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Couple Weds in Toronto



Chefs and the City

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Lady Bunny

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nightspots
pick it up
take it home

Moms remember late son with fund

BY KRISTIN KOWALSKI

Almost nine months after losing their son, mothers Joy McCormick and Siu Moy are still dressed in black and wear necklaces with Frankie's face and name on them, so that he is always close to their hearts. In their home, they have a table full of memories of Frankie—pictures as a baby with Joy to a photo of a rainbow that appeared on the morning he was buried, Sox memorabilia, and many other little things that his mothers collected throughout his life.

Francisco "Frankie" Valencia, Jr., was born March 16, 1988 at Illinois Masonic Hospital in Chicago. "He was a very rambunctious, inquisitive child," Joy said. "He was always a leader at school." Frankie was an accomplished student and athlete throughout high school.

"When he graduated high school, he was really looking for role models," said Joy. "He started asking himself what it was to be a man and what kind of man he wanted to be." She said that Frankie fell in love with DePaul's mission statement and even sabotaged his other college applications so that DePaul was his only choice.

"Frankie really believed in Chicago," said Joy. "He followed his passions, which were politics and service." Frankie found a role model in Barack Obama and went to Iowa to help with his presidential campaign. His goal was to be a local politician and make Chicago a safer place for youth.

"He believed in socially responsible leader-

Turn to page 8



Frankie Valencia, Jr., with his lesbian mothers, Siu Moy (left) and Joy McCormack. Photo courtesy of Moy

Previewing the Gay Games in Cologne

BY ROSS FORMAN

Hector Torres has a simple goal for Gay Games VIII in Cologne, Germany: finish among the top three in all of the sports that he participates in.

Well, he also has another goal: to have fun.

Torres, 32, has a loaded schedule—on the competitive side of his international journey, that is. He is participating in the Olympic triathlon, the 10K run, the 5K run, the 26.2-mile marathon and three cycling events (criterium, mountain bike and time trial).

"I am extremely excited [for] the Games," said Torres, who lives in Orlando, Fla., and only ran the marathon at the 2006 Games in Chicago. "This time around, I feel stronger, fearless and

driven. I have been training smart and hard for the past couple of years. I am confident enough within myself that I will have a great performance."

Torres is the head coach for Tri Peak Athlete, LLC and the Central Florida YMCA. He is one of about 9,600 registered participants from around the world heading to the quadrennial sports and cultural extravaganza (July 31-Aug. 7) that is making its debut in Germany. Past Games have been held in San Francisco (twice), including the first ever, in 1982, as well as Sydney, Vancouver, New York City and Amsterdam.

About 2,500 U.S. residents will join Torres in Cologne.

"Equality, leadership and strength ... those are the words that come to mind when I think

of the Gay Games," Torres said. "For many years, the gay community has been misrepresented, unlooked and stereotyped by society. This is our chance to be heard and allow our society to understand that gay athletes can compete at the professional level.

"In Chicago, I only did one event and then had to head home. I am going to Europe for the first time and I want to have fun. Chicago was a great experience and I can never replace it with another event. The city was welcoming, the organization structure was well run and they set the bar for many other event organizers to meet."

But Torres, with his sculpted physique, is even

Turn to page 22

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Photos on cover: Photo of Chicago couple Kevin Tindell and William Hall courtesy of Elissa Buchter; image of chef Curtis Duffy at Chefs and the City by James Atkins for James Atkins Photography; Lady Bunny PR photo



Read about General Motors' "Designing Women" exhibit in the Autos section on page 17.

Image courtesy of Gaywheels.com



Windy City Times profiles local singer Michael McBride. See page 14.

Photo courtesy of McBride

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'GIRL' POWER
Amuse Bouche looks at delicious peach turnovers (right) while Sugar & Spice samples the fare at Stephanie Izard's chic new spot, Girl & the Goat.



Photo by Ames Hawkins

'ROOF' JUSTICE



See photos from two of last week's events: TPAN's Up on the Roof (left) and state Rep. Harry Osterman's LGBT fundraiser.

Photo by Steve Starr

SISTER ACT

In his Bent Nights column, Vern Hester looks at Kid Sister's music and evaluates her recent show at the Pritzker.



Photo by Vern Hester

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Pentagon has polled about integration before

BY CHUCK COLBERT

In spite of initial claims made to the contrary by repeal-the-ban advocates, Pentagon officials did, in fact, survey servicemen about racial integrations and serving with Blacks prior to President Harry S. Truman's July 26, 1948 executive order integrating the armed forces. The Advocate's Kerry Eleveld reported the news early last week, quoting a Department of Defense (DoD) spokeswoman, Cynthia Smith, who told her, "Prior to President Truman's 1948 executive order integrating the armed forces, our preliminary research shows that branches of the armed forces undertook a number of modestly sized surveys of the attitudes of enlisted and non-enlisted troops concerning racial issues, integration, and morale."

DoD historians said that the Pentagon undertook at least eight surveys, according to Smith. But as she told the Advocate, Smith could not say how large the sample sizes were or whether they influenced Truman's decision.

With Igor Volsky's short trek to the National Archives, moreover, the Wonk Room posted some of the surveys on line <http://wonkroom.think-progress.org/2010/07/20/old-surveys/>. The surveys queried troops between 1942 and 1946, with sample sizes ranging from 1,710 to 2,360 to 5,872—all much smaller than the 400,000 surveys recently distributed to service members asking their attitudes about serving with openly gay men and lesbians among the ranks.

During the 1940s a vast majority in the military and of Americans opposed racial integration

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—Lutherans welcome seven gay and transgender pastors

—Give a Damn campaign features Cynthia Nixon (left)

—Cop kills CEO in gay cruising area

in the armed forces, favoring instead a "separate but equal" approach, requiring separate recreational spaces, as well as separate training and duty assignments.

A month before Truman's executive order, moreover, Gallup polling showed that 63 percent of U.S. citizens endorsed the idea of segregating blacks and whites in the military, with only 26 percent supporting integration.

The same attitudes prevailed among the troops. For example, a 1947 survey of enlisted soldiers found that "an overwhelming majority of the men feel that Negro and white soldiers should be separated both during and after training."

In another finding, the survey showed that "four out of five white enlisted men are opposed to the idea of having Negro and white soldiers in the same units even if they do not eat in the same mess or sleep in the same barracks."

Only 7 percent of thought the military should be fully integrated.



Gen. James Conway.

The survey even asked for a response to this statement: "There is nothing good about Jews." Eighty-six percent of respondents agreed.

Albeit smaller in sample size, the DoD survey about the black minority and the DADT polling share similarities. So much the same are they, that simply substituting the word Negro for gay yields some of the same questions in the current Pentagon survey. Both polls, for example, ask if service members object to working alongside minorities, how troops feel about serving with them, and how effective minorities are in combat. One interesting finding in the racial questioning, moreover, 77 percent of respondents said they held a more favorable view of "Negroes" after serving with them.

In light of recent news that the Pentagon surveyed the troops about racial integration, repeal-the-ban advocates maintain the polling is nonetheless unprecedented and unhelpful.

"President Truman did not rely on surveys to guide his decision to desegregate the armed forces, and he wasn't afraid of the political fallout from doing what was right," said Aubrey Sarvis, executive director of Servicemembers Legal Defense Network. Furthermore, he said, "The 400,000 troops currently being polled by DoD is both unprecedented and stands in striking contrast to the comparatively smaller historical surveys the military has conducted. At the end of the day, repeal of DADT will be about leadership, not the outcome of opinion polls. As Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., said, "The military is not a democracy."

History seems to suggest that Truman desegregated the armed forces not for political gain, nor due to overwhelming pressure. Neither did the commander-in-chief rely on surveys to guide his decision-making. Apparently, he was not afraid to suffer political harm if the cause was right.

Accordingly, as Truman Library, archivist Randy Sowell notes, "I cannot recall seeing any evidence that Truman was influenced by surveys of opinion in the military regarding racial integration," according to an SLDN Frontlines blog entry.

"I should [also say] that Truman had little regard for public opinion polls and surveys, an attitude that was reinforced by his experiences in the 1948 election campaign, when every major poll predicted his defeat."

"I wonder how far Moses would have gone if he'd taken a poll in Egypt?" Sowell recalled Truman writing in later years.

Alexander Nicholson, executive director of Servicemembers United, the nation's largest organization of gay veterans, also took issue with the sample size of the troop survey. "It's like apples and oranges to compare the 1940s troop survey on race to the current survey of active duty troops on gays and lesbians," he said. "The race survey went out to around 2,500 troops, which is an appropriate sample size and not one so large as to have the survey itself become a tool of influence," he added. "What the Pentagon did with the survey on gays and lesbians is simply unprecedented. A push poll to 400,000 troops was not needed to obtain a scientifically valid sample of attitudes and concerns, and the Pentagon simply cannot escape that fact."

Asked for his thoughts about why the big sample size, Nicholson said, for "political" and "engineering" purposes. "[The Pentagon] wanted

to make a large number of people feel like that had substantive input," he said. "The problem is that it may end up backfiring. The survey was worded and designed so poorly that sending it out to that many people can have the effect of 'engineering' prejudice into that population."

Admiral Gary Roughead, the nation's highest ranking naval officer, voiced his own concerns earlier this year. After a Senate hearing on DADT, Roughead, who went on record in support of the Pentagon process laid out by Defense Secretary Robert Gates, told Nathaniel Frank, author of the book *Unfriendly Fire: How the Gay Ban Undermines the Military and Weakens America*, "We've never done this; we've never assessed the force because it's not our practice to go within our military and poll the force to determine if they like the laws of the land or not."

Opponents of openly gay service also favor a more straightforward, if not decisive approach. The Marine Corps head, Gen. James Conway, put it this way back in February, testifying before DADT committee hearing. "Keep it simple," he said. "I would encourage you to either change the law or not, but in the process half measures would only be confusing in the end."

At the end of the day, Truman's adage on policy may well be as relevant in 2010 as it was 62 years ago: "It isn't polls or public opinion of the moment that counts. It's right and wrong and leadership."

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GetEQUAL stops Vegas traffic; eight arrested

BY REX WOCKNER

Members of direct-action group GetEQUAL halted traffic on the Las Vegas Strip at the New York-New York hotel's Statue of Liberty July 20 to protest U.S. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid's perceived inaction on the federal Employment Non-Discrimination Act.

Police were slow to arrive on the scene, leaving eight southbound lanes of the thoroughfare blocked for some 20 minutes.

Activists accomplished the feat by stretching a large banner across the street. It said: "Reid: No one can do more? GetEQUAL.org."

Eight people were arrested, including GetEQUAL co-chair Robin McGehee and Don't Ask, Don't Tell activist Lt. Dan Choi, along with Dan Fotou, Natasha Dillon, Meg Sneed, Lee Walters, Paul Roark and Jimmy Gruender.

"ENDA is a piece of legislation that the Democratic leadership in Congress has promised the LGBT community that it would schedule a vote on this legislative session in Congress," GetEQUAL said. "However, the bill has yet to be voted on—and, to date, no vote has been scheduled."

A second group of GetEQUAL members unfurled a banner on the huge elevated walkway that crosses the Strip from the MGM Grand to New York-New York. It said: "Reid: Pass ENDA Now! GetEQUAL.org."

"Our community has literally watched decades go by with campaign promise after campaign promise from congressional leaders about the passage of ENDA," McGehee said. "House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's own press aide told the community at the end of May: 'The Senate has no plans for taking up ENDA. It would be very helpful for people to encourage the Senate to outline a plan for considering the bill.' GetEQUAL's members and supporters agreed."

The group's managing director, Heather Cronk, added: "The time to pass ENDA is now. No more delays, no more excuses and no more broken promises. People need these federal protections, especially the hundreds of thousands of LGBT workers living in dozens of states where it is still legal to fire someone solely for being lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender."

Only 21 states prohibit firing people for being gay and only 12 states prohibit firing people for being transgender.

WINDY CITY TIMES

@**GAY** in the **LIFE**

Windy City Times is seeking recommendations for a new feature called "A Gay In the Life," which will focus on the everyday lives of local LGBTs from all walks of life and professions. We seek to represent the full scope of LGBT life in our city.

To recommend an individual (or even yourself) for "A Gay In the Life," please send an email to andrew@windycitymediagroup.com and type "A Gay In the Life" in the subject line. Let us know a little bit about the individual you are recommending: who they are, what they do and a little bit about a typical day in their gay life.

Please include the email address and a daytime phone of the recommended individual.

Kagan nomination advances to full Senate

BY LISA KEEN
KEEN NEWS SERVICE

Both "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" (DADT) and same-sex marriage continued to be prominent focal points of the confirmation proceedings for Elena Kagan to the U.S. Supreme Court, as the Senate Judiciary Committee recommended the confirmation July 20.

The vote and debate in committee was, with one exception, strictly partisan; Democrats spoke in favor and Republicans against her nomination. The vote was 13-6.

Sen. Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, said Kagan has "shown a strong commandment to far left ideological beliefs" and that "her liberal convictions, rather than the law, seemed to guide her recommendations." Among his specific concerns, he said, were her actions that "actively defied federal law by banning military recruiters from campus while the nation was at war."

Jon Kyl, R-Ariz., criticized her for "evading" a question about whether she could find a constitutional right that would enable same-sex couples to obtain marriage licenses.

But Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., said Kagan would "clearly" move today's conservative Supreme Court back toward the ideological center. And Richard Durbin, D-Ill., said Kagan's opposition to DADT could not be construed as a statement against the military but, rather, a statement against the policy.

As he did during Kagan's confirmation hearing, Jeff Sessions, R-Ala., the ranking Republican on the Senate Judiciary Committee, led the attack against her. He reiterated, at length, his deep concern over Kagan's actions opposing DADT, the federal law banning openly gay people from the military.

He accused Kagan and Harvard of "playing games" with Air Force recruiters and having "stonewalled" their efforts to recruit attorneys from among students. He said her answers to questions about her opposition were either "inaccurate," "not true," or "intellectually dishonest."

"The bottom line is this," said Sessions. "When Miss Kagan chose to block military recruiting, the law was crystal clear. She knew she was defying the law."

Sessions said he was even more disturbed by Kagan's actions, as solicitor general, regarding a challenge of DADT in federal court. The case in question was *Margaret Witt v. Air Force*, in which a highly decorated military nurse was discharged, apparently after a third party told military officials she was gay. In 2008, Witt, represented by the ACLU, won a preliminary court victory when the 9th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals ruled she had a right to a trial. Kagan recommended the federal government not appeal that preliminary victory to the U.S. Supreme Court, but to wait instead for the trial and its appeal to be completed.

Sessions said this amounted to Kagan having "abdicated" her duty as solicitor general by "refusing to effectively appeal the Witt decision."

"The *Witt* decision," said Sessions, "placed the 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' law—a law that she has stated repeatedly that she personally abhors—in serious jeopardy and has made it unworkable."

During her confirmation hearing, Kagan had said that the Obama administration declined to appeal at that time in order to build a factual record that would demonstrate to the Supreme Court the burden the *Witt* ruling would place on the military, by requiring that each person discharged under DADT have a trial.

"The government would have to show in each particular case," said Kagan, "that a particular separation caused the military harm, rather than



Sen. Jeff Sessions.

view it in general across the statute." Such individual inquiries, she said, "would disrupt military operations."

Her response seemed to take the wind out of Sessions' attack during the confirmation hearing, and he said he'd take another look at it.

But on July 20, Sessions said her response "left a false impression that the government had to choose between appealing a decision then or later, after trial, but again that is not true." Sessions said the government could appeal at both points "and should."

The exception to the partisan line in Committee was Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., who voted to support the nominee. Graham also supported the nomination of Sonia Sotomayor to the high court last year. He said Kagan's challenge of DADT was a legitimate exercise of democracy, and he said he does not believe Kagan to be anti-military.

Graham did not focus on any particular quality in Kagan that affected his vote and said he would not expect a nominee to say, in front of the committee, specifically how she would vote on same-sex marriage. But he was moved, he said, by the support of Miguel Estrada—a conservative former nominee for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit—for Kagan's nomination.

Although a specific date for the Kagan nomination to reach the Senate floor has not yet been set, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid has made it clear that he plans to take up the matter before the Aug. 9 recess.

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Target criticized by gay-rights groups

Target is being criticized by LGBT-rights groups, including the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), for donating to an anti-gay organization, according to GoPride.com.

Minnesota Public Radio reported that Target gave \$150,000 to a political action committee known as Minnesota Forward, which has bought television ads for Minnesota Republican gubernatorial candidate Tom Emmer, who is against same-sex marriage.

Gay-rights organizations feel that the Minneapolis, Minn.-based Target should not support Emmer because his views on several issues—including abortion, same-sex marriage and even minimum wage—could upset some shoppers.

HRC stated that it is "very disappointed in Target's significant monetary contribution to Minnesota Forward, a group supporting the most clearly anti-LGBT candidate for Governor in Minnesota."

Chicago's newest Target is in Chicago's Uptown neighborhood, at 4466 N. Broadway.

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Microbicide research makes history at AIDS '10

ANALYSIS BY JIM PICKETT

Research into new HIV prevention technologies scored a huge victory July 20 at the XVIII International AIDS Conference (AIDS 2010) in Vienna, Austria. There was nary a dry eye in the house.

At 1 p.m. that day, the husband and wife team of Drs. Salim S. Abdool Karim and Quarraisha Abdool Karim, from the Centre for the AIDS Programme of Research in South Africa (CAPRISA), announced that a vaginal gel had been shown to significantly reduce a woman's risk of being infected with HIV and genital herpes too. (Microbicides are substances currently in development that are designed to reduce or prevent the sexual transmission of HIV or other sexually transmitted infections when applied either in the vagina or the rectum.)

