



LESBIAN
BOXER
TAKES ON
CHALLENGES

PAGE 51

WINDY CITY TIMES

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

MARCH 14, 2012
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SLDN HOLDS
NATIONAL
DINNER
PAGE 5

Library finds new site, questions remain

BY KATE SOSIN

The Gerber/Hart Library, Chicago's LGBT library and archives, has announced that it will move to Rogers Park at the end of April.

The library announced the move via email to its listserv. The new location is in Clark Point Plaza, 6500 N. Clark St. "In 1998 we moved to the Granville location knowing that we would eventually outgrow the space," said Board President Karen Sendziak, in a statement. "Our needs have changed and the library board feels that the time has come to move."

The announcement came after more than a month of silence on the fate of the library, after Windy City Times first reported that its current location was for rent. WCT has reported that questions remain about why the library decided to move and whether or not it is complying with its bylaws.

According to the organization's mailing sent March 6, "the new space is being constructed to ensure the utmost

fulfillment of Gerber/Hart's mission as a library, an archives and a cultural center. The space will offer a sitting area and a meeting room that also will serve as an exhibit gallery. Two rooms are being designed and constructed to protect and preserve the library's archives and special collections."

However, the announcement does not satisfy all. A group calling itself "Friends of Gerber/Hart"—which previously sent a letter to Sendziak, asking her to delay the move and open up the board of directors—said the new building does not answer its concerns about the library.

"I think the 'For rent' sign was maybe more of a trigger," said Owen Keehnen, a member of the group and former Gerber/Hart board member. "The building looks great, but our issues aren't really with the venue."

Asked to clarify what "Friends of Gerber/Hart" was seeking, the group released a statement:

"We, The Friends of Gerber/Hart, call for the leadership of Gerber/Hart to be transparent in its position as a not-for-profit organization, providing full access to board

membership as well as minutes from meetings. We seek a renewed openness in changing and revitalizing the governance and leadership vacuum of the organization as well as an explanation as to why community involvement has reached its current state. We wish the board to address in detail those efforts being made to bring more interested individuals into leadership positions. We demand that in accordance with the mission statement of the archives."

Windy City Times has reported that questions remain as to whether or not Sendziak's term as president has exceeded limits set by the bylaws, the last known copy of which dates back to 2000.

Such information is not available as the library has not responded to questions from WCT sent the last week of January. Included in those questions is a request for the library's current bylaws and an answer about why the library has decided to move.

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TRANSGENDER
ACTRESS
LAVERNE COX
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TAKING IN
TORONTO
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Living in 'America'

Before coming to Chicago March 27 for an AIDS Foundation of Chicago event, playwright Tony Kushner talked with Windy City Times about, among other things, AIDS and his groundbreaking work, *Angels in America*.

Photo by Joan Marcus

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Natural election

With primary election day right around the corner (March 20), Windy City Times has charts for all state candidates, plus interviews with figures such as out lesbian Metropolitan Water Reclamation District Commissioner Debra Shore (above), who's running for re-election. All the political fun starts on page 13.

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A MESSAGE TO WINDY CITY TIMES READERS FROM BILL KELLEY

As someone who has been active in the fight for equality since before Stonewall, I want to tell you about a pioneer in the gay rights movement who is running for judge.

Former State Representative Ellis Levin was one of the first Illinois politicians we could count on as a reliable ally for Chicago's LGBTQ communities. Besides being an early sponsor of Illinois' first bills to outlaw discrimination because of sexual orientation, Ellis sponsored hate crimes legislation to force law enforcement to take attacks on our communities seriously.

When the AIDS crisis hit in the 1980s, Ellis was again our point person. He sponsored the AIDS Confidentiality Act; he supported funds for treatment and public awareness; and he backed laws ensuring long-term care for people with AIDS.



Bill Kelley and Ellis Levin

In 1977, Ellis became the state's first elected official to march with us in the Pride Parade. For these and many other reasons, Ellis was inducted into the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame as a Friend of the Community.

Ellis had the guts to stand up for us when it was not popular. Now we need to stand up for him. **Please join me in supporting ELLIS LEVIN for Judge in the 8th Subcircuit (Cole vacancy). Punch 191!**

Thank you,

William B. Kelley

Former Chairperson, Cook County Commission on Human Rights*

Former Co-Chairperson, Illinois Gay Rights Task Force*

P.S. The Chicago Bar Association stated that Ellis is Qualified, stating that "Mr. Levin is highly regarded for his integrity and knowledge of the law."

**For identification only*

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(COLE VACANCY)

PUNCH
191

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Photos on cover (left, from top): Madeline Guzman pic from Guzman; Thomas Roberts at SLDN national dinner by Tracy Baim; Laverne Cox PR photo; pic of statue in Toronto by Jerry Nunn

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TALKING HEADS
Read interviews with political candidates such as Debbie Halvorson (left).

Photo from campaign team



WCT talks with Justice Dept. LGBT liaison Matt Nosanchuk.

Photo from Nosanchuk



Read the Bent Nights reviews of concerts by Kelly Clarkson (above) and Baby Teeth.

Photo by Vern Hester

PIANO MAN



See photos from Michael Feinstein's recent concert.

Photo by Jerry Nunn

ASK LAMBDA LEGAL
Scott Schoettes talks about the Affordable Care Act and HIV.

IN THE HUNT
Read an interview with R&B star Van Hunt, who talks about his song "Cross-Dresser."

THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT
Read entertainment news about Janet Jackson, Adele and Brad Goreski.

plus **DAILY BREAKING NEWS**

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Punch 119

Elect **Patrick J. SHERLOCK** Illinois Appellate Court Judge

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Priest who denied lesbian communion placed on leave

BY CHUCK COLBERT

A priest in the Washington, D.C., archdiocese who denied communion to a lesbian at her mother's funeral has been removed from ministry and placed on administrative leave.

A three-paragraph letter from an archdiocesan official, dated March 9, broke the news over the weekend.

The correspondence said that "effective today, Father Marcel Guarnizo's assignment at St. John Neumann is withdrawn and he has been placed on administrative leave with his priestly faculties removed until such time as an inquiry into his actions at the parish is completed."

Bishop Barry Knestout also said "credible allegations" against the priest for "intimidating behavior toward parish staff and others that is incompatible with proper priestly ministry" prompted the action.

The bishop also cited "the grave nature of these allegations," subsequent "confusion in the parish" and parishioners' "concerns" as reasons for prohibiting Guarnizo "from exercising any priestly ministry" in the archdiocese "until all matters are appropriately resolved with the hope that he might return to ministry."

Knestout's letter was addressed to archdiocesan clergy. His formal title is vicar general and moderator of the curia, which means he is in effect chief of staff for Cardinal Donald Wuerl, the archdiocese's spiritual leader.

During Sunday Masses, Rev. Thomas G. LaHood, pastor of St. John Neumann, read the letter to parishioners, saying Guarnizo's removal was not related to the funeral Mass incident, but "pertains to actions over the past week or two," a point LaHood reiterated.

Before reading the letter, LaHood said, "As we know there's been disagreement within the parish over how and to whom Communion is distributed. From my perspective this disagreement and related emotions flow from love. Love for Christ, really and truly present in the Eucharist. However, how we live out this love is important. The Scriptures tell us that we are known above all by how we love."

"I realize this letter is hard to hear. Please keep mind that this is a first personnel issue, dealing with issues of ministry in the church. Father Guarnizo will have every opportunity to present his position," said LaHood.

An audio recording of LaHood's comments was posted at www.restore-dc-catholicism.com.

Specifics of the "actions" transpiring "over the past week or two" are not yet clear. But conser-



Barbara Johnson. Photo by Marvin Joseph

vative bloggers have defended Guarnizo at the same time challenging Johnson's version of the story by citing anonymous sources as witnesses to the incident in their disputing of her account.

Johnson has also been inaccurately dismissed in the conservative blogosphere, she said, as a "Muslim, Buddhist, and communist."

Reached by telephone, Johnson said, "I am a confirmed Catholic who has been greatly influenced by the work of Thomas Merton, a Trappist monk."

"One of the most relevant quotes of Merton, she added, "is his saying something to the effect that before he died, he wanted to be the best Buddhist he could be. If that's good enough for a Catholic Trappist monk, who is one of the most holy men of the 20th Century, that's good enough for me."

Johnson went on to say her "embracing of the teachings of the Buddha, in addition to the teachings I learned as child and hold dear to this day, is no contradiction for me."

"Nothing I have done or said in relationship to Buddhism conflicts whatsoever with my identity and practice as a Catholic."

In response to the letter announcing Guarnizo's removal, the Johnson family released a statement saying they "continue to pray for the Archdiocese of Washington, Father Guarnizo, and all Catholics during this time of upheaval. While we understand this letter does not pertain to the events that occurred at our mother's funeral, we are hopeful that Bishop Knestout's decision will ensure that no others will have to undergo the traumatic experiences brought upon our family. We urge all Catholics to put aside

political points of view, and pray that our Church will remain in Christ's love."

LGBT Catholics greeted news of Guarnizo's removal with relief.

"What happened to Barbara Johnson and her family has saddened and outraged Catholics around the country and across the globe," said Marianne Duddy-Burke, executive director of Dignity USA, an advocacy organization.

"I hope that any Church official tempted to use the Eucharist as a weapon or punishment will take notice of what happened here, and refrain from similar action."

For his part, Francis DeBernardo, executive director of New Ways Ministry, said, "The Archdiocese of Washington's removal of Fr. Marcel Guarnizo from priestly duties and parish life pending an investigation is a good first step towards ensuring that full and just reconciliation can occur for Barbara Johnson, her family, and the people of St. John Neumann parish."

"Though the cruel and insensitive way that Fr. Guarnizo treated Ms. Johnson at her mother's funeral is not mentioned in Bishop Knestout's letter, it should definitely be included in any investigation of 'intimidating behavior,' since that label can be accurately applied to his denial of communion to Ms. Johnson at her mother's funeral," said DeBernardo. "For that reason, Ms. Johnson and her family most certainly should be consulted in this investigation."

A gay-positive ministry of healing, reconciliation and social justice for LGBT Catholics, New Ways again called for "better training for priests and church professionals for ministering to and with LGBT people and their family members."

Offering his assessment, Chicago-based Joe Murray, executive director of the local Rainbow Sash Movement, zeroed in on LaHood's distancing Guarnizo's removal from the communion incident. "The Archdiocese has not condemned the actions of Father Guarnizo in denying Ms. