balanced," Minor said.

Defensively, Chris Cleary leads the Flames.

"It's a huge week," for the gay sports community, Minor said. "Anytime you can get as many athletes together for both [softball and football], it's great for the community, gives us great exposure."

The Flames' top competition comes from the defending champion New York Warriors, the Washington Monuments, Atlanta Storm and Los Angeles Motion.

The 15 members of the Flames are all from Chicago except one who lives in Lafayette, Ind.

"The Gay Super Bowl continues to grow and grow, and annually gets more and more professional," Walker said. "The event has really taken some great strides forward."

The Toronto Gay Hockey Association is hosting the 13th annual Friendship Tournament over the Canadian Thanksgiving weekend (Columbus Day weekend in the United States). All games will be held at Varsity Arena, located on the University of Toronto campus. This is the largest gay hockey tournament in the world, with players of all skill levels.

The Chicago Gay Hockey Association (CGHA) will not be sending its Blackwolves' team to Toronto, though the team has participated in the event in the past. Several members of the Blackwolves will be in Toronto this year, playing on various teams.



Happy Anniversary

Frontrunners/Frontwalkers Chicago celebrated its 25th anniversary with a special commemorative brunch at the Signature Room at the 95th in the John Hancock Building on Sat., Sept. 15. Nearly 80 members and guests were in attendance. After the brunch, the celebration continued with a boat cruise. Frontrunners/Frontwalkers Chicago was founded by the late Peg Grey and several others in July 1982 after the success of the first Proud To Run. Photo courtesy of the organization.



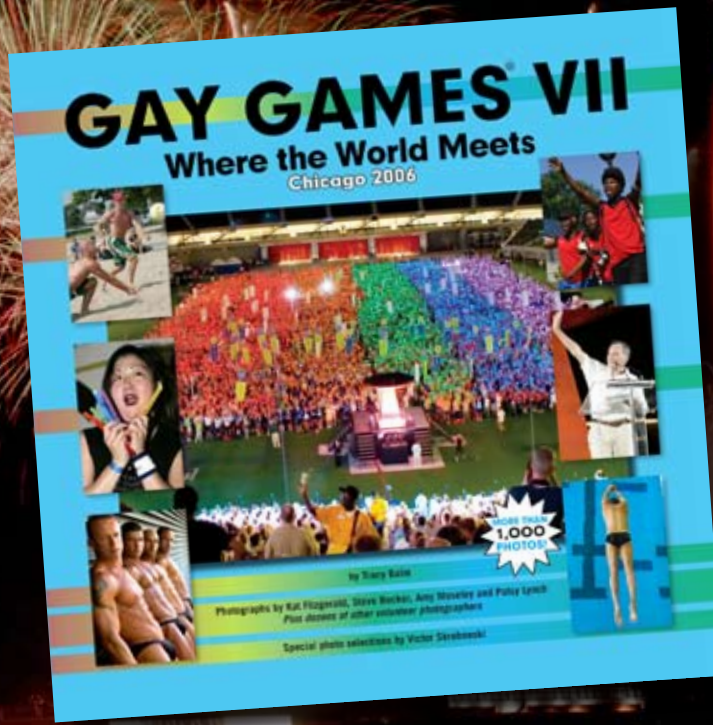
BOWLING - CMSA Friday League Standings

Division A	W	L	Second to None	10	18	Looney Tunes	17	11
Crew's Ball Busters	21	7	North End	9	19	Salon Michael	17	11
Bowlers-A-GO-GO	19	9	Gutter Fluffers	9	21	Windy City Sweets	14	14
Cornelia's	19	9	Jury's	7	21	Done More 5 Less	13	15
Bowleros	18	10	Funky Five	6	22	Extremely Striking	12	16
FVB Interiors	16	12				Wells Fargo ONYX 5	11	17
GYOF	16	12	Division B	W	L	Halsted Bar & Grill	10	18
Marty's	16	12	Lady & Her Tramps	24	4	Bobby Love's	9	19
REMAX Edge	14	14	Rough Trade	24	4	Great Scots	9	19
5 Pins 10 Balls	14	14	Wicked	21	7	Juana Bees	7	21
Hamburger Mary's	12	16	Scot Shotz	19	9	Castaways	7	21

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Jeffrey Gross



MATLIN from page 19

MM: The writers on The L Word have been nothing but 100 percent open to incorporating accurate portrayals of Deafness. They've brought in other Deaf actors, [and] they've asked me to help them with storylines; it's been a dream! There's nothing on the show that I am embarrassed about [regarding] the way Jodi Lerner is portrayed. She is an accurate and very real example of a real Deaf character on television and I am very proud of having the opportunity to portray her.

KR: What do you think of the recent controversial issues in America, including the arrest and resignation of a U.S. senator for bathroom solicitation, and the potential approval of same-sex marriage in Iowa? Where do you think the gay movement is headed in terms of acceptance, and do you see any parallels with the Deaf community?

MM: All of the controversy about how nothing ever changes in terms of how people view gay people doesn't surprise me. It's been the same for the Deaf community. As Deaf people, we have had to constantly struggle to be respected and afforded our rights; the same goes for members of the gay community. I've learned that the struggle for equality and respect is an



From left: Marlee Matlin's brother Eric; his wife, Gloria; Matlin's brother, Mark; and his partner, Jay Goldstein at the HRC gala. Photo by Kat Fitzgerald

ongoing one and it's the same in the gay community, too. People's memories are short and every few years there's an issue (like the Gallaudet University uprising or the Matthew Shepard case) that serves to remind us that we will al-

ways have to struggle for our rightful place in society. I believe we should never get complacent or comfortable because before you know it, public opinions can change and/or those who make laws or lead us may come into power that

takes away everything that we've achieved. It's a never-ending struggle and that's unfortunate. But it has made me strong and I'm sure that's the same for any member of the gay community that seeks to make a difference and live a life equal to their straight brothers and sisters.

KR: You are coming to Chicago for a benefit for Gender PAC. Can you explain your support of GPAC, especially as it relates to understanding transgender and gender identity issues?

MM: GPAC is all about gender equality and I'm all for that. As I said, no person should be denied their rights for love and respect simply because of their gender or sexual preference. GPAC works to make sure that no one should be discriminated against simply because of who they choose to love. And in particular, GPAC is working to make sure that LGBT teens—people who need positive reinforcement the most as they grow into adulthood—are afforded love and respect. Too often it is the community of LGBT teens that we see high rates of suicide because of society's unwillingness to accept them for who they are. GPAC is there to protect and support them—and I'm there to support GPAC.

KR: Thank you very much for your time. We would love to have you in Croatia anytime.

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