The microbicide gel the Karims studied contained 1 percent tenofovir—an antiretroviral drug commonly used to treat people living with HIV—and was found to be 39 percent effective in reducing a woman's risk of becoming infected with HIV during vaginal intercourse and a whopping 51 percent effective in preventing genital herpes infections among the women in the trial. The protective effects against HIV increased as the use of tenofovir increased, so that women who used the gel in more than 80 percent of their sex acts during the trial had a 54 percent reduction in HIV infections.

If and when other studies of tenofovir gel confirm these results, widespread use of the gel, at this level of protection, could prevent millions of new HIV infections among women over the next two decades. This is especially important



Quarraisha Abdool Karim and Salim S. Abdool Karim.
Photo courtesy of Jim Pickett

for South Africa, where the global pandemic is the most severe. In rural Vulindlela, outside Durban, one of the trial's two sites, the prevalence of HIV among young women exceeds 50 percent by the time they reach the age of 24. A microbicide gel would put the power of prevention in these women's hands, especially important where monogamy is not a guarantee and condom negotiation is difficult.

At the conclusion of the Karim's presentation, an overflow of more than 5,000 researchers and advocates stood up and gave them a prolonged standing ovation. Hugs, tears, and high fives heightened the excitement and electricity in the air—none of which normally (ever?) punctuate a summary of scientific data.

It was impossible not to feel deeply moved—the audience was witnessing first-hand a historic turning point in the epidemic. We will always remember “before CAPRISA” and “after CAPRISA.” The situation before was looking a little grim; many years of research had not yet delivered a product that showed any signs of efficacy. After CAPRISA, it's not exactly rainbows and lollipops, as there is much to be done to confirm and extend these findings and make this drug available... once everyone has dabbed their eyes. But it's quite lovely nonetheless.

As an important aside, tenofovir is also being

studied as a form of oral pre-exposure prophylaxis, in which HIV-negative individuals take the drug to prevent HIV transmission. Initial data from a safety and behavioral study conducted by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention among 400 men in the United States were reported at AIDS 2010 as well.

“We didn't find any increased risk of harm in medical terms, and on the behavioral side the preliminary work we've done also suggests there is no increased risk,” the CDC's Lisa Grohskopf, who led the study and presented the findings, told Reuters.

Later this year or in early 2011, data from the iPrEx Phase III trial will be released. The study will report on approximately 3,000 gay men and other men who have sex with men (MSM) from the United States, Peru, Ecuador, Brazil, Thailand and South Africa who are taking the antiretroviral Truvada (a combination of tenofovir and emtricitabine), or a placebo, every day to see if the drug works to prevent HIV infection.

Back to CAPRISA: What do these new findings mean for rectal microbicides? After all, products that can be applied rectally to prevent HIV are important to the millions of gay men and women who practice receptive anal intercourse and need options beyond condoms as well.

“The positive results from the CAPRISA study represent a very significant milestone in HIV prevention research and they increase optimism that we can develop safe and effective antiretroviral rectal microbicides,” said University of Pittsburgh's Dr. Ian McGowan, International Rectal Microbicide Advocates (IRMA) Scientific vice-chair and co-principal investigator of the Microbicide Trials Network. “Phase I rectal safety studies with tenofovir are ongoing and these efforts need to be intensified to help us move forward to rectal microbicide effectiveness studies as quickly as possible,” he said.

Anal intercourse is a common human sexual behavior, practiced by approximately 5-10 percent of the world's general population, including heterosexual women and men, gay men, and other MSM. Because an act of unprotected anal intercourse is 10 to 20 times more likely to result in HIV transmission compared to unprotected vaginal intercourse, it is likely that unprotected anal intercourse is a significant driver in the HIV epidemic overall.

We know that unprotected anal intercourse is the chief cause of HIV infection for gay men/MSM across the world. But the world has largely ignored gay men, and anal intercourse. Gay men are underrepresented in most national AIDS strategies, in epidemiology, surveillance, and in research—if they show up at all. They have been woefully underserved by prevention, care, treatment and support services. Similarly, there is a paucity of data regarding anal intercourse—homosexual and heterosexual—due to politics, stigma, criminalization, and outright denial.

Globally, gay men/MSM are 19 times more likely to be HIV infected compared to the general population. These disproportionate rates extend to Africa, where the epidemic is often characterized as “heterosexual.” For instance, according to data from Dr. Chris Beyrer presented at the Global Forum on MSM and HIV's “Be Heard!” pre-conference July 17, HIV prevalence among gay men/MSM in Malawi is 21.4 percent compared to 11.5 percent in the general population; in Kenya, 15.2 percent of gay/MSM are HIV+ com-

pared to 6.1 percent of the general population. Previously reported data from Beyrer revealed that in Uganda, HIV prevalence rates among gay men and other MSM are just above 40 percent compared to 5 percent for other Ugandan men of reproductive age. And in South Africa, the prevalence rates between gay men/MSM and men of reproductive age are almost the same—both hovering around 15 percent.

Data released by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in early 2010 revealed that gay men/MSM in the United States are 44 times more likely to be HIV-positive than other men, and 40 times more likely to be HIV-positive than women.

The bottom line is that for the men and women who engage in anal intercourse, condoms work quite well to prevent HIV, but many people do not use them, or are simply unable to use them due to a number of issues including power dynamics in sexual relationships, stigma, and a serious lack of availability. According to the Global HIV Prevention Working Group, only 9 percent of individuals at risk for HIV infection had access to condoms in 2008. Condom-compatible lubricants are also in dangerously short supply, especially in Africa. Options are needed.

While the rectal microbicide field has gained significant momentum, more focus and resources are necessary. In 2010, U.S. \$7.2 million are being spent globally on rectal microbicide research. IRMA has calculated that annual investments must increase by 40 percent from 2011-2014, to U.S. \$10 million/year and must increase further to U.S. \$44 million (a six-fold increase) in the years 2015-2020 to ensure a minimum of candidate products are moving through the research pipeline into late stage testing for effectiveness.

Advocates are optimistic that the CAPRISA results will not only accelerate the development of safe and effective vaginal microbicides, but that this proof of concept will also be translated into more financial and creative energy into rectal microbicide development. With five new infections for every two individuals beginning treatment, it's absolutely imperative we find new ways to prevent HIV for individuals at risk, gay and straight, women and men.

CAPRISA enrolled 889 women into a double-blind, placebo-controlled, randomized clinical trial. They were instructed to use the gel up to 12 hours before sex and soon after having sex for a maximum of two doses in 24 hours. Participants used the gel for a minimum of one year and a maximum of two and a half years. HIV serostatus, safety, sexual behavior, and gel and condom use were assessed at monthly follow-up visits for 30 months. They were asked to return all used and unused gel applicators. A total of 181,000 applicators were dispensed during the study.

In a word, these women were asked to do a lot. And 843 of them did all of that to the very end, with the study achieving a truly extraordinary 95-percent retention rate. The standing ovation, the hugs, and the tears were as much for the scientists as for these incredibly dedicated women and their exceptional, unwavering commitment to making a difference in the epidemic.

IRMA is a global network of advocates, scientists, policy makers and funders from six continents working together to advance a robust rectal microbicide research and development agenda. IRMA is based in the United States at the AIDS Foundation of Chicago with chapters in Latin America and Nigeria. For further information on IRMA visit www.rectalmicrobicides.org and read IRMA's new report, From Promise to Product: Advancing Rectal Microbicide Research and Advocacy. The report provides an overview of the maturing rectal microbicide field, updates the resource tracking exercise IRMA last conducted in 2006, and lays out global advocacy goals and objectives. Importantly, it also calls for the creation of a Global Rectal Microbicide Development plan, which would provide the foundation necessary to move the field from pre-clinical studies through Phase III efficacy trials—from promise to product.

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Disability Pride Parade featured a float by Access Chicago. Photo by Chasse Rehwinkel

Disability Pride winds through Loop

BY CHASSE REHWINKEL

Fighting early bad weather and a few down CTA stops, the seventh annual Disability Pride Parade kicked off July 24 to well over one thousand attendees.

Running from the corner of Van Buren and Dearborn to Daley Plaza, the Disability Pride Parade is held each year in order to raise awareness for disabled persons of all different races, creeds and sexual orientations.

"A while back, a woman named Sarah Triano wrote an essay and won an award of \$10,000," stated president of the Disability Pride Association, Janice Stashwick. "Her vision was to use that as feed money to hold a parade where disabled people could feel proud about themselves, so she turned to the gay community for help."

This year, the grand marshal of the parade was LGBT- and disability-rights activist Eli Clare. Clare is a noted lecturer and author of the book *Exile and Pride: Disability, Queerness, and Liberation*.

The theme of this year's march, "Pride Revolution," an idea that the disabled community could join in support of other discriminated groups, particularly interested Clare and, according to a few event organizers, echoed the outreach between the disabled and LGBT community of the first such parade.

"It has become clear to me that pride isn't simply about one individual, it is about the entire community," said Clare. "It is an incredible honor to be surrounded by so many great people at an event like this one."

Past grand marshals have included activist Kathy Martinez and actor Robert David Hall, of TV's CSI.

Michael Jackson may be paroled early

BY ANDREW DAVIS

Michael Jackson—found guilty of murder in 2006—may be released before his projected parole date of July 20, 2011.

Windy City Times reported that on Feb. 4, 2005, taxi driver Haroon Paryani and Jackson, an openly gay former employee of the Chicago Department of Public Health, became embroiled in an argument over cab fare. The situation culminated with Jackson running over Paryani three times with the driver's own vehicle. On Aug. 20, 2006, a jury of nine women and three men found Jackson guilty of second-degree murder, and he received a sentence of 15 years.

Jackson currently is an inmate at Logan Correctional Center. Logan—a medium-security prison for adult males in Lincoln, Ill.—opened in 1978 and has a capacity of 1,050 individuals.

Speculation abounded that Jackson would actually be released this week. When Windy City

Times asked attorney Tom Breen (who represented Jackson during the trial) July 16 about the rumors, he said that it "was news to" him. He did say, however, that Jackson could be released to a halfway house until the parole date.

Jackson's father, Larry, was also surprised by the statement. However, he told Windy City Times July 19 that Michael has earned some time off for good behavior and that he could be released early next year.

Charge dropped against Loveless

The simple battery charge leveled against gay-rights activist Marc Loveless was dropped July 20, according to the Cook County state's attorney's office.

Loveless was arrested and charged June 25 following an alleged altercation at his South Side office. Loveless, the executive director of the Coalition for Justice and Respect, was alleged to have shoved and grabbed the president of the organization's board of directors, John Hickman, after Loveless was served with a termination letter. Loveless not only denied attacking Hickman but said that he never received such a letter.

In a press release sent July 20, Loveless said, "I am pleased that the simple battery case against me involving former member of the Coalition for Justice and Respect John Hickman has been dismissed."

HOF nomination deadline now Aug. 3

The 2010 deadline to nominate individuals and organizations for induction into the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame has been extended to Tuesday, Aug. 3.

Nomination forms can be downloaded or printed from the Hall of Fame's Web site (www.GLHallOfFame.org) or requested by calling 312-744-7911 and leaving a mailing address. The 2010 Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame induction ceremony and reception is currently scheduled to be held Thursday, Oct. 21, at the Chicago Cultural Center. The ceremony is open to all at no cost.

Completed nominations should be sent to: The Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame, Chicago Commission on Human Relations' Advisory Council on LGBT Issues, 740 N. Sedgwick, Suite 300, Chicago, Ill., 60654-8488. For more information, call Bill Greaves at 312-744-7911.

YPC's free lunches

Countering the phrase "There's no such thing as a free lunch," Youth Pride Center (YPC) is offering just that to LGBTQ youth 18 and under every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 2-4 p.m., at the Fellowship Hall of the Hyde Park Union Church, 5600 S. Woodlawn.

The lunches will take place until the school year starts in September; no RSVP is required. E-mail YouthPrideCenter@gmail.com.



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 A.O. SCOTT

Los Angeles Times
"FUNNY, SMART & OVERFLOWING WITH LOVE. THOROUGHLY ENTERTAINING."
 BETSY SHARKEY

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL
"EXUBERANT. A HEART WARMING LOOK AT MODERN FAMILIES."
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Vital Bridges: Dream cuisine



It was a feast for the eyes as well as for the palate July 22 at the annual Chefs and the City, Vital Bridges' dining extravaganza that took place at the Peninsula Hotel, 108 E. Superior. Stylish individuals (including models, who were part of the landscape) sampled dishes ranging from aged ribeye to passionfruit custard. In addition, attendees bid on silent-auction items and DIFFA received the Robert S. Mayo Extra Helping Award (named after a Vital Bridges board member and key leader who passed away in 2009). Text by Andrew Davis; photos by Davis and James Atkins for James Atkins Photography. See many more online at www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com.

MOMS from cover

ship," said Joy. She said that when he was asked why he believed in socially responsible leadership, Frankie said, "I believe because I hope." Frankie had his whole life planned out—he wanted to go to law school at the University of Chicago; he wanted to get married and have a family; and someday he wanted to be a history teacher in order to teach the subject in an interesting and engaging way, according to Joy.

Just a few days after his death, Frankie was supposed to have received the Lincoln Laureate award, a prestigious award given to Illinois college seniors who show excellence in their studies and commitment to extracurricular activities. Instead, Joy and Siu received the award at Frankie's funeral. In February 2010, Frankie was supposed to have found out if he had obtained an internship at the White House. Instead, Joy and Siu received a letter of condolence from President Obama. In June 2010, he was supposed to have graduated college. Instead, his friends and classmates graduated without him.

"He lived life like every day would be his last," said Joy. On his last night, Frankie attended the annual family Halloween party and took his younger relatives trick-or-treating. Joy and Siu decided to dress up and go out for Halloween that year, which they didn't normally do. Before they left, Joy encouraged her 21-year-old son, Frankie, to go to a party one of his friends was throwing. She still carries the weight of those words with her.

"The events of that night were really unusual," said Joy. Frankie's father, Francisco Valencia Sr., let Frankie borrow his car for the night, which didn't happen often. Frankie was going to a friend's party, but on the way found out that the party fell through. Daisy Camacho, the friend he was with, suggested a party that she knew of that one of her friends was throwing.

According to Joy, when the reputed gang members tried to crash the party the first time, Frankie and Daisy were upstairs and didn't even know anything happened. A little while later Daisy found out that one of her friends was almost to the party. They went to the front door to greet him.

When they opened the front door, one of the reputed gang members was back and started randomly shooting. Frankie was rushed to Illinois Masonic Hospital. Back at home, his mothers, Joy and Siu, were just returning from their party. Siu found out that something had happened to Frankie and told Joy to change because they had to leave for the hospital. Joy thought that something had happened to her ex-husband and brother-in-law because they had been in a separate cab.

It wasn't until they got in the car that Siu told Joy that Frankie had been shot. "I said, 'What do you mean it's Frankie?'" said Joy. "To us, Frankie was like superman. He was invincible." Siu said that Frankie was winning awards and scholarships all the time—he was always adding to his many accomplishments.

When they arrived at the hospital, they didn't have any idea what condition Frankie was in. "They couldn't tell me where he was shot," said Siu.

"I was just out of control," said Joy. She just

wanted to see her son. Joy said, "Next thing I knew they came out and said he was gone."

"We really were living the American dream," said Joy. Then from the moment they found out Frankie was shot, "we started living this nightmare."

The family that Joy and Siu built was based around togetherness and family traditions they started to keep them close. "One of our traditions was to have family day. Sunday was our family day," said Joy. "Now we spend Sundays going to the cemetery."

Francisco Valencia is survived by Joy; Siu; his father, Francisco Valencia Sr.; and his siblings, Victor Valencia, Christian Mora and Stephanie Valencia.

"At first, I didn't want to deal with it," said Joy. "My whole life was based on family, the family that Siu and I were building."

"I felt like everything was lost," said Joy, "that I died with him." To cope, Joy, Siu, and their other son go to counseling. It's not a matter of moving on, it's figuring out how to carry it forward, said Joy. "The scars that we have from this," said Joy, "we'll carry to our own graves."

Now they hope to carry some of Frankie's dreams and goals forward. "I'm happy to dedicate my life to that," said Joy.

"I think that our story tells people that if this could happen to us, it could happen to anybody," said Joy. Joy and Siu raised their children in a good neighborhood with good family oriented values. Joy hopes to get other people involved in working to make Chicago a safer place for youth. She doesn't want Frankie's death to be just a sad story.

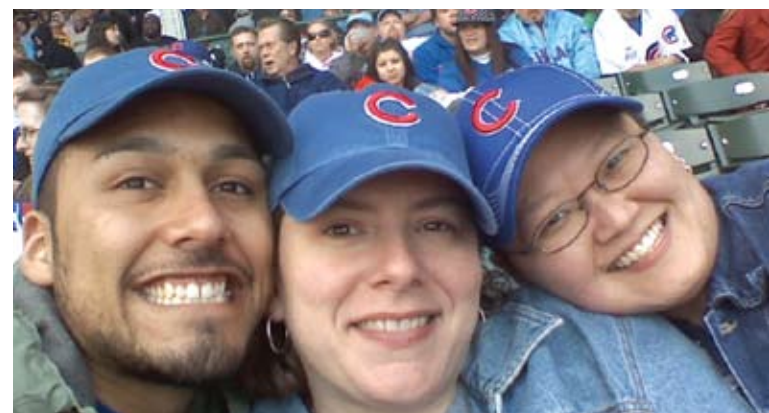
One way they are carrying Frankie's memory forward is the Francisco Valencia Memorial Scholarship Fund at DePaul. The scholarship will assist an undergraduate student who "demonstrates an interest and commitment to service and leadership," has a GPA of 2.5 or above, "demonstrates financial need," and completes an essay on how they promote social justice through community service and activism, according to a flyer on the scholarship.

Recently, a DePaul student who didn't even know Frankie or his family, but was touched by his story, planned an event to raise funds for the scholarship. She started working on the event when she found out that the scholarship didn't yet have enough funds to become endowed; without endowment, the scholarship won't be sustained.

There are four ways to donate: online, by phone, by mail or with an electronic funds transfer. To donate online go to alumni.depaul.edu/give/givingform.aspx. To donate by phone call at 312-362-8666. To donate by mail send a check or credit card payment to:

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Please indicate "Francisco" Valencia Memorial Scholarship on the payment. To make an electronic funds transfer, visit the website mentioned above. For more information about the scholarship and how to contribute contact Jeff Brown, assistant director of DePaul University's Office of Multicultural Student Affairs, at 773-325-7325 or Jbrown56@depaul.edu.



Valencia, McCormick and Moy (from left). Photo courtesy of Moy

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William Hall (left) and Kevin Tindell. Photo courtesy of Elissa Buchter



Chicago couple ties the knot in Toronto

BY KRISTIN KOWALSKI

"Today, I honor your caring and kindness, your distinct sense of humor," said Kevin Tindell in his vows to William Hall during their marriage ceremony on a float in the Toronto Pride Parade July 3. The moment was captured in a video, which is posted on the Global Toronto website. Kevin and William were chosen as one of six couples whose stories won them a trip to Toronto and a marriage ceremony on a float in the parade, all courtesy of Mancrunch.com, a dating website for gay men. Windy City Times sat with the couple to discuss the historic event.

Windy City Times: Why don't you tell me how you two met?

Kevin Tindell: He had come to join an organization and I was president of the organization at the time. He had vowed to be single and enjoy going out and meeting new people.

William Hall: After a while, you know, you're like okay it's time to stop worrying about trying to find somebody and having that be the end all be all. Just go out and have fun—you have good friends, a good job. That lasted for two months. And there he was and I asked around—I thought for sure he was taken—but he wasn't, and then I asked him out. The rest is history.

WCT: How did you hear about what was going on at the Toronto Pride Parade?

KT: I got an e-mail that they were doing this contest at ManCrunch.com. They wanted the story of how we met, why it would be important to us to be married in Canada at the Pride Parade. He did that and I sent it in on Wednesday and, on Monday, they called.

WCT: Oh, wow.

WH: But they didn't identify themselves, they have another company called...

KT: Avid Media.

WH: Avid Life Media and they said, "Hello this is Avid Life Media, can we ask you a few questions?" At first I thought it was one of those surveys or something so I said, "Okay, fine." They said, "Have you ever been divorced?" I was like, "No." "Do you have a valid up-to-date passport?" I said, "Yes, now who is this?" They said, "Well, you've answered all the right questions, we'd like to invite you to go get married on a float in Toronto next week."

KT: That was Monday. They were asking us to be up a week from that Thursday.

WCT: So, tell me about the weekend. What all happened?

WH: When we got there, ManCrunch did such a great job. I could not ask for more. They picked us up from the airport and the hotel was fantastic -

KT: We got to meet all the other couples. They took us over to city hall, which was right across the street from the hotel, to get our marriage licenses and that was great. They really treated us well.

WCT: Tell me about the parade. What was it like getting married in front of that many people?

WH: There were a lot of people—they said 1.3 million and I believe it.

KT: When they announced each couple and the couple was saying their vows...

WH: We got married in succession, one after another.

KT: Right and people, they quieted down when each person was saying their vows and their ring ceremony. After each vow, they would cheer as we were still rolling. So the next group of people got the next set of vows.

WH: They were screaming, "Congratulations, Welcome to Toronto."

WCT: I think it says a lot that the crowd quieted down to hear your vows—that was a big crowd.

WH: Yeah. I wasn't sure how that was gonna go.

KT: It was really a great experience. We're still pushing for marriage equality here. When we were in line for the marriage license, we were just in line for a marriage license with straight couples and us and nobody blinked—it was just right.

They had a wedding planner who introduced herself to us a week before we went. She was there. They had makeup people, they had hair people, if you needed it. Next year they want to do a men's float and a women's float. They want to try to expand it. It was really a wonderful experience. It was wonderful to go up there to go through the whole marriage thing.

WH: Having the license is really different. You feel a certain thing when you see it.

KT: We've been together since '96, so it doesn't change the relationship. It just changes...

WH: It's legal.

KT: The life that we've built is one of love and family regardless of a marriage certificate. I believe that's what should happen in families. It's nice it's legal and we'd get all the rights and privileges of married couples—that's what I think what the fight is about. The love aspect of it—we had a commitment ceremony in '98, two years after we'd been together, for 250 of our closest relatives and friends. That really sealed our relationship because we did it before God and before our families. So, it doesn't change it, but it enhances it, I think.

We have the picket fence and three children. We have four dogs and a turtle and a fish.

WH: And that's part of the fight for marriage equality—all of the legal ways that people are doing it—the court cases, the people who do activism. What we have built, I believe is also a component of that cause. We have exactly what marriage and family is and we're living that day-to-day. That's part of how to gain the equality that you seek—more and more over time people will be like, "Ok, yeah." It's kind of there—the sky didn't fall, everything's fine. It was very nice.

KT: It ended up being a very pleasant day and a great experience. They made sure we had everything we needed.

Everyone in Toronto contributed to making all of the couple's special day a great experience. From the hotel rooms to the cake to the wedding coordinator, most of the services and wedding necessities were free. The rest was paid for by ManCrunch.com.

MARRIAGE Berman/Cuzzillo

Caryn Berman and Laura Cuzzillo were married in Des Moines, Iowa, May 29. Judge Robert Hanson, who wrote the decision legalizing same-sex marriage in Iowa (later upheld by the state supreme court), officiated.

Berman and Cuzzillo met in 1977 at a gay-pride event, but it was not love at first sight. They mark April 1, 1978 as the beginning of their relationship and, yes, there was an April Fool's joke involved. They do not recommend long engagements, and encourage committed gay and lesbian couples to get married—proving that the sky does not fall and straight marriages do not crumble as a result.



Caryn Berman (right) and Laura Cuzzillo. Photo by Hal Baim

Center's Worthington to join SAGENet

Serena Worthington—who headed SAGE (Services & Advocacy for GLBT Elders) at Center on Halsted—will join the national chapter of SAGE as its new director of community advocacy and capacity-building, according to a press release.

Worthington—who will still be based in Chicago—will lead SAGENet, SAGE's national program of affiliates across the country that provides critical services to LGBT older adults. She will also work with local, state and federal groups to continue coordinating a federal agenda on LGBT aging and ensure that LGBT elders have the platforms to advocate on their own behalf.

Worthington said, "As a former director of a SAGE affiliate, I have been privileged to participate in the regional and national policy work that SAGE spearheads and have seen firsthand the incredible gains that SAGE and its affiliates have made. I am thrilled and honored to join SAGE."

LAGBAC's new officers, 'Diversity'

The Lesbian and Gay Bar Association of Chicago (LAGBAC) has announced its 2010-11 officers. They are John Litchfield (president), Nicole Bashor (first vice president), Adam Sorkin (second vice president), Will Thomas (treasurer) and Greg Zinkl (secretary).

Also, LAGBAC is holding its Fifth Annual Lawyers for Diversity Mid-Summer Barbecue Thursday, July 29, 6-8 p.m., at Sidetrack, 3349 N. Halsted.

Admission to Lawyers for Diversity is free for LAGBAC members and guests as well as for guests of sponsoring firms and organizations; all others are admitted for \$25. The event will be held on the private rooftop deck of Sidetrack, 3349 N. Halsted, 6-9 p.m.

SAGE BBQ, nightclub events

SAGE (Services and Advocacy for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Elders) at Center on Halsted will hold a barbecue Saturday, July 31, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., on the Richard Daley Rooftop Garden in the Irving Harris Reception Hall (3rd floor) of the facility, located at 3656 N. Halsted.

There is also the SAGE Early Bird NightClub for women Friday, Aug. 27, 7-9:30 p.m. A \$10 suggested donation includes a drink ticket; alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages will be available. An RSVP is required.

Call 773-472-6469, ext. 497, or e-mail JVery@CenteronHalsted.org.



G. Michael Blizzard.

PASSAGES

G. Michael Blizzard

G. Michael Blizzard passed away July 16. He was 54.

Most of his childhood was in Michigan. Later as a young adult he had lived in Dallas, Texas, and Seattle, Wash., before moving to Chicago in 1985 to care for a friend with AIDS.

Blizzard had been a member of the Lakeside Pride Freedom Band. He joined Chi-Town Squares in 1989 and later developed the persona of Lois Carmen D'Nominator, one of the infamous She-Devils. He was employed as a legal secretary for Winston & Strawn in Chicago for the past 15 years. He had a passion for music, food, fun and pigs!

In lieu of flowers, it is asked that donations be made to an organization of your choice. A celebration of life will be at Ebenezer Lutheran Church, 1650 W. Foster, on Saturday, July 31, at 7 p.m.

PASSAGES

Robert Mazzacone

Robert James Mazzacone died July 17 after a short illness July 17, according to a post on the website of AChurch4Me. He was 55.

Mazzacone enjoyed camping, and loved his family and friends. He delivered Chicago gay newspapers, including Windy City Times, for many years.

Mazzacone leaves behind daughter Theresa Beth and son Joel, both of Quincy, Mass.; brother Richard of South Carolina; sister Sharon and brother-in-law Tom Luksha of Montana; brother Louis and sister-in-law Darlene Mazzacone of Beacon, N.Y.; sister Diane and brother-in-law Jim Dowsey of Rowlett, Texas; brother David of Beacon, N.Y.; sister Louisa and Allen Picture of Sandy Lake, N.Y.; sister Angel Kujan of Beacon, N.Y.; and many nephews and nieces.

He is preceded in death by father Louis John, mother Nettie Dorsett Bar Mazzacone and brother Daniel.

A memorial service is planned for Saturday, July 31, at 11 a.m. at The Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted, Chicago, Ill., 60613. In lieu of flowers donations may be made in Mazzacone's honor to the Benevolence Fund of aChurch4Me? Metropolitan Community Church, 3656 N. Halsted, Chicago, Ill., 60613.



**REV.
IRENE
MONROE**

Another example of the Black-white divide

BY REV. IRENE MONROE

Boston's recent Gospelfest featured Rev. Donnie McClurkin, the poster boy for African-American ex-gay ministries who spews anti-gay religion-based vitriol at every public event he can get as part of his outreach ministries to gay youths. But at this event, McClurkin had to refrain from his usual homophobic diatribes—and it was not because the spirit moved him or because of any public protest, but rather due to the mayor's office warning him. McClurkin's folks knew if Donnie got on his anti-gay soap box that he would never sing in this town again at a city-sponsored gospelfest, but also no place else.

McClurkin is a classic example why homophobia is an ongoing problem in the African-American community, and it must be challenged at every opportunity. However, the tactics and strategies needed must derive from the community itself and in cooperation with other faith-based and activist communities in order for the challenge and protest to be both successful and sustainable.

When Don Gorton, organizer of Join the Impact-Mass. (JTIMA), a grassroots campaign to promote LGBTQ civil rights, contacted me June 25, offering his help in protesting McClurkin's upcoming appearance, I thought the invitation was sincere.

"Great quotes in the Phoenix article. The Anti-Violence Project is on board with your call to

action to protest Donnie McClurkin's scheduled appearance at Gospelfest. I also expect support from Join the Impact MA and Truth Wins Out," Gorton wrote in an e-mail to me.

When suggestions came from me; Wayne Besen, of "Truth Wins Out, who withdrew from the protest;" and also from JTIMA members that Gorton needed to keep in mind racial, religious, cultural and community sensitivities, he shunned them.

Gorton wrote back in two separate e-mails stating why: "FYI. I'm open to most any input on the M.O. for the protest, but determined to go forward despite the sensitivities we need to address." And in another one he stated, "I rejected a suggestion from a JTIMA member that we not carry signs—that would be tantamount to canceling the protest."

But in putting on this protest—with racial, religious, cultural and community sensitivities in mind—the following things needed to be considered:

1) The demographics of the protesters: An overwhelming number of white protesters will not effectively get the message across. And for African-American churchgoers who think being gay is a white thing, an overwhelming number of white protesters will only corroborate their fallacious assumptions.

2) Talking with a number of African American LGBTQ on a listserv from the community several suggested a dialogue with community leaders and ministers—Black and white—about this event, stating that since Mayor Thomas M. Menino isn't showing up it would be a ripe time to do a follow-up and open dialogue.

3) With the Bible having an iconic image and importance in the African-American community, all signage must have biblical phrases or references that resonate in the Black Church and in Black theology. Negative messages will not resonate. Messages about Jesus and Martin Luther King, Jr.—who talked about the Beloved Community, asking why LGBTQs aren't in the fold—works.

4) There is a movable middle of Black ministers on LGBTQ issues. If messaging is ineffective

and/or disrespectful it sets back the work many of us African-American LGBTQ activists have been doing and are doing with these ministers. And these ministers are the gateway to reaching the community.

5) While clearly City Hall Plaza is a public space, Black Christians who will gather for Gospelfest see the moment as an open-tent revival of the Black church. The Black church functions as a multiple site—private and public—and defines itself as a "nation within a nation."

But Gorton felt that attacking McClurkin would not be attacking the Black church.

Rev. Leslie Sterling, priest-in-charge of St. Bartholomew Episcopal Church in Cambridge—an African-American ally to the LGBTQ community, and the only person of color to show up for the protest—took her collar and wrote Gorton, telling him his thinking was wrong and his approach could be deleterious.

She wrote, "I simply do not think it is possible to single out McClurkin tomorrow as if he were separate from discriminatory attitudes in the gospel music community and the Black church as a whole ... if your protest is effective and noticed, it is likely to cause hard feelings among people in those two communities because either (a) they believe as he does and you disrupted their Sunday praise and worship with politics, almost as if you had brought protest signs into a church service, or (b) they do not believe as he does and if you had approached them differently they could possibly have been your allies, but by starting the conversation with a slap in the face you will get the relationship off on the wrong foot."

One of the reasons for California's Proposition 8 passing is not due to the LGBTQ community's lack of passion for justice, but rather it was due to the continuous recalcitrance and hubris of some white LGBTQ activists not reaching out to communities of color.

And Gorton proves he hasn't learned that lesson.



Brady alert

Fewer than 100 days remain until the Nov. 2 elections. The LGBT community and its allies have been relatively quiet about these elections. That silence, if continued, could be deadly for our community.

It won't be enough just to vote in November (although we all have to do that). We must engage friends, families and co-workers directly to tell them about the differences between the candidates.

In the races for, respectively, governor and lieutenant governor, Democrats Pat Quinn and Sheila Simon are running against Republicans Bill Brady and Jason Plummer. These candidates could not be further apart on the issues important to our community.

Quinn and Simon support legal recognition of same-sex relationships. The governor supports civil unions. His running mate supports both civil unions and same-sex marriage. We could debate whether we should push for civil unions or full marriage equality, but if Brady and Plummer are elected it will all be moot. The Republican candidates would not extend any form of legal protection to same-sex couples, no matter what the name or how minimal the rights. Brady co-sponsored a proposed amendment to the Illinois Constitution to prohibit any recognition of same-sex marriage, civil union or domestic partnership.

Someone trying to protect Brady was able to get the Illinois General Assembly (ILGA) website to remove Brady's name as a sponsor from the legislative history for his proposed amendment. Brady introduced SJRCA0095 on Feb. 10, and

his name was listed on the ILGA website as its sponsor. Senators can remove their sponsorship of various bills, of course, but when they do so the legislative history is not redacted—voters have a right to know the full history of a piece of legislation. Here, however, someone (trying to protect Brady from his own bigotry) white-washed the legislative record to make him look less extreme.

A copy of the legislation, as introduced, can be found at www.ilga.gov. The bill, as introduced, has Brady's name at the top of it, and the legislative history originally listed Brady as the sponsor. But the legislative history page now online has removed Brady's name. There should be a full investigation to determine who removed Brady's name from that legislative history and any other bills he sponsored. I urge the press to fulfill its watchdog function and investigate this.

Quinn and Simon fully support equal opportunities for LGBT persons. Brady, on the other hand, voted against non-discrimination and he would today *repeal* existing protections for sexual orientation now included in the Illinois Human Rights Act. Existing law protects LGBT persons from discrimination in housing, employment, and having access to places of public accommodation. Brady wants to bring back discrimination and make it again lawful to fire LGBT persons and to deny them housing.

Brady's positions on other issues should also trouble Illinois voters. He voted against raising the minimum wage. He voted against the Family Medical Leave Act that gave 12 weeks off to care for an infant or family member. He opposes abortion even for women who are victims of rape. And, regarding public education, Brady

would require teachers to tell students that evolution is only a theory. He would cut taxes but offers no solutions on how Illinois can escape its budget crisis.

If LGBT voters sit out this election, we may end up with a Republican governor who would veto every piece of legislation that favored our community and our families. We have to vote, obviously. But we must also use what's left of these less than 100 days to be sure that our friends, families and colleagues know about the differences between the candidates. This race really is about our lives.

Mark E. Wojcik
Professor of Law
The John Marshall Law School

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

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5315 N. Clark St. #192, Chicago, IL 60640 USA
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"Windy City Media Group generated enormous interest among their readers in this year's LGBT Consumer Index Survey. Out of approximately 100 print and online media partners who participated in the survey, Windy City was the best performing regional media in the U.S. Only survey partners with a nationwide footprint were able to generate a greater number of responses." —David Marshall, Research Director, Community Marketing, Inc.

Community Marketing, Inc.

GOINGS-ON

WINDY CITY TIMES' ENTERTAINMENT SECTION



SAUCY AUSSIE

Gay fave/Australian singer Kylie Minogue is one of the subjects of this week's Pop Making Sense. See page 14.

TELEVISION

Hey, Lady!
Page 15.



MUSIC

The gospel
according to Michael.
Page 14.

Photo courtesy of Michael McBride



SPORTS

Off to Cologne.
Page 19.

Photo by Ross Forman

SCOTTISH
PLAY SCOTTA stage
sisterhood
at Piven

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

Director Jessica Thebus first got to know playwright Sarah Ruhl when she taught her as a student at the Piven Theatre Workshop in Evanston (where Thebus herself was once a student). Over time, Thebus would work alongside Ruhl as a fellow Piven drama instructor, and then as a highly esteemed director and interpreter of her work. But don't ask Thebus for the exact timeline of that progression, since many of those roles overlapped from the 1990s through to today.

"I think I get the dates slightly wrong," said Thebus, who is currently directing the Chicago-area premiere of Ruhl's *Late: A Cowboy Song* with actor Polly Noonan (another artist who honed her craft alongside Thebus and Ruhl) at Piven Theatre Workshop.

This Piven artistic homecoming is one that Thebus is particularly keen to share with Noonan and Ruhl. Although Ruhl is based in New York and unlikely to see the show due to her very young twins, Thebus said they're in constant conversation via phone, e-mail and texting.

"We all share a language and a source of inspiration from being in the Workshop," Thebus said. "And to return there to do material now is just a great pleasure."

Late: A Cowboy Song was first heard via About Face Theatre a few years ago in a developmental workshop that Thebus directed (the *Clubbed Thumb* in New York premiered it in 2003).

The play concerns Mary (Noonan), whose marriage with her possessive childhood sweetheart, Crick, is thrown into question when she meets



The Piven Theatre's Kelli Simpkins, Polly Noonan, Jessica Thebus and Larry Grimm (from left). Photo by Chris Tzoubis

up with a former high school classmate named Red, who has become a "lesbian cowboy."

"I always feel that everything Red is saying to (Mary) is completely new information to her," Thebus said. "Red is willing to be just herself even though it doesn't fall into any neat categories—and all of this is what Mary needs to hear."

As to whether Mary and Red's relationship becomes physical, Thebus says the play leaves that aspect open to interpretation.

"There certainly is the romantic in their relationship, but it is not what begins it," Thebus said. "It's a very personal play and told very theatrically and with fascinating language."

This past decade, Ruhl's work has a playwright has risen to great prominence. Two of her plays, *The Clean House* and *In the Next Room or the Vibrator Play*, were respective finalists for the

Pulitzer Prize in drama in 2005 and 2010. Ruhl was also awarded a MacArthur Foundation "Genius" Grant in 2006.

But early in Ruhl's career, her work wasn't regularly produced in Chicago—save for her artistic home base at Piven. Once accolades started pouring in for Ruhl from around the country, then other Chicago theaters started to take notice. For instance, the company co-founder Joyce Piven staged Ruhl's *Eurydice* professionally in 2004—four years ahead of Victory Gardens Theater's take on the play in 2008.

"One of Piven's missions is really to create cycles of mentorship and really find ways that people can have the space to collaborate together to develop new work," said Piven artistic director Jennifer Green. "Obviously Sarah was an incredible talent and really knew Piven inside and out."

Green said the company waited since its last Ruhl production in 2004 for the conditions to be favorable to reunite her work with Piven alumna Thebus and Noonan on *Late: A Cowboy Song*. And as another sign of Piven's dedication to Ruhl, the company plans on staging the Chicago-area premiere of her new adaptation of Anton Chekhov's *The Three Sisters* with artistic director emeritus Joyce Piven directing this fall. (Even more Ruhl will be seen around Chicago this upcoming season, since Court Theatre is producing her adaptation of Virginia Woolf's *Orlando* in March 2011.)

But now Green and Thebus are focusing all their attention on *Late: A Cowboy Song*, which just opened July 26. (Look for a review of the production in the Aug. 4 issue of *Windy City Times*.)

"It's fascinating that way it really talks about the tangled web of intimacy and what happens in your mind when you're living in a situation where you can't breathe," Thebus said. "The play is about a lot of things. For me I would say importantly, among other things, it's about why we don't leave each other even when we're unhappy."

And though Green is certain that *Late: A Cowboy Song* should appeal to everyone, she hopes LGBT audiences turn out to see the show in Piven's intimate 70-seat space.

"Sarah Ruhl really paints really exceptionally, interesting and dynamic female characters," Green said. "It's a really beautiful love story in that way and I would hope that would speak to the LGBTQA community as well as all communities."

Piven Theatre Workshop's production of Sarah Ruhl's *Late: A Cowboy Song* continues through Aug. 22 at the Noyes Cultural Arts Center, 927 Noyes, Evanston. Performances are 7:30 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays with 2:30 p.m. matinees on Sundays. Tickets are \$25. Call 847-866-8049 or visit www.piventheatre.org.



Rakisha Pollard (left) and Dana Black in *Dental Society Midwinter Meeting*. Photo by Michael Litchfield

THEATER REVIEW

Dental Society Midwinter Meeting

Playwright: Laura Jacqmin

At: At Play Productions at

Chicago Dramatists, 1105 W. Chicago

Phone: 312-633-0630; \$20-\$25

Runs through: Aug. 7

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

Dentists are among the most maligned wage-earners in the United States, ranking just below tax accountants and undertakers as the subject of scornful ridicule. Their very anonymity, however, is what renders their occupation the perfect microcosm for a diagnosis of the greater community whose citizens they serve and values they reflect.

The morale of the North Shore Regional Dental Society members who reluctantly check into the "Skokie Marriott" on a frigid January weekend is lower than the outside temperature. Their organization's president has recently been discovered to have been not only conducting an illicit affair with his hygienist, but—can you imagine?—allowing her to discharge her duties *without a license*. As the convention progresses through seminars on insurance fraud and drug abuse within the industry and huckstering by vendors peddling their spurious/frivolous products, the attendees grow increasingly morose over their calling and resentful of their leadership. But despite their malaise, when their individual ethics are tested, each one—the humble

and mighty alike—does the right thing. At the end of the weekend, all depart uplifted—or at least, resigned to the human imperfections inherent in their profession.

Whatever its allegorical perceptions, there is no denying the insight and affection lavished on this portrait of healers as indispensable as they are unappreciated striving to keep the faith. Laura Jacqmin's *Ski Dubai*, featured at the 2009 First Look showcase, revealed the young playwright to be a shrewd observer of the slippery infrastructure defining capitalism as it is practiced today. Under Megan Shuchman's lively-paced direction, the six actors playing a multitude of roles immerse us immediately into its universe and the sharply-etched characters who inhabit it to render each brief scene a free-standing parable in its own right.

A pair of smug harridans swim in the hotel pool as they trash the chief officer's erring assistant/mistress and are upbraided by a feisty dog-paddler. Three middle-aged docs wax rhapsodic in the adjacent mall's L.L. Bean. Impassioned rants about the importance of flossing and the dangers of over-bleaching. The entire company raising its alcohol-soaked voices on karaoke night in a rousing chorus of "Novocain For the Soul" and "Crooked Teeth." (Playgoers arriving early will enjoy Christopher Kriz's clever pre-show mix.) Whatever the image lingering in your memory, you will leave vowing to bestow a well-deserved hug on your own dentist at your next appointment.

SPOTLIGHT



Advocates of abstinence-only education probably won't like this classic romantic Shakespearean comedy. *Love's Labour's Lost* focuses on a group of male students who renounce love in favor of three years of schooling, only to have their wills tested by the arrival of the French princess and her cadre of ladies in waiting. Oak Park Festival Theatre presents *Love's Labour's Lost* 8 p.m. Thursdays-Saturdays and 7 p.m. Sundays through Aug. 21. Tickets are \$25 (\$20 for seniors and students). Call 708-445-4440 or visit www.oakparkfestival.com. Photo by Michael Rothman



THEATER REVIEW

A Guide for the Perplexed

Playwright: Joel Drake Johnson

At: Victory Gardens Theatre at

the Biograph, 2433 N. Lincoln

Phone: 773-871-3000; \$20-\$50

Runs through: Aug. 15

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

Have you heard the one about the ex-con trying to re-integrate with life "on the outside?" *Sure* you have—the *Prodigal's Return* comprises one of the most popular plot premises in western literature, its fallen hero's progress typically spooling into: 1) quasi-Christian parables of redemption and forgiveness, with long-buried family issues coming to light, or 2) sociological case studies on the effects of upbringing in determining individual destiny, as the events leading to destructive behavior repeat themselves.

Joel Drake Johnson's latest play encompasses elements of both scenarios, albeit with thematic variations, the first of which is the choice of upper-crust suburban Glencoe as the environment leading to our pilgrim's long-ago fall from grace. After serving a prison sentence for aggravated battery, Doug now seeks sanctuary on the wooded estate of his sister and brother-in-law, only to find himself immersed in a dynamic disconcertingly like that of his recent incarceration, chaos simmering beneath a veneer of orderliness. Householder Philip is now housekeeper, having lost his job under questionable circumstances. Matriarch Sheila is now the traveling breadwinner, communicating with her kin by telephone from remote white-collar locations, while their disgruntled teenage son, a victim of school bullying, schemes to wreak vengeance on his tormentors—or anybody.

When the whole world's going to pieces, one way to keep from disintegrating along with it is to focus very intently on isolated tasks. Whether the meltdown is your own or someone else's, this small measure of control over the universe offers escape from nihilistic despair. Our unhappy clan's most noticeable characteristic is their protracted reliance on these distractions: tending the tropical fish, shopping for groceries, experimenting with recipes. And if an idea terrifies you, expressing it in an arcane language reduces its power, if only temporarily.

Unfortunately, Johnson seems to have applied this technique to his playwrighting. However well-crafted each individual scene, details that are initially intriguing are left undeveloped to deteriorate into expository clutter obstructing any emergence of a coherent narrative. Playgoers can achieve an *emotionally* satisfying resolution by focusing very intently on isolated moments—Sandy Shinner's slyly subversive direction, the achingly sensitive performances, the near-obscene affluence reflected in Jeffrey Bauer's scenic design and the material gifts lavished upon Doug by a fairy godmother-*ex-machina*. But audiences stubbornly demanding intellectual fodder will be left with only the most abrupt of hackneyed denouements as their reward.

THEATER REVIEWS

After the Fall

Playwright: Arthur Miller

At: Eclipse Theatre Company at

the Greenhouse, 2257 N. Lincoln

Phone: 773-404-7336; \$25

Runs through: Aug. 22

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

However many playgoers in 2010 may know—or care—about the speculation surrounding the premiere of Arthur Miller's 1964 *roman à clef*, generations hence will have only its text to witness the emotional turmoil spurring its author to explain himself before the audiences responsible for his laudable career. So while there's no crime

CRITICS' PICKS

Aida, Bailiwick Chicago at American Theatre Company, through Aug. 1. The rechristened Bailiwick continues its comeback with the best production of Sir Elton John and Sir Tim Rice's 2000 musical that you're likely to ever see. There's no transfer house promising an extension, so this is your last chance to see it. MSB

Fucking Men, Bailiwick Chicago at Stage 773, through Aug. 8. Director Tom Mullen extracts strong, nuanced performances from his all-male cast in this contemporary daisy-chain mating dance based upon Arthur Schnitzler's sexually-frank 1897 hetero original. JA

The Philadelphia Story, Circle Theatre in Forest Park, through Sept. 5. The gender inequities in Phillip Barry's classic screwball comedy may be cringeworthy, but Circle's production is so handsomely designed that you'll be likely to let these outdated elements slide.

Sweet & Hot: The Songs of Harold Arlen, Theo Ubique Cabaret Theatre at No Exit Café, through Aug. 15. Late composer Harold Arlen may have never had the hit show he so longed for, but so many of his songs have become cabaret touchstones. Theo Ubique does Arlen right in this beautifully sung and wonderfully intimate revue. SCM

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge and Morgan

in bringing your own real-world issues into the arena, you'll find no picking over old bones in this Eclipse Theatre production.

Our hero is Quentin, a high-profile lawyer whose reputation rests on his landmark defense of citizens targeted by HUAC during the Red Scare of the 1950s, but also on his marriage to a celebrated pop songstress (think Madonna proportions, you youngsters). But for those on a pedestal, there's no way but down—and so, like many successful individuals, he lives in constant remorse over being less than his admirers believe him to be. Through a montage of memories—a narrative technique still innovative for its time and a radical departure for a luminary of American Realism—we see the events shaping the personality that will provide him survival but deny him happiness, beginning with the doting mother who makes her son a surrogate for her disappointing husband and thwarted ambitions.

The fashion nowadays is to be skeptical of men seeking to justify their actions, especially in regard to marital failures. Quentin's first wife, after going into psychoanalysis, accuses him of neglect. His second starts by adoring him and ends by renouncing him for not rescuing her as he promised he would. Are they correct? Is he the cold and distant egotist they declare him to be? Did they—and he—marry under a mutually idealized illusion? Since the dramatic action occurs within Quentin's consciousness, we have no way of ascertaining the accuracy of either vituperation or excruciation.

As played with weary resignation by the boyish-faced Nathaniel Swift, however, we have little reason to contradict his defense, or his conclusion that blame is pointless in a world bereft of innocence. His various nemeses, male and female, may protest—even dying for their convictions—but ultimately, their testimony supports the case he makes for himself. And the ensemble directed by Steve Scott remain focused—in particular, Nora Fiffer, whose 30-minute meltdown suffers not an instant of acting-class shrillness—to keep the action crisp and coherent for the entire three riveting hours of Miller's problematic plea.

THEATER REVIEW

Prom Night!

Playwright: Les Enfants Terribles
 At: Red Tape Theatre at St. Peter's
 Episcopal Church, 621 W. Belmont
 Contact: www.redtapetheatre.org; \$15-\$20
 Runs through Aug. 14

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

You've got to admire the pluck of the artsy comedy performance troupe Les Enfants Terribles, now performing Prom Night! courtesy of host Red Tape Theatre at St. Peter's Episcopal Church.

Stuffed into earthen-colored leotards with often obscene padded bulges, the actors of Les Enfants Terribles certainly look like they're suffering for their art. With faces smeared in make-up and dripping with sweat, these actors do achieve their uncomfortable first impression as odd band of alien-like creatures eager to explore our world.

Alas, Les Enfants Terribles put more work into its elaborate Prom Night! production design and costumes instead of its largely wordless script. This makes the hour-long Prom Night! feel like a wasted opportunity—especially when there is so much potential in its premise.

Things begin conventionally enough in the pre-show where the gorgeous prom night committee members (Ryan Lempka and Amanda Beth Miller as student coordinators and Jonathan Helvey as photographer) gently prod audiences to dance along and pose for prom pictures on a large wooden crescent moon (set designer Shaun Renfro should save the materials and rent them out legitimately for high school dances).

Then Les Enfants Terribles arrive, scaring away the pretty people as they try to make sense of their white and blue pastel surroundings. As Les Enfants Terrible, Scott Ray Merchant, Casey Kells, Alex Kyger, Christopher Paul Mueller, Brian Rad and Eric Ryan Swanson do succeed at unset-



Prom Night! Photo by Tom Hartmon

tling and possibly grossing out the audience.

But stage director Keland Scher and the company members of Les Enfants Terrible don't produce nearly enough physical gags, props or movement to truly sustain interest in the show. These creatures also inexplicably burst into song with harmonies and nicely annunciated lyrics. (Perhaps they absorbed them from radio broadcasts beamed into outer space.)

Then there's the unconvincing matter of the prom committee returning periodically try to ward off Les Enfants Terrible. Structurally they should disappear completely or be taken hos-

tage throughout to be more plausible. The current scenario just makes you wonder why they just didn't call the police to intervene.

If Les Enfants Terrible wants to stick around as a themed performance troupe on the level of, say, 500 Clown or Blue Man Group, it's going to have to build stronger physical shows or memorable characterizations that what they're displaying in Prom Night!

Right now Prom Night! plays like a promising conceptual exercise in story and performance art. But as true comedy entertainment, it's lacking.

ART

Aldo Castillo
Gallery closing

After 17 years serving the Chicago community, the Aldo Castillo Gallery is scheduled to close on Aug. 28, according to a press release from the gallery. Director Aldo Castillo has accepted the role of associate director at the Miami International Art Fair.

The gallery will be reborn as www.artaldo.com, a virtual showcase of contemporary and modern art by established worldwide artists. (The gallery's current exhibits can currently be seen at the same site.)

An openly gay and openly HIV-positive human-rights activist and artist, Castillo was born in Nicaragua. After studying in Guatemala City and Lima, Peru, he came to the United States in 1985 on a scholarship from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. In 1993, he opened the award-winning Aldo Castillo Gallery, which specializes in Latin American art. In 2007, Castillo—who has organized more than 250 exhibitions globally—organized Chicago ARTEahora, the only Chicago Latin American Art Fair.

The Aldo Castillo Gallery is at 675 N. Franklin; the phone is 312-337-2536.



Aldo Castillo. Photo by Tracy Baim

**“A terrific role for SHARON GLESS,
 who runs with it gloriously.”**

— Los Angeles Times



Starring multi-award winner Sharon Gless (*Burn Notice*, *Queer as Folk*, *Cagney & Lacey*) in a tremendous performance, *Hannah Free* tells the moving story of the lifelong love affair between two very different women. Directed by Wendy Jo Carlton and written by Claudia Allen.

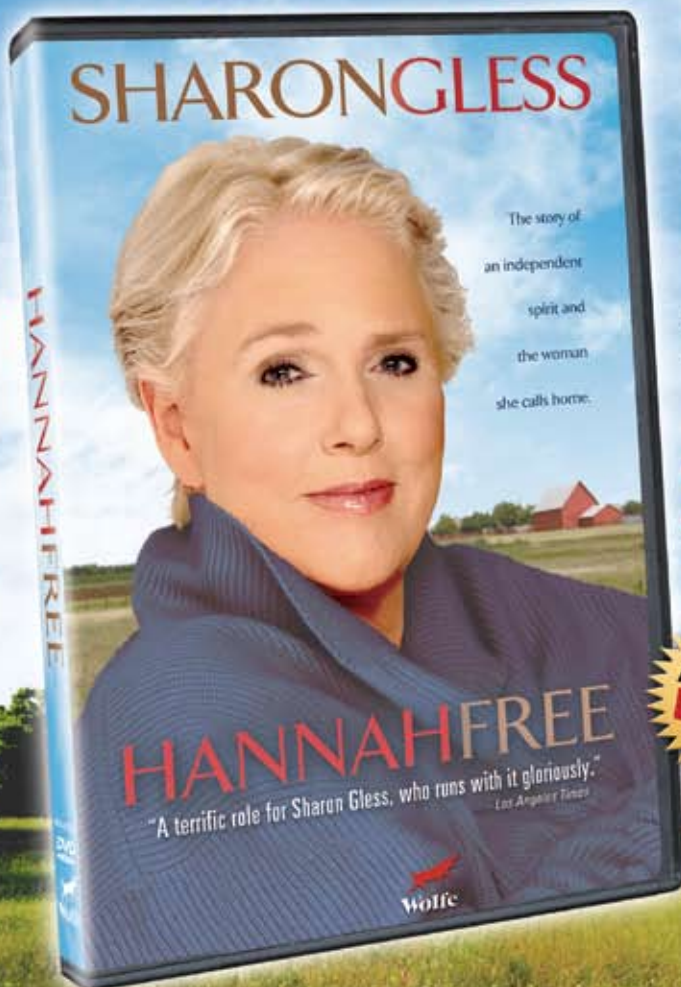
“Gless's free-spirited butch lesbian bridling against authority conveys the same punchy heartiness she brought to... *Queer as Folk*” — *The New York Times*

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BY DAVID BYRNE WITH TONY PEREGRIN

On the single "All the Lovers," **Kylie Minogue** confesses, "Dance. It's all I wanna do. So won't you dance?" Then on the Dolly Parton-gone-disco like "Better Than Today," she ponders, "What's the point in living if you don't wanna dance?" These sum up the spirit of the breast-cancer survivor's dynamic eleventh studio album, *Aphrodite*.

The title track has the pop princess being sexually aggressive, unlike the usual coy tease we have come to love. "Get out of My Way" and "Put your Hands Up (If You Feel Love)" have big choruses, recalling her top 40 crossover "Love at First Sight."

As heard on her previous outings, it has been established that Minogue can "ooh" and "aah" in all the right places. She reinforces this with "Everything Is Beautiful" and "Looking for an Angel." *Aphrodite* is full of summer jams. This is a fun dance-pop album that others like Paula Abdul or Britney Spears just cannot seem to deliver.

Madonna has a stronger role in writing her material than Minogue. The 51-year-old mom found inspiration while working on the chart-topping opus *Like a Prayer*, as Madge was nearing the age her mother was when she died. Then motherhood and Eastern spirituality were the drive behind the Grammy Award-winning album *Ray of Light*.

The Ladies of the Canyon will have a tribute concert to Madonna Thursday, July 29, at Fitzgerald's, 6615 W. Roosevelt, Berwyn. This outfit of Chicago-based female singer-songwriters always guarantees a fantastic show, tipping their hats to the great women of music. When I saw the group pay homage to Melissa Etheridge, the band warmed up to "Vogue." It was flawless, echoes and all.

Expect to see The Ladies of the Canyon "get into the groove" by covering Madonna's staples

like "Holiday" and "Express Yourself." For more information, you can find The Ladies of the Canyon on Facebook or visit myspace.com/lotcchicago.

With *We Are Born*, **Sia** proves she can branch away from the epic moody music that helped her enter into the public conscience. The majority of the material here is upbeat compared to her breakout, *Colour the Small One*. Don't worry; she walks on the dark side on a cover of Madonna's "Oh Father" and a reprise of "I'm in Here."

Having seen the bisexual Sia many times in concert, she is extremely vivacious and quirky. Her personality shines throughout *We Are Born*, especially on "Clap your Hands" and "Bring the Night." In prior tours, Sia has performed "The Co Dependent." This is based on a fictionalized superhero who continually offers support to a needy friend who gets stumbling drunk. Sia makes great artistic strides with *We Are Born*.

Before "Breathe Me" was used for the series finale of *Six Feet Under*, Sia was a guest vocalist on Zero 7's full-length debut, *Simple Things*. She has since contributed to the 2004 follow-up *When It Falls* and 2006's *The Garden*, having sung on titles like "Distractions," "You're My Flame" and "Throw It All Away."

Zero 7 has just released the retrospective *Record*. It baffles me that this band has not received more airplay or more Grammy nominations. On "I Have Seen," Mozez's smooth vocals and the song's groove offer plenty of soul. The electronic-meets-folk "In the Waiting Line" has been licensed to House and Sex and the City. Tackling electronic, neosoul, chill-out and alternative, Zero 7 makes impressive music with its many guest collaborators, like a mellow version of *Groove Armada*.

The song "What What in the Butt" became a huge Internet sensation. It even appeared on an episode of *South Park*. **Samwell**, the artist behind the humorous hit, will be performing at Mary's Attic, 5400 N. Clark, Saturday July 31, as part of his birthday-week celebration. Expect new material and lots of laughs from this hilarious gay Chicagoan.

Electronic artist **Allison Goldfrapp** openly discussed having a girlfriend on a recent episode of *NewNowNext: Pop Lab on Logo*. She deftly dodged using a label to define her sexuality. Rumors were amuck online earlier this year when Goldfrapp was photographed with her girlfriend, film editor Lisa Gunning. Goldfrapp's latest, *Head First*, is out now and features synthesizer-

driven goodies like "Rocket," "Alive" and "Believer." Goldfrapp's catalog is loaded with suggestive double meanings—just check out "Strict Machine" and "Clowns" for starters.

I recently saw the "That's Gay" clip on current.tv about the tag line "No Homo." Here, Bryan Safi details how some will make a comment and add the tag line "no homo" to ensure that the comment was just a compliment or statement and clearly was not intended to be a pick up line. This can be heard in music by Kanye West, Cam'Ron and Lil Wayne. Safi hysterically

then finds hip-hop songs with overly queer content by the Notorious B.I.G., DJ Quick and the previously mentioned culprit Lil Wayne.

Although it is easy to laugh off the liberal and unnecessary use of "no homo," it still stings. This would not be acceptable if the same situation was used toward any other minority group or subculture. But then again, there are people within the LGBT community who readily discount and put down the bi and transgender communities, so are we any better?

LOCAL PROFILE: MUSIC

Michael McBride on love, Gay Idol and gospel music

BY ROSS FORMAN



Michael McBride. Photo courtesy of McBride

Michael Scott McBride wrote a love song, "I Don't Want To Fall In Love," and premiered it last August to his partner and friends—on the night McBride and Rodrigo Carrillo announced their engagement.

"At first, they were thinking I was breaking up with him, because of the title. But you just have to listen to the punch-line to get what the song is about," McBride said, laughing. "The song basically says, 'I don't want to fall in love unless it's with you.'"

McBride and Carrillo are, a year later, happily in love. So much, in fact, that the two will have a marriage ceremony on Saturday, Aug. 14, at Northwestern University's Alice Millar Chapel, and then have a reception in Logan Square planned.

McBride's "I Don't Want To Fall In Love" is the third song on his recently released five-song EP titled *Almost There*, available on iTunes.

"I've been singing since I was a little kid," said McBride, now 29. "Most of it was in church and local musical theatre. I even did a professional dinner-theater production of *Sound of Music* in which I played the older son, Frederick, for four shows a week over five months. I've also led music at churches and conferences throughout the U.S.

"I gravitate to gospel/inspirational music, which I like to call gospel, and am interested in pop and dance music as well. Having been a classically trained pianist and composer, I'm intrigued by the overlap of concert music and pop music of all forms. I'm honored to be able to combine these interests while teaching at North Park University and, in the summers, coordinating the composition program for Northwestern University's National High School Music Institute. I also lead a contemporary service at Edison Park Lutheran Church."

Music truly is McBride's life, personally and professionally. The Lakeview resident received his bachelor's in piano performance and composition from Wheaton College in 2002, and then earned master's and doctorate degrees from Northwestern.

McBride also is a two-time Gay Idol performer, and a two-time finalist.

"At first, participating in Gay Idol was simply an opportunity to get more performing experience," McBride said. "After being in school for so long, I was itching for a chance to sing more. In my performances, rather than relying on a karaoke track, I focused on performing my own arrangements and orchestrations of popular songs. As I progressed, I met so many wonderful people and local musicians."

His Gay Idol highlight was, he said jokingly, "[e]very time after a performance [when] the judges would ask me to turn around to show my 'assets.'"

Matt Rivera was the 2010 Gay Idol.

"It is more than just a singing competition," McBride said of Gay Idol. "Because the winner is decided by audience vote, Gay Idol was really about bringing friends and community

together. I was so touched to see so many of my friends come out to support me, and it was such a pleasure working together with the host, Amy Matheny, and producer, Cynthia Holmes.

"Not having grown up listening to pop radio, [Gay Idol] helped me to develop a repertoire of songs. My first year, I sang 'You Raise Me Up,' as sung by Josh Groban, 'Apologize' by One Republic, 'Closer' by Ne-Yo and 'Umbrella' by Rihanna. My second year, I sang 'I Believe I Can Fly' in the style of Yolanda Adams, 'A Moment Like This' as sung by Kelly Clarkson and 'Hide and Seek/Watcha Say' by Imogen Heap and Jason Derulo.

"[Gay Idol] also opened up opportunities to sing around Chicago such as for Pridefest 2009, several area clubs and a Navy Pier boat cruise. Since then, I've had the vision of pursuing a performing career."

McBride said his list of favorite musicians is deep, but definitely includes his mentor: former CSO composer-in-residence Augusta Read Thomas, "for opening my ears to the beauty of sound," as well as film composer Danny Elfman for his "dark and magical aesthetic." McBride also praised J.S. Bach, Finnish composer Kaija Saariaho, theatre composer Stephen Sondheim, pop singer Christina Aguilera and The Gabe Dixon Band.

McBride also is a fan of Steven Curtis Chapman and CeCe Winans.

What is his least favorite musical genre?

"I believe every musical genre has the possibility of producing high-quality music, and I listen pretty broadly," he said.

McBride, originally from Maryland, has been living in Chicago for 12 years. He was home-school from second-grade through high school graduation in 1998. He was raised in a conservative, Christian home, thus his interest in Christian music.

"There was a time when I was embarrassed [to have liked Christian music], feeling like I was sheltered and provincial," McBride said. "But I've since come to realize that an artist is most powerful when he is authentic and offers a unique perspective on universal experience. So I've come to embrace my Christian music heritage, all the while stretching in other directions as well."

Find out more about Michael—including his (pseudo)connection to superstar Martina McBride—online at www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com.



Goldfrapp. Photo by Serge Leblon

NUNN ON ONE: TELEVISION

Lady Bunny:
'Drag' doll

BY JERRY NUNN

Lady Bunny is the founder of Wigstock and an inspiration to many men who have donned a dress. Now she brings her knowledge to Drag U to school some new students.

Windy City Times: Hi, Bunion. I just discovered you're from Tennessee!

Lady Bunny: I am. I grew up in Chattanooga.

WCT: Wow. I grew up in Hendersonville.

LB: Well, at least we made it out!

WCT: I think when I first moved to Chicago, I saw you at a bar named Foxy's—which is now called Spin Nightclub—doing an Yma Sumac song.

LB: Yes, that was, uh, several, decades and waist sizes ago. Or shall I say girdle sizes...

WCT: So I just watched the first episode of Drag U. That looked like a blast to make. How was that?

LB: Oh, filming it was a hoot. The celebrity guests were people like Chaka Khan ... and I loved all of the special guests, but Chaka Khan is special to me, so getting to work and hang out with her was magic. I have to say I'm not really the biggest reality TV fan, but I've changed. I think the one thing it was missing was me! And, Jerry, the other thing I've learned that it was slightly different from Drag Race because there's still an element of competition, but the drag queens, as you know, are making over real women. Some of them have lost touch with their inner diva because of personal tragedy.

Getting to know these women's stories, I have to say, I have a new respect for women. Because these women sacrifice everything ... I mean, gay men and drag queens, we often live alone, we're not scrimping and saving and working two jobs to put our kids through school. These gals really go through a lot. It's easy to see how someone may not have the time or inclination to worry about their appearance.

WCT: And sometimes gay men have bad self-esteem, and we can relate to these women.

LB: Well, yeah, but I don't think most gay men are familiar with what an average woman's life is like. We're pretty self-centered. We're not nurturing like a mom who is constantly making sacrifices.

WCT: How did you get involved with the show? Did RuPaul call you?

LB: Well, Ru is my old roommate from Atlanta, Ga., and in New York. She had called me to appear on Drag Race, and I said, "Ru ... you're Black, I'm white. Why do you always have to drag-race into everything? Just get over it"—and I hung up on him. Then I realized it was a real show. So I'm glad he was able to throw his old drag daughter from Atlanta a bone and ask me to be a judge on this show.

WCT: Too funny. I've heard filming takes a long time. Raven [from RuPaul's Drag Race] told me that some of the finals took 14 hours to film.

LB: Raven was bitching?!? That must not be the Raven I know. I really can't believe that.

WCT: [Laughs] Did you have a favorite moment?

LB: Well, in the finale, the women that the queens make over are celebrities. And I'm not supposed to say who they are, but two of them were my all-time favorite television characters. So meeting them was a joy.

WCT: Do you ever get starstruck? You've met a lot of famous people.

LB: I did get starstruck with Patti LaBelle, Carol Channing [and] Charo, and very starstruck with Diana Ross. The thing you have to remember is that if you're with a star, or meet a star who means a lot to you, if you just gush over how much you love them, they're immediately going to put in the category of this is a super-



Lady Bunny.

fan, and we're not going to have a conversation because they are so affected by my work. So I think it's smarter or what works for me is to just be myself.

Now I was peeking out of my room to see Chaka arrive and I was nervous, but we hit it off really well and then I waited until the end of our meeting to say Rufus was the first album I ever bought. And by that point, I felt we had connected and I didn't mind being a fan for a sec.

WCT: Who had bigger hair—you or her?

LB: Ha! Me. I had bigger hair than anyone on the show. I can't imagine what show—maybe Valley of the Dolls—[where] I would have smaller hair.

WCT: On the preview, what are you talking about with the watermelon?

LB: Toward the end of the show, on the final episode, they got me to do a little coaching on lip sync, and whether it's lip sync or singing. (I actually know this from someone who was in the chorus in the opera.) When you don't actually know the words, you mouth the word "watermelon," and it makes the mouth position hit all of the vowels, and so it's just a good way to fake it. An even better one is to stretch out your arms and fling your head up to the sky so you can't actually see what the mouth is doing. [Laughs hysterically] No one will ever be able to tell, then.

WCT: Good advice!

LB: In terms of the tips, the interesting thing about the makeover is drag queens start off as men and are able to transform themselves, using tricks, into glamorous-looking creatures. So if you're starting off with the raw material of an actual woman—who doesn't have broad shoulders and (most of the times) doesn't have a hairy chest and has actual boobs already there—the transformation is a lot easier. So these women just love to play in drag, it's like a kid in a candy store. That's why Drag U was created, because RuPaul received so many letters from women asking how we can do such a transformation. And I would just want to say to them, "Women, we're happy to share those tricks with you, and now would you do us a favor, go out and teach your sons and teach your husbands not to beat us and not to kill us. Don't just take our tips and then preach that hatred." Because even though it's the straight males that are doing the gay-bashing, there are the mamas that are bringing them up.

WCT: When are you coming back to Chicago?

LB: I'm not sure. There was talk of me doing something around Market Days, but I don't think anything's been confirmed.

WCT: And you have your website LadyBunny.net, where readers can go to your site and purchase your DVD or music.

LB: Yes, Ru and I recorded a duet on his last

album called "Throw Ya Hands Up," which is on iTunes from Ru's last album, Champion. We kind of reconnected on the set of Another Gay Sequel: Gays Gone Wild. We were in Florida for a week together and bonded again.

WCT: Would you ever do Wigstock again—would there ever be a reunion or an anniversary?

LB: I can't control the weather and for two years it rained, two years in a row. And we lost a fortune. So until I can control the weather, I'm not making any plans. Nobody wants to see a soggy drag queen. And when it's an outdoor event, you check the forecast before you buy a ticket. I have to say, for those two years we were shocked by the number of people that did come out in the rain. It's a little disappointing when you finish your number and don't hear any applause, and you look out and say, "Ohhh, they can't clap because they're holding umbrellas." I guess there were standing ovations, although they didn't have any seats, either.

WCT: Do you go out as a man and nobody recognizes you?

LB: I don't go out to clubs out of drag because it's so much more fun for me in drag. Now there may be some people I may have had sex with and they'll come up to me when I'm in drag and want an autograph, and I'm just kind of snickering inside. I have to shut my mouth because they do tend to recognize the voice.

WCT: Well let me know if you come to town for Market Days and we'll hang out!

LB: I sure will, honey!

RuPaul's Drag U runs Mondays on the Logo channel. LogoTV.com streams every episode. You can use Dragulator.com and start your own transformation!

Lady Gaga:
In 'The Remix'

Extremely popular singer Lady Gaga will release Lady Gaga: The Remix (Streamline/Kon-Live/Cherrytree/Interscope) Aug. 3. The Remix has sold more than 500,000 albums internationally, topping the charts in the United Kingdom, Japan and Canada. The U.S. version of The Remix features 10 songs from The Fame and The Fame Monster, including hits like "Just Dance," "Poker Face," "LoveGame," "Paparazzi," "Bad Romance," "Telephone" and "Alejandro." This is the first time this collection will be available stateside.

The Fame Monster and The Fame have sold more than 13 million albums worldwide to date. The video for Gaga's latest single, "Alejandro," has been viewed online almost 40 million times since its June 8 release.



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KNIGHT AT THE MOVIES

Dinner for Schmucks; film notes

BY RICHARD KNIGHT, JR.

Dinner for Schmucks—the new comedy from Austin Powers film series director Jay Roach which stars Steve Carell and Paul Rudd—has, hands down, the year's most hilarious opening-credit sequence. To the tune of the aptly chosen "Fool on the Hill" by the Beatles, we see the hands of Carell lovingly work on what surely must be his masterpiece—a diorama of a serene, bucolic summer countryside populated entirely by stuffed mice dressed in exactly detailed clothes and sporting tiny eyeglasses, reading newspapers, spinning on a Ferris wheel, etc.

This insane attention to detail immediately screams "Nerd!" and the audience is prepped for an insightful comedy of manners. Though the movie, a remake of a French farce, doesn't quite reach the heights of the screwball comedy its characters and situations would suggest, it has its laugh-out-loud moments. Each time the whisper-thin set-up threatens to sag, a sequence comes along that kicks the movie back into high gear. And a phalanx of supporting experts in portraying the zany, cartoonish characters—Zach Galifianakis, Jermaine Clement, Little Britain's queer friendly David Walliams, Kirsten Schaal and Lucy Punch—help enormously.

Carell and Rudd are both cast as stock characters who audiences love for being, respectively, the comedic nerd and sweet, charming nerd. Rudd plays a corporate nebbish who wants the office and promotion dangled in front of him by Bruce Greenwood, his boss—so badly that he's willing to go along with the boss and his toadies when they invite him to their annual dinner

for schmucks; at this event, each of the execs brings along the person he or she hopes will be anointed the biggest fool. Rudd is even told, "No mimes." Rudd knows it's morally reprehensible but even when his comely girlfriend, who reps a crazy but big-time artist urges him to drop out of the competition, Rudd can't do it.

That's because he's found Carell—an IRS agent with reddish hair and buck teeth—who spends all his time picking up dead mice on the street and using them in his dioramas. Carell plays such a goof; he's such a bland nerd that his computer password is "password" but it turns out, of course, that he has heart that shines through his dimwitted noggin. The relationship between the two recalls a spate of other pictures with a similar trajectory—*The Cable Guy*; *Planes, Trains & Automobiles*, etc.—and though nothing in the material offers either Carell or Rudd a chance to do anything particularly new or inventive, they are a pleasure to watch.

In the way that Madeline Kahn, Mabel Albertson and Kenneth Mars are the engines that drive the outsized laughs in *What's Up Doc?*, again it's that raft of supporting caricatures (in all fairness, they really don't play characters) who give *Dinner for Schmucks* its screwball zaniness. It's Walliams as a Swiss biz whiz (though he's under-used), Punch as a sex-starved stalker, Clement as the sexually free "conceptual artist," Schaal in the Eve Arden/Joan Cusack secretary role and, especially, Galifianakis as Carell's boss—the IRS agent who purports to have the power of mind control—that give this movie its zest.

The dinner at which the execs showcase their fools—which includes a contest of wills between Carell and Galifianakis—is the expected highlight of the movie, although nothing in the film has quite the blissful stupidity of *Anchorman*, *Blades of Glory* or a host of classic screwball comedies that the picture calls to mind. (With a gender change and a few more plot twists, this could almost be a descendent of *Bringing Up Baby*.) Wisely, Roach brings back "Fool on the Hill" and more of those dioramas for a voice over coda by Carell that neatly bookends the movie. If only what occurs in between had lived up to the promise of these credit sequences screwball Heaven might have been achieved. Not quite the four star comedic meal it promises at the outset, *Dinner for Schmucks* makes for a tasty repast, nonetheless.

Film notes:

—**Cinema Lesbiana**, the long-running lesbian centric film series curated by Tracy Curran—returns, this time with screenings at the Center on Halsted's Hoover-Leppen Theater, 3656 N. Halsted, beginning with the 1931 classic *Mädchen in Uniform*. This 1931 German film from director Leontine Sagan, starring Hertha Thiele



Rick Overton in *Dinner for Schmucks*.

and Dorothea Wieck, is perhaps the screen's first pro-lesbian romance. Set in an all-girls boarding school, the movie focuses on a sensitive girl who falls for one of her teachers—a scenario that has provided fodder for multiple lesbian and gay movies in the ensuing decades. But *Mädchen* got there first and its frank portrayal of lesbian desire as well as its anti-fascist message—two years before Hitler's rise to power—still carries quite a punch. In German with English subtitles. UIC Professor of Germanic Studies Dr. Sara Hall will introduce the film and lead a post-screening discussion. The movie screens Friday, July 30, at 7 p.m. (doors at 6:30 p.m.) as part of CENTER-Screen, the Center's ongoing LGBT film series. There is a \$8 suggested donation; see www.centeronhalsted.org.

—As part of the ongoing African Jubilee Film Festival, The Public Square and its partners present a screening and discussion of *Pumzi*, a 23-minute science-fiction film by Wanuri Kahiu set in a world where nature has become extinct. The film will be screened Sunday, Aug. 1, at 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. at the DuSable Museum of African American History, 740 E. 56th Place. The post-screening discussion will focus on African-American women and science fiction. Nnedi Okorafor, a Nigerian-American young adult science-fiction author, will also read selections from her work. The event is free and open to the public. See www.prairie.org/publicsquare.com.

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



Dakota Fanning (left) and Kristen Stewart in *The Runaways*.

'The Runaways' out on DVD

The Runaways—a movie based on the all-girl rock group headed by Joan Jett and Cherie Currie—is now out on Blu-ray and DVD.

Jett (portrayed by Kristen Stewart) and Currie (Dakota Fanning) fronted the group, backed by Lita Ford (Scout Taylor-Compton) and Sandy West (Stella Maeve). Manager/producer/promoter Kim Fowley (Michael Shannon) guided *The Runaways*.

Special features include a commentary with Jett, Stewart and Fanning; and the featurettes "Plugged In: Making the Film" and "The Runaways." The Blu-ray also has *movieIQ*™+sync, which lets users access real-time information on the cast, music, trivia and more while watching the movie via BD-Live™.

In his review of the movie, Windy City Times movie columnist Richard Knight, Jr., wrote, "The Runaways ... like the music of the group, is best enjoyed in the moment as a guilty, irresistible pleasure without any pretense of depth to deaden its erotic charge."

The Blu-ray is \$34.95 and the DVD sells for \$27.96.

'Prime Suspect' set out on DVD Sept. 7

Starring Academy Award winner Helen Mirren, *Prime Suspect: The Complete Collection* debuts on DVD from Acorn Media Sept. 7. Mirren (*The Queen*) stars as Detective Jane Tennison in this police drama broadcast on PBS to universal acclaim and more than 20 major international awards, including seven Emmys, eight BAFTAs, and a Peabody. The nine-disc set includes nine feature-length mysteries as well as a 50-minute behind-the-scenes special.

Seen on Masterpiece Theatre and Mystery! from the 1990s through the 2000s and created by crime writer Lynda La Plante, *Prime Suspect* features some of England's biggest stars, including Ralph Fiennes (*The English Patient*), Tom Wilkinson (*Michael Clayton*), David Thewlis (*Harry Potter*), Mark Strong (*Sherlock Holmes*), and Jonny Lee Miller (*Trainspotting*). The ITV series aired for seven series (1991-93, 1995-96, 2003, and 2006).

The set retails for \$124.99; see www.AcornOnline.com.



Paul Rudd (right) gets a read on Steve Carell in *Dinner for Schmucks*.



VEHICLE REVIEW

Ford F250: All Hat, All Cattle

BY CASEY WILLIAMS, GAYWHEELS.COM

There's a saying in Texas about a cowboy being "all hat and no cattle". You see them all over—driving their pickup trucks and SUVs to collect the kiddies at dance class or pulling a lone Jet Ski to a mud puddle. When these over-starved cowpokes really need a truck, they choose some wimped-out pretenders that can barely wheeze under their own load. Buying a Ford F250 Super Duty with a diesel engine will put to rest all rumors about the size of their cattle.

If you want to scare the night out of pesky drivers of Smarts and Buicks, Hoover up to their bumper at 70 mph and see what happens. If the air you're displacing doesn't displace them, they will quickly displace themselves to the right-hand lane. Let them get a load of that meteor-sized chrome grille and Ford Oval as big as a football. When I see the crew cab truck in prairie-hued metallic brown livery, I don't know if I should run from it or polish it. For sure, you can't deny it.

Climbing into the saddle may be tough as you step on the big step chrome bars and heave up to the A-pillar-mounted grab-handles, but once seated in leather thrones, you'll have an easy view of your cattle and all they graze. Inside, notice the urban-outback themed woodgrain and silver metallic dash panels, camo leather seat inserts, leather-wrapped steering wheel and huge center storage console. Automatic climate control will roast and freeze with ease. Ford's SYNC system allows for voice-activated calling, audio, and navigation. Truck stops with B20 diesel can be found just by asking. All prepped for work, the F-250 comes with trailer brake controllers and four uplifter auxiliary switches on the lower center control stack. A cool step with grab bar slides out of the tailgate to ease entry to the bed. Side and side curtain airbags are optional to enhance safety.

You don't buy a Super Duty because you want a pick-up truck for domestic duties. There are far better choices for commuting to work and carrying a little mulch. This is what you buy to pull the mini-yacht, a stable of horses, or a 30-ft. fifth-wheel through the mountains without losing your (or your truck's) cool. Open the hood and try to count all of the radiator coils. If it uses or moves fluid, there is probably a coil up front to cool it. Properly-equipped, Super Duty trucks can tow 24,400 lbs. or haul 6,520 lbs. of payload, or roughly equivalent to 13.5 Smarts in tow or 3.5 in the bed.

To do this, the Super Duty requires lots of power. You can get a 6.2-liter gasoline engine in the truck, but I wouldn't. There is no comparing ponies with Power Stroke® 6.7-liter turbo-diesel V8 that produces 735 lb.-ft. of torque at 1,600 rpm and 390 hp at 2,800 rpm—85 lb.-ft. and 40 hp more than the 2010 model. Ford claims best-in-class fuel economy and the ability to run on B20 biodiesel fuel. In mixed driving, much of it running at super-legal speeds on the Interstate, the truck achieved just under 16 mpg. Given the truck's capability, that's impressively frugal. There are many 1970s cars that couldn't get 16 mpg going down a mountainside, and they could barely pull six Christians to church and back.

Gas and diesel engines are mated exclusively to six-speed automatic transmissions, with column-mounted selectable gear capability, that enable Power Take Off. On Super Duty diesels with the PTO option, the truck can be equipped

to power auxiliary equipment like snowplows, aerial lifts, tow truck lifts, cement mixers, or dump trucks. Power is available whenever the engine is running.

On the highway, the big truck is a dream. All of the diesel's torque is at the ready while a unique turbocharger, featuring a dual-sided compressor wheel in a single housing for improved noise and harshness control, breathes easily. The single unit provides the benefit of a twin-turbo, but with faster response (less turbo lag). Empty or loaded, the truck always has an obscene amount of power in reserve.

Since most Super Duty diesels will pull trailers, engineers went the extra mile in providing for safe towing. Trailer Sway Control works with Advance Trac electronic stability control and Roll Stability Control to detect trailer sway, apply brakes, or reduce engine torque to correct unwanted motions. The built-in trailer braking works with the truck's anti-lock brake computer to minimize the potential for trailer wheel lock-up. During a sway event, the system can apply brakes to stabilize the trailer. Hill Start Control (sets brakes to hold the vehicle on an incline), Hill Descent Control (creeps down inclines), and an electronic locking rear differential work in concert to get the most of friction.

I think it was Christine Baranski's character Tanya in *Mamma Mia!* who was messing around with the kid that was "all mouth and no trousers." Drive up in the F250 and everybody will know you're packing a full set of pants. Price as tested came to \$60,810 including the \$7,835 Powerstroke Diesel V8 option, 4x4, Crew Cab with 6.75' bed, and Lariat package. Competitors with heavy-duty diesel models include the Dodge Ram, Chevy Silverado and GMC Sierra.

VEHICLE REVIEW

2011 Buick Regal

BY JEFF STORK, GAYWHEELS.COM

The Regal nameplate returns to the Buick lineup for the 2011 model year. The original Regal made its debut in 1973 as a personal luxury coupe and bore the distinction of being the first mid-sized Buick to feature a stand-up hood ornament, opera windows, and plush velour seats. The newest iteration of Regal leaves those disco ball memories behind, appearing instead as a front wheel drive mid-sized sedan based on the latest Epsilon platform. Adapted from the Opel Insignia, the Regal is already on sale in China and will enter the North American market this quarter. Initial production for the U.S. market began in Germany and will move to Oshawa for the 2012 model year. Buick is taking a page from the Lexus playbook with two different mid-size sedans in its lineup. At 190 inches overall length, the new Regal is shorter than the La Crosse, has totally unique styling, and will be marketed as a sports sedan.

There are two different powertrains for the new Regal. The base CXL sedan offers a 2.4-liter Ecotec four-cylinder engine that develops 182 horsepower and 172 lb/ft of torque. It's mated to a six-speed transmission with manual shift control and offers EPA fuel economy rating of 20 mpg city, 30 mpg highway. The Turbo version, due later this year, will feature a 2.0 liter turbocharged four that develops 220 hp with 258 lb.ft of torque, and is fitted with a specially selected six-speed Aisin automatic transmission. The Aisin also features manual shift control, and a six-speed manual transmission will become available on the Turbo later this year, for those of you who are fond of grabbing the stick.

The exterior styling is clean and contemporary,



Ford F250.
Photo
courtesy of
GayWheels.com

with smooth flowing lines and a well-tailored look. Eighteen-inch wheels are standard, with optional 19s for the turbo. Both wheels look like something from the Jaguar XF brochure: it wasn't the only time I saw the XF in the Regal and it's not an unflattering observation. I see a lot of Jaguar in the side cove line, rear roofline and rear door styling as well. Up front, Buick's trademark waterfall grille takes center stage, but the overall effect remains clean, contemporary, and quite European.

The interior is nicely tailored as well—the standard leather seats are supportive and highly adjustable—the test vehicles had power lumbar, and felt very much like the seats in a Saab 9-3. Dash was well laid out and featured an integrated color navigation system (\$1,995). I found the display a bit small, but it was quite easy to use—I even managed to engage route guidance on the fly. The quality of interior materials seemed quite good, and much more akin to the Cadillac CTS than the Saturn Aura incarnations of the Epsilon we have driven in the past. Harmon-Kardon audio was a step up from traditional Delco sounds, the door panels flowed nicely into the dash, woodgrain trim was relatively tasteful, and the overall effect was upmarket and classy. Kudos for the stitching on the dash, the tactile feeling of the controls and even for the Ice Blue instrument lighting—it creates a feeling overall that GM designers have been shopping in nicer stores these days.

I was able to drive both the CXL and Turbo versions on some delicious two-lane winding roads, and my impression is that both are quite well mannered—smooth riding, easy handling with a nice on-center feel, and a well planted rear axle that knows where it belongs—again, road manners were much more Saab-like than Saturn. The 2.4 liter four was impressively smooth and quiet, and although acceleration was adequate, it won't win any drag races. (I had to go there, didn't I?) The Turbo's drivetrain is much more rewarding, with smart off-the-line acceleration and a much fuller torque curve to make the most of those twisting rural roads. Neither is a dragster (there I go again) but rather a pair of nicely mannered sport sedans that could eat up a lot of pavement quickly. Our Turbo also had the Interactive Drive Control which controls settings for suspension, steering, braking and throttle—and definitely enhanced the sporting personality of

the Turbo on our drive. I did have one humorous moment on the drive—stuck behind an ancient F150 gardener's truck on a two lane stretch of twisty road, I peeked at the speedometer registering 39 mph, turned to the GM exec riding with me, and commented that this was the only part of the day in which I had truly felt like a traditional Buick driver.

Base price for the CXL is \$26,995 including destination, the Turbo starts at \$29,495, with a full-boated Turbo around \$33,000. For those looking at a well-tailored and well-mannered mid-size sedan, it definitely earns a spot on the short shopping list. Check this one out—maybe you would really rather have a Buick this year, after all.

General Motors' 'Designing Women'

BY NICK KURCZEWSKI, GAYWHEELS.COM

General Motors (GM) presented its "Designing Women" exhibition, a look back at the influence of female automotive designers within the American automotive giant, June 28 at the Museum of the City of New York.

From post-WWII North America, through the era of horn-rimmed glasses and tail fins, and up to modern-day machines like the Cadillac XTS Platinum Concept, the event offered a candid take on the female influence within the halls of the GM design world.

The presenters included Teckla Rhoads, GM director of global industrial design; Susan Skarsgard, a former GM designer (the Saturn brand's logo was her creation) and lead archivist for the project; and Christine Park, creative designer at Cadillac.

Interspersed with fantastically campy footage of corporate videos dating to the 50s and 60s, you'd have to be suffering the effects of one too many liquid lunches not to have been fascinated with the story of the GM's first 11 female automotive designers.

Hired soon after the end of WWII by GM's then head of design, Harley Earl, the influence women could bring to car design rapidly became apparent. GM's PR department dubbed them the company's "Damsels of Design."

See www.gaywheels.com.



Part of General Motors' "Designing Women" display.



Pet for adoption:

Yikes
 Age: 10 years
 Gender: Female
 Color: Brown Tabby
 Altered: Yes

Yikes a young 10 years old and is a very pretty, front-declawed brown tabby who has big green eyes. She is a gentle and friendly girl, although having only recently arrived in the adoption room, she is still getting used to her new surroundings and is a little scared. But just come and visit her and you will soon hear a meow that will steal your heart. Yikes will chit-chat a bit to get your attention, so you don't pass her by!

Yikes is a pleasingly plump girl that probably should lose a little weight in her new home, but for now there is just a bit more of her to love. She would be a great new addition to the family and would be a wonderful friend for your present older feline family member.

So stop on over to The Anti-Cruelty Society and ask to meet Yikes, #10175747. This sweet girl will have you at "meow"! Yikes is ready to go home today.

Call 312-644-8338. www.anticruelty.org



Yikes. Photo courtesy of Anti-Cruelty Society

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LAKEVIEW DUPLEX ARCHITECT-DESIGNED Sunny one bedroom, approximately 1000 sqft. 1-1/2 bath, washer/dryer, central air, glass bridge, skylights. Near transportation, Southport restaurants, Music Box. No smokers or pets, please. Available October 1. \$1200.00 month. 773-485-1956. (8/4/10)

4 BEDROOM - LOGAN SQUARE, Moffat street at Kedzie (south of Armitage), 4 BEDROOM, TWO BATH TWO STORY DUPLEX, new fridge/oven/carpeting. Central AC/heat. Quiet street. \$1290. 219.902.1715 (7/28/10)

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WELCOME TO ZANDERSONVILLE!
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Two Lincoln Park Lagooners during last year's Haunted Tour. Photo courtesy of the group

Lagooners: Into the wilderness

BY ROSS FORMAN

Once known as "The LPL Rafting Trip," the annual summer-time excursion to the Glacier Wilderness Campground near Elton, Wis., has, well, changed with the times.

The Lincoln Park Lagooners (LPL) now present the event as the Wisconsin Wilderness Weekend—because there is much more to it than just rafting.

"This is one of the most relaxing and rejuvenating events around," said Felix Quintiliani, who has been on the LPL executive board for 23 years. "Glacier Wilderness Campground is beautiful and totally private; we reserve the entire campground for our event. The food is catered and quite delicious. So many of our members who have attended this camping trip come back year after year and never tire of the beautiful surroundings and totally relaxing atmosphere. We are a very friendly group, very nurturing and welcoming of new attendees. This trip is a tremendous value, and a weekend without drama is included."

The 2010 Wisconsin Wilderness Weekend is set for July 29-Aug. 1, and about 35 LPL members are expected to attend.

The campground has hiking trails, wooded and open areas, a scenic creek running through it, and more. Near the campground are a private trout pond (no license required), lake swimming, wilderness hiking trails, casinos, and a horseback riding stable. Members also often participate in on-site sunbathing to board games.

And they also participate in rafting—in two-person rubber rafts down the Wolf River through the Menomonee Indian Reservation.

"The friendships—or friends for life, as I call them—are the most rewarding part of my involvement with LPL," said Quintiliani, 56, who lives in Lakeview and has a partner of five years, Luigi. "We have had so much fun and met so many wonderful people [through LPL]. We come together for a brief time, but the memories and the smiles last forever. I could go on and on. [If you] attend one of our events, you'll be hooked. This organization is unlike any other group that I've had the pleasure to be involved with; I've tried the rest, LPL is the best."

Quintiliani serves as LPL's unofficial "madame secretary for Life," he joked—and he has the plaque to prove it. LPL is a non-profit social organization for the LGBT community.

"I record and maintain the official minutes and records of the organization and assist with events as needed," he said.

LPL members range in age from their late 20s to their mid-80s, and they come from all walks of life: medical personnel, lawyers, accountants, business owners, bartenders, servers, chefs, entertainers, administrators, IT support staff and more.

"We have mostly gay men and a handful of women who participate in our events," Quintiliani said. "We are open to all [21 and over] and everyone is welcome."

"The goal of LPL is camaraderie; we have all made 'friends for life' just from attending some of the events. Providing our members with the best value for their money is one of the board's objectives; we realize how tight money is for everyone these days. There are no membership dues."

Quintiliani said one of the best parts of the LPL is the "eclectic mix of personalities within the group."

So, yes, the memories are plentiful.

"Oh boy, if those wooded trails could talk," Quintiliani said, laughing. "Seriously, it's our membership that makes it a special organization and one that is not duplicated anywhere in the Chicago area."

The LPL has a variety of events throughout the year, including camping/rafting, game nights, candlelight bowl, boating events on Lake Michigan, picnics and more.

"LPL is a unique organization," Quintiliani said. "I have served on various boards for other organizations and none of them have the passion and dedication to their membership that the LPL board has. Again, it's a unique group of people dedicated to providing a great time for a little money to all who are interested."

For more information on the Lincoln Park Lagooners, visit www.lincolnparklagooners.org.

Chicago Sky's 'Gay Day'

BY MEL FERRAND

The Chicago Sky was a latecomer, joining the Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA) almost 10 years after the association was formed. However, it has been quick to catch up with its sister teams in recognizing all women and the lesbian community, specifically, as a strong component of their fan base. This year, the Sky has surpassed many other teams in the league by hosting an official "Gay Day" July 23.

The Chicago Gay Men's Chorus performed the national anthem and several lesbian groups were represented in the stands, including POW-WOW, Amigas Latinas en Accion, Affinity and the Lesbian Community Care Project—each one mentioned by name over the loudspeaker.

At press time, Windy City Times was not able to confirm if this was a coincidence or scheduled as part of Gay Day but, during halftime, fans were introduced to Chicago's own Jackie Anderson, an African-American lesbian who has been a pillar of the community for years. C.C. Carter, another Chicago icon, secretly nominated Anderson for the Woman of Inspiration Award. Both were pleasantly surprised when Anderson was selected for this honor.

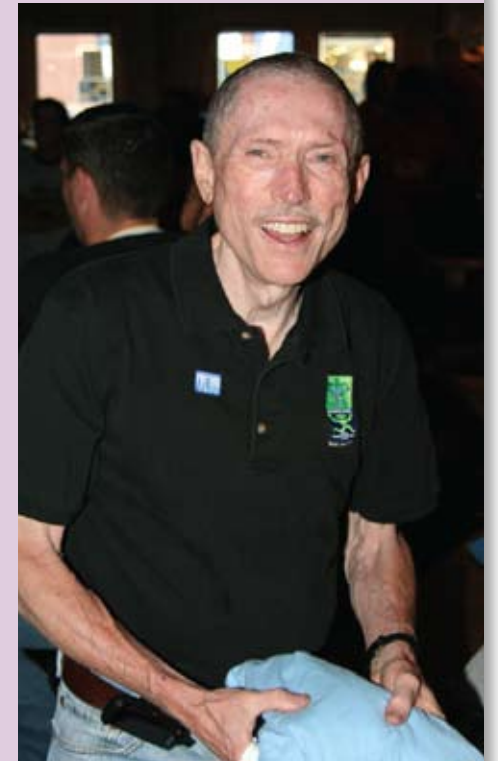
Rollers All-Stars vs. Boston July 31

The Windy City Rollers All-Stars, ranked first in their (North Central) region by the Women's Flat Track Derby Association (WFTDA), will take on the Boston Derby Dames Boston Massacre—ranked third in the East region—Saturday, July 31, at 6 p.m. at UIC Pavilion, 525 S. Racine. Doors open at 5 p.m.

The All-Stars is composed of skaters from the four home teams on the Windy City Rollers, selected by tryouts. The All-Stars represent the league nationally, traveling to play other cities' all-star teams. The 2010 WFTDA National Tournament will be held in Chicago Nov. 5-7.

Tickets (\$20 in advance; \$40 VIP) are available at www.windycityrollers.com, Ticketmaster, the UIC box office or from any WCR roller girl.

Team Chicago off to Cologne



And, they're off—with stylish new blue uniforms.

Team Chicago held its annual Sendoff Party for Gay Games VIII July 24 at Atmosphere Bar in Andersonville. About 200 attended the two-hour event, including about 100 Games participants. The event also was attended by such Games dignitaries as Kurt Dahl and Kevin Boyer, among others. About 125 Team Chicago members traveled to the Games in Sydney.

"Our goal [for the number of Chicago participants] was higher, but we're still happy with the number going," said Team Chicago's Paul Oostenbrug.

Chuck Jacobson, founder of the Chicago Gay Hockey Association (CGHA), said, "I'm not able to go to Cologne, but happy to support those who are. I hope the Chicagoans bring home lots of gold."

And that would include Ivette Garcia and Zaida Sanabia, who attended the sendoff party and will be playing soccer. The two were scholarship recipients, supported by Evette Cardona, Mona Noriega and others. Sanabia said, "Soccer is one of my passions, and now I'm getting to play [the sport] in a different country. It seems surreal. I keep asking myself, 'Am I really going?'"

Cardona and Noriega helped raise about \$4,000 for Garcia and Sanabia. "If they wanted to go, we were happy to help," Noriega said. "We just want to hear all the good stories, see some photos and hope they get to experience a great gay experience."

The opening ceremony for Gay Games VIII is Saturday, July 31.

calendar

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WINDY CITY TIMES



Wed., July 28

Four Women Showcase This is a great musical series focusing on female singer/songwriters in, around and touring thru Chicago. Each Wednesday, "Four" female performers will showcase their talents in a show. For one month, the same four performers will be featured, but will rotate and change their sets. 6pm, Mary's Attic, 5400 N Clark, windycityopenmic.com/

Chicago Area Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce Networking Event Networking in the Vertigo Sky Lounge indoor and outdoor patio with wrap-around floor-to-ceiling windows with incredible views of State Street. \$20 for Members and \$30 for Non Member; 6pm, Vertigo Sky Lounge, Dana Hotel Spa 660 N. State St., Chicago, <http://www.glchamber.org>

Walking With Dinosaurs – the Arena Spectacular Walking With Dinosaurs, featuring seventeen life-sized dinosaurs 0 the largest of which is 36' tall and 56' long, comes to the Allstate Arena for 8 performances only July 28-Aug 1. 7pm, Allstate Arena, 6920 N Mannheim Rd, www.dinosaurlive.com

Tajma Hall's Birthday Revue A special Hydrag revue to celebrate Tajma Hall's birthday. Hosted bar featuring Skyy Vodka cocktails 9:30-10:30pm Featuring Aurora Sexton, Dida Ritz and some special surprises. 9:30pm, Hydrate, 3458 N. Halsted, <http://www.hydratechicago.com>

Thursday, July 29

AIDA produced by Bailiwick Chicago In its first Chicago production since the national tour, Bailiwick Chicago's newly envisioned production of AIDA features stunning cho-

BUTT SERIOUSLY Saturday, July 31

Singer Samwell, known for his novelty hit "What What (In the Butt)," will be at Mary's Attic.



reography by the modern dance company Deeply Rooted Dance Theatre, a six-piece band, and a cast of 20 talented actors, singers, and dancers. Performances: Thurs and Fridays 8pm, Saturdays 3pm and 8pm, and Sundays 3pm. 8pm, 866-811-4111, American Theater Company, 1909 W Byron, <http://www.bailiwickchicago.com>

Frat House Thursdays at Scarlet Join Scarlet and ChicagoPride.com's Paul Blackburn & Bill Pritchard as we host all frat guys and their fans. 10pm, Scarlet, 3320 N Halsted

Friday, July 30

'San Francisco' exhibit "San Francisco in the 1970s"—a photographic exhibition featuring the photos of Jerry Pritikin, a Chicago publicist, gay-rights activist and Chicago Cubs fan known as the "Bleacher Preacher" Features photos of gay life in San Francisco's Castro neighborhood, which was an epicenter for the gay-rights movement prior to the AIDS epidemic of

the '80s. Through Aug. 13, 2010. 1am, Gage Gallery, 18 S. Michigan, Chicago, www.roosevelt.edu/gagegallery

Gerber/Hart Library Summer Spectacular Book Sale Thousands of books, both LGBT and non-LGBT, will be on sale at rock-bottom prices. DVDs, videocassettes, CDs, audiocassettes and vinyl record albums will also be on sale. On Saturday, July 31, "Christmas in July" Day, all gift books will be 25% off. 12pm, 773-381-8030, Gerber/Hart Library, 1127 W Granville Ave, <http://www.gerberhart.org>

Lincoln Park Lagooners Annual Wilderness Weekend Chicago's most active gay social/sports organization wilderness weekend with camp fires, hiking, horseback riding, antiquing and a raft trip down the Wolf River in the tranquility of northern Wisconsin through Aug. 1. www.lincolnparklagooners.org, <http://www.lincolnparklagooners.org>

GirlCrush Ent. Presents: Kiss A Girl Fridays GirlCrush Entertainment presents a WEEKLY Friday Event. This event is for sexy and stylish LGBTQ women and men. 9pm, (773) 459-7168, Plan B, 1635 N. Milwaukee Ave, www.facebook.com/girlcrush220

Gaga v. Goldfrapp Moosebox presents the ultimate musical faceoff between twin goddesses of pop, Lady Gaga and Goldfrapp. 9pm, Wild Pug, 4810 N. Broadway Ave, <http://www.worldsgreatestbar.com>

Saturday, July 31

Women & Children First Bookstore annual used book sale Help support the Women's Voices Fund and shop for incredible values at the same time at our annual used book sale. Scan the stacks for bargains galore in women's fiction, gay and lesbian titles, nonfiction, children's books, CDs and DVDs, and more. 10am, 773-769-9299, Women & Children First, 5233 N. Clark, www.womenandchildrenfirst.com

Be Careful of What You Wish 4 author event Be Careful of What You Wish 4 is an African-American lesbian sci-fi thriller that takes place in Chicago; author Barbara J. Wells signing and reading with food, drinks, dancing. Details TBA. 6pm, Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted, <http://www.authorbarbarajwells.com>

Windy City Rollers All-Stars to face Boston The Windy City Rollers join in the WCR All-Stars, ranked first in their (North Central) region by the Women's Flat Track Derby Association (WFTDA), to take on the third-ranked in their (East) region Boston Derby Dames Boston Massacre. Doors open at 5pm \$20 in advance, \$40 VIP (track-side seats); 6pm, UIC Pavilion, 525 S. Racine Ave, Chicago, www.windycityrollers.com

Samwell LIVE The artist who brought you "What What (In the Butt)" and "Protect Respect", will be performing a special set for his birthday week celebration. 9pm, Mary's Attic, 5400 N Clark, www.hamburg-ermarieschicago.com

Cowboy Eye For the Leather Guy A leather makeover contest. The winner will receive a full cowboy makeover from Alcalá's Western Wear, tickets to Windy City Rodeo 2010 and more. Applications available at the bar. Contest starts at 11pm, meet the new cowboy at midnight. 10pm, Touche, 6412 N Clark St, www.touchechicago.com

Sunday, Aug. 1

WACT brunch info WACT is a brunch and social support organization for lesbians and bisexual women, especially interested in meeting and befriending each other across ethnicities, ages, incomes, etc. Come to one of our brunches, and bring a dish to share. Call for location. 12pm, 773-271-2393, Info at 773-271-2393

Sofa T-Dance Featuring Chicago's hottest DJs: DJ Oskar, DJ Michael Thomas, DJ Psycho Bitch, DJ Phil DaBeatz and DJ Teri Bristol. Hosted by Sofa Gay Idol Mark Ortega with special guests The Stage Door Johnnies. \$10 cover, portion of the proceeds to benefit TPAN. 3-11pm, in the parking lot across the street from T's (5025 N. Clark St.); 3pm, Sofa, 4923 N Clark, www.sofobarchicago.com

A Boy and His Vagina As the Mayan Calendar draws to a close, two PhDs; gay vaginista Mike Hunt, and Pulitzer Prize winning author Mona Restin embark on an adventure of epic proportion to save the world from the very evil Kirk Cameron's quest to take over the planet via his creepy Lord Is Come Network. 7pm, 773.306.6595, Mary's Attic, 5400 N Clark

Monday, Aug. 2

\$1 Drink Night with DJ Laura B at Hydrate Monday at HYDRATE is \$1 DRINK NIGHT! All well cocktails are only One Dollar all night long! 8pm, Hydrate, 3458 N. Halsted, www.hydratechicago.com

Tuesday, Aug. 3

Bisexual Social/Discussion Night An event for bisexuals, bi-curious, and bi-allies to form community, share ideas and connect with peers. Come out and help build the bi community! We meet for game nights, potlucks, networking, social activism, peer-led discussion groups & more. 7pm, Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted, www.centeronhalsted.org

Haus of Gaga show featuring world-famous Lady Gaga impersonator Derrick Barry. Laura B will spin the Gaga tracks. \$5 cover; \$10 VIP tickets. Purchase you ticket in advance and be automatically entered to win Lady Gaga Lollapalooza tickets. 9pm, Hydrate, 3458 N. Halsted, www.hydratechicago.com

Wed., Aug. 4

Four Women Showcase This is a great musical series focusing on female singer/songwriters in, around and touring thru Chicago. Each Wednesday, "Four" female performers will showcase their talents in a show. For one month, the same four performers will be featured, but will rotate and change their sets. 6pm, Mary's Attic, 5400 N Clark, windycityopenmic.com/

Summer Spectacular Book Sale with thousands of books, both LGBT and non-LGBT, plus vinyl records, videocassettes, audiocassettes, cd's and dvd's. 6pm, 773-381-8030, Gerber/Hart Library 1127 West Granville Avenue, <http://www.gerberhart.org>

Thursday, Aug. 5

(infra)STRUCTURE Opening Wine & Cheese Reception presenting artwork by Mie Kongo and Matthew Messmer. The show will be available for viewing through Aug.



GOO-GOO FOR GAGA Friday, July 30

It will be Lady Gaga (above) vs. Goldfrapp musical face-off at Wild Pug, 4810 N. Broadway. (Note: The artists will not be appearing.)

31; 6pm, 773-677-4573, The Edge Gallery 6318 N. Clark, <http://edgegallerychicago.com>

DIFFA / Chicago Auxiliary Board: M.E. = Motivate + Educate Five neighborhoods across five months to promote awareness of HIV/AIDS and to raise money for the fight against AIDS. 7:30pm, Hydrate, 3458 N. Halsted, www.diffachicago.org/events.html

Friday, Aug. 6

Hal Sparks Up Close and Personal An actor and comedian, Hal is best known as a frequent contributor to VH1, a former host of E!'s Talk Soup, a regular on WCPT's Stephanie Miller Show and as Michael Novotny on Queer as Folk! 6:30pm: Doors open. 7pm: Live show. \$15. Also at 5:30 pm, VIP Meet n' Greet \$35. 7pm, Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted, www.centeronhalsted.org

Thank GLAAD It's Friday Set in popular venues, TGIF events include complimentary ABSOLUT® VODKA cocktails, one-year GLAAD memberships, special guest hosts and nightly prize drawings as... well as the opportunity to network and meet with like-minded professionals. 7pm, Minibar Ultra Lounge and Cafe, 3341 N Halsted, www.glaad.org/2010/tgif/chicago1

Saturday, Aug. 7

29th Annual Northalsted Market Days® The Midwest's largest two-day outdoor street festival. With more than 150,000 visitors it's also one of the largest GLBT-centric outdoor events in the country. Market Days spans four city blocks and has 17 entrance gates and includes four music stages. Also: food and arts & craft vendors—some 400 in total. 11am, (773) 868-3010, North Halsted Street between Belmont and Addison, Chicago, www.chicagoevents.com/event.cfm?eid=124

Hairspray! The Musical Up and Coming Theatre presents Hairspray. Tickets: \$16.00 in advance, \$19.00 each at the door for Adults, \$16.00 for children, students and seniors. 7:30pm, Cutting Hall Theater, 150 E Wood St, Palatine, <http://www.uactheatre.com/>

Sunday, Aug. 8

The Music of the Gershwins & Elton John: A Benefit for Season of Concern. Long-time SoC supporter Karen Bronson has produced this annual SoC fundraiser for over a decade. Seating is limited. Reservations are required. \$20 Suggested Donation to SoC; 3pm, 708-660-9054, Village Theatre Guild Corner of Butterfield Rd. & Park Blvd Glen Ellyn, www.seasonofconcern.org

Saturday, Aug. 14

Caring for Kids; Kenny G, Stephanie Mills, Jeffrey Osborne Every penny raised benefits Shriners Hospitals for Children®. 7 p.m., 800-745-3000, Rosemont Theatre, 5400 N. River



ON A ROLL

Saturday, July 31

The Windy City Rollers All-Stars will face Boston at the UIC Pavilion, 525 S. Racine.

Photo courtesy of the Rollers

BILLY MASTERS

Ciao, bambini. Billy's off to Italy. I usually keep the details of my international travels quiet, but I'm on a mission. Picture it. Milan—1995. A fetching lad, not yet at his sexual peak, was climbing the steps of the Duomo when he possibly pushed a pack of nuns who may have tumbled down a narrow, stone staircase. The mother superior, who bore an uncanny resemblance to Ernest Borgnine, muttered something in Latin that didn't sound like a blessing. To break this curse, I plan to re-enact this journey without bothering anyone even remotely connected to the clergy—including any former altar boys seeking penance and/or payoffs. I can't say I'm particularly optimistic. A few months ago, I attempted this feat only to find that the roof was closed. It was a sign—figuratively, symbolically and literally. It may have been in Italian, but there was an actual sign! Oy...

When Broadway's sexiest stud, Nick Adams, was cast as a Cagelle in the revival of *La Cage aux Folles* I openly mused that it was a curious choice for an up-and-comer to take a role in the chorus—even a plum assignment like this. But that Nick is as cagey as he is cute. The buff boy's turn in baubles, bangles and beads helped him land one of the leads in the upcoming Broadway production of *Priscilla, Queen of the Desert*. Nick will play "Adam/Felicia"—the role immortalized on screen by Guy Pearce. Most actors dream of being able to create a role on Broadway. And Nicky will get to do that ... and more. The part—played in London by the impossibly gorgeous Oliver Thornton—not only showcases the actor's feminine side, but also his physique in a series of risqué ensembles. The amount of flesh being exposed will likely warrant Nick to start an aggressive tanning regime. Oliver displayed the results in a pube-exposing photo which we'll run on BillyMasters.com.

Over the years, Nick Adams has been featured prominently at the annual "Broadway Bares" fundraiser for Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS. This event has spawned a UK AIDS benefit called "West End Bares: Strip Britannia," which will take place at the Café de Paris in London's West End Sept. 5. The director is my *bon ami* Darren Carnall, who is currently appearing in the West End production of "Legally Blonde" and certainly could give Nick a run for his money in the hotness department (Darren was a Cagelle in the UK production of "La Cage"). And he's secured the hosting services of our very own John Barrowman (who also appeared in the UK production of "La Cage"). Barrowman stated, "I'm thrilled to be hosting West End Bares. What a way to make a difference—being a little naughty on stage for a wonderful cause."

Someone who's been warned *not* to show all is Enrique Iglesias. The Latin crooner made a promise regarding the World Cup: "If Spain wins, I'm going to get drunk and ski naked in Biscayne Bay." Once Spain was victorious, Enrique said he would keep his word. That's when the Miami-Dade cops stepped in, saying if he tries it, they'll cuff him ... which conjures up a tempting image of Enrique: wet, naked and in handcuffs.

The break-up of gay porn supercouple Aden and Jordan Jaric has been quite a rollercoaster. The boys split up shortly after appearing at Jeffrey Sanker's White Party in Palm Springs. (A Sanker party can do that to even the most devoted couple.) Over the past month, it sounded like the pair was trying to repair the relationship. However, things came to a boil when the duo was judging a drag competition in Portland, Ore. Allegedly, Aden hit Jordan on the head with a heavy paperweight. (Note: I've worked in many gay bars and have yet to come across a paperweight.) Jordan called the police. Aden said, "I'll just tell them you hit me" and be-



Nick Adams will be a dancing (and singing) "Queen."

gan to pound himself in the face. Needless to say, liquor was involved. Police didn't believe Aden and he was taken into custody where he remained overnight. Jordan simply said, "I just hope he gets the help that he needs."

According to a recently unearthed interview, Christopher Reeve had an affair with gay porn actor Casey Donovan (real name Cal Culver). No, the interview wasn't with Chris—it was with Casey which, naturally, means it's open to speculation. After all, I could say I had a torrid affair with Zelda Rubinstein—who's gonna prove me wrong? Casey/Cal gave this interview shortly before his death in 1987 and said things like, "Christopher was a great lover and I think I liberated him sexually." And, "I didn't think he was gay, but he seemed willing to try anything once." Allegedly, more tidbits from this confession will be included in the book *Hollywood Babylon Strikes Again*.

Zsa Zsa Gabor recently had emergency hip-replacement surgery. Reportedly, the 93-year-old beauty was watching "Jeopardy" in the bed of her Bel Air home. The phone rang. She reached for it. And before you can say "What is goulash, Alex," she fell splat on the floor. She ended up breaking several bones and was rushed to the UCLA Medical Center. After a 3.5 hour surgery, she's expected to make a full recovery.

Our "Ask Billy" question is from Chris in Tacoma, Wash.: "I never paid attention to Bret Michaels before, but I keep seeing him on TV and he looks like he has a really hot body. Do you have any nudes of him?"

Where have you been, Chris? Bret was once involved with Pamela Anderson—so that means there's video footage (and if there's video footage, it's on BillyMasters.com). Bret appears to have an impressive appendage—but these things always look bigger on the more diminutive dudes (he claims to be 5'9," but I've stood next to him and he's likely 5'7"). As to his body, he always had a lean, well-defined build. These days—hospital stays notwithstanding—he looks like he's put on more muscle. But, let me reiterate—the video footage is *very* hot, indeed!

When we're showing you every inch of Bret's rock of love, it's definitely time for me to end yet another column. Since I'm running late for my plane, let me just remind you to check out www.BillyMasters.com for the latest dish. And while you're online, feel free to drop me a note. In fact, e-mail your deepest, darkest secrets to me at Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before the Vatican takes a hit out on me! Until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible.

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Caroline Symons. Photo courtesy of Symons

Author looks at Gay Games history

BY ROSS FORMAN

Caroline Symons has competed in only one Gay Games, swimming in Amsterdam in 1998. She swam with a Melbourne team, Glamourhead Sharks, but did not win a medal.

But her golden moment in Gay Games history came this year, even before the Cologne, Germany, Gay Games VIII kick off July 31.

Symons, 49, a senior lecturer at Victoria University in Australia, is the author of *The Gay Games: A History*, published in London by Routledge. She was a 2009 Federation of Gay Games Legacy Award winner and, in June, received the main award for contributions to GLBTI sport in Victoria, her home state, from the top GLBTI organization in Victoria.

"This is not my first book, but it is my first fully researched and authored book," she told *Windy City Times*. "The history is based in part on my Ph.D., with extra chapters on the Sydney, Chicago and Montreal events. (Montreal was an offshoot, and not an actual Gay Games, after it pulled out of negotiations with the Federation of Gay Games for hosting the 2006 Games; that's when Chicago re-bid and won the hosting rights in early 2004.)"

Symons' Ph.D. was a lot longer and more theoretical—the book is a significantly revised version.

"The history of the Gay Games in itself is a really interesting story," she said.

Symons said she is "very pleased" with the 302-page book.

"It's a narrative and analysis of each Games, how they were organized and [how each] turned out, challenges, achievements, main leaders and contributors, as well as the broader context and social, economic and political meanings and impacts."

Gender, sexuality and sport are central issues in the book.

Symons said her favorite chapter focuses on Gay Games II, held in 1986 in San Francisco, mostly because of the significance and impact of HIV/AIDS on the Gay Games. Games' founder Dr. Tom Waddell died soon after those Gay Games.

"I have documented the more conventional beginnings of the Gay Games as well as their basis as an alternative multisport event," Symons said. "There are lively tensions between this desire of organizers and many participants to mainstream the Gay Games as a legitimate sport and cultural mega-event with mass understanding and appeal—and those tensions created by the diverse communities participating in the Gay Games and their different interests and perspectives especially concerning the organization and engagement with sport."

So which of the seven to date was the best Games?

"All [have been] different and each has their best parts, strengths and detractors," she said. "I enjoyed Amsterdam because I participated more fulsomely—in sport and getting to so many

aspects of the Games, including the conference at the start, Opening and Closing [Ceremonies], competing in the swimming, the FGG meeting, and many cultural festival events. The sense of really 'taking over' this walking city—being such a gay and festive atmosphere was also fun—and having an equal cultural and sport program, along with human rights emphasis was fabulous. Amsterdam was also very international."

She said the sports program in Sydney in 2002 was "so well organized, probably the best of any Gay Games." She added that the opening ceremony in Sydney "was really special and the policies of inclusion were also strong, with transgender and indigenous peoples being more integrated into the overall program."

"Sydney became well known for its deficit and crisis-management, but the Games themselves went very well."

GAY GAMES from cover

more prepared for the Cologne Games—and to win gold—than four years ago.

"The most important word I will say is: wise," Torres said. "I had my share of racing since the Chicago Games and my mentality towards the sport has given me a different approach as an athlete and a coach. I am calmer, ... insightful and confident."

Torres had best pack his A-game when he jets across the Atlantic Ocean because he's going to have plenty of competition. The marathon, road races and track & field events are the most popular sports this year—with more than 1,500 registrants.

Soccer is the most popular team sport, with about 1,031 registrants. Swimming has 879 participants; there will be more than 820 volleyball players. There are about 500 dance sport participants and more than 400 for badminton.

"People are excited, and looking forward to a very European Gay Games event," said Michael Klein, Games Cologne spokesperson.

Softball had lower enrollment than organizers had expected, mostly because it just is not very popular in Europe and the fact that the annual Gay Softball World Series is being held in mid-August in Columbus, Ohio.

Klein said registrations from the U.S. are, "a bit low, but not unexpected in the current economic conditions in the USA." Airfare overseas from Chicago is about \$1,500 even with advance purchase.

"We are very pleased [with the overall registration]," Klein said. "Some speculated only 6,500 or 8,000 maximum [would register] after Copenhagen was only able to have [about] 4,300 athletes and cultural participants [for the 2009 World Outgames]. Fortunately, Cologne is a well-loved 'Gay City' in Europe and is very affordable for Europeans. The Gay Games focused on marketing to established sports clubs around the world. It helps to have 27 years of history. We think having nearly 10,000 [overall, along] with another 2,000 running side by side with the LGBT people in the half-marathon is quite excellent."

Klein said there are 2,730 registered from Germany, followed by the U.S.' 2,500, followed by 800 from the United Kingdom and 605 from the Netherlands.

"These [Games] will be very special because Games Cologne added a special Gay Games village at Rudolfplatz and Neumarkt in the heart of the city, so the celebrations can occur beyond Opening Ceremony and continue every night in the Gay Games Villages," Klein said. "Cologne is a city that does more than respect diversity; Cologne loves, and lives diversity."

However, Germany has not been without anti-gay feedback of late. In the sports world, no less.

The agent for the captain of Germany's national soccer team has blamed "gay players" for the nation's failure to capture the World Cup title, sparking a firestorm of criticism. Michael

As for Chicago in 2006, Symons noted that it was "organized in challenging circumstances—a real achievement in getting them on within half the time of other Games." She added that Chicago had "very dedicated organizers [and] volunteers with a strong commitment to the Gay Games movement, keeping it alive and successful, breakthrough sponsorship and media coverage, difficulties with a heat wave and problems with the sport program, not very international, [more of] an American Games."

She added: "[The Chicago] Games were proudly American in attendance, ceremonies and programming, as well as in the preservation of Gay Games history and founding principles." [There were more than 11,500 participants representing nearly 70 nations, but each of the Gay Games, even those in Europe and Australia, had strong American participation because the Gay Games



Hector Torres. Photo courtesy of Torres

Becker, who represents captain Michael Ballack, scoffed at the "bunch of gays" on the World Cup team in an interview with *Der Spiegel*. Becker attributed the team's more elegant and agile play to their homosexuality, and said that style over German teams' more traditional aggressive approach cost the athletes a place in the World Cup finals."

Becker also said other players were "jealous" of Ballack, who was photographed for *Vanity Fair*, because they were "mediocre, ugly, un-talented, bureaucratic, provincial, unmanly or gay," noted reporter Alexander Osang.

A spokesman for another German team blasted Becker's remarks, saying the club has, "absolutely no resentment toward homosexuals."

German national coach Joachim Löw refused to respond, saying he would "not stoop so low."

Germany's World Cup team has been hailed for being the youngest in 76 years and more ethnically diverse than ever.

Said Klein, of Games Cologne: "The Gay Games are important to the world. The Gay Games are important even in countries like Germany with strong LGBT rights. The Gay Games change perception of gay and lesbian people in the world. Cologne has always been a very open city with people who like to celebrate. Cologne is one of the most gay-friendly cities in Europe."

U.S. singer Taylor Dayne recorded the theme song for Games Cologne, and donated proceeds from the song to the event organizers. She will perform at the opening ceremony.

"I am amazed at how little time seems to have passed between Gay Games VII and VIII," said Paul Oostenbrug, 60, of Chicago, who is the Federation of Gay Games vice president, membership.

"I love the Games. I had a blast in Amsterdam in 1998, just after I'd moved to Chicago. Gay Games IV was my first full Games as I had taken the train from Boston to New York City in 1994 to enjoy the scene, run the marathon, attend a water polo game and the Closing Ceremony at Yankee Stadium. Being a full week in [Amsterdam], with loads of LGBTs who over-ran the town, was wonderful. I suspect Cologne will have much that same feeling."

Oostenbrug joined the Board of Team Chicago in 1999 and is still active on it.

originated in the U.S. in 1982.]

Symons said one of the biggest surprises she found while researching the book was the "pleasure in doing meticulous research, making life-long friends, being someone that many in the Gay Games movement shared important stories and confidences with. She said she is "very honored and humbled by this and take my role as their storyteller and weaver of significance and meaning very seriously and ethically."

To order *The Gay Games: A History*, visit www.routledge.com. Symons added that it is also available through the FGG's website, www.gaygames.com.

Windy City Times Publisher Tracy Baim was co-vice chair of the Gay Games in Chicago, and she was interviewed for Symons' book.

"Looking at things from Team Chicago's perspective, we are about on a par with Team Sydney," in terms of members, he said. "I am confident that Chicagoans—and our friends from Wisconsin, Indiana, Florida, Texas and other states whose athletes could join our group as we march into Opening Ceremony—will have a great time, meet some world-class LGBTs, win a few medals, and bring home lots of great memories."

Oostenbrug, the president of East Bridge Consultants, is the chairman of the FGG Scholarship Committee, which is responsible for 35 scholarship recipients from various parts of the world other than Eastern Europe, which Games Cologne retained for itself.

He will be running the 26.2-mile marathon and also participating in a few track & field events as part of a 60-and-over team with others from the Sydney Frontrunners.

Oostenbrug is one of about 100 Games participants from the Chicago area.

Cyd Zeigler, 37, of Los Angeles, the co-founder of *Outsports.com*, will be attending the Games, but only as a reporter this time, opting out of track & field events that landed him a gold in 2002, or the flag football gold he won in Chicago.

"While the Gay Games brand awareness has certainly grown, there are just so many more tournaments and [predominantly] gay sports events now than there were 12 years ago," Zeigler said. "People don't have to go to the Gay Games anymore to compete at a high level in their sport. So, coupled with the economic recession and the decision to host the event in Europe, it's not surprising that participation could be the lowest it's been since 1990. People will want to point fingers and claim the event is somehow 'less than' because of the lower-than-expected turnout. But the event will be fantastic for everyone who attends, and I can't wait."

Zeigler said he has "so many" fond past Gay Games memories, "and that's what makes the event so great."

"I can remember trailing, heading into my anchor leg of the 4X100-meter [race] in Sydney and blowing the other guy off the track. I remember finding a 'holiday husband' in Sydney. I remember hobbling over to the swimming center in Chicago, dragging my injured leg with me," he said.

What about a fondest Games memory?

"That is so tough [to pick]," Zeigler said. "For me, it's got to be making the game-winning tackle in Chicago to beat the home team [in flag football]. They were the defending Gay Bowl champions and were heavy favorites to win gold in their Gay Games. Beating them on the last play of the game catapulted us to gold. That was special."

Many more special memories will come from Cologne.

NOTE: Please read profiles of various Gay Games competitors from Chicago who are traveling to Cologne online at www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com.

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

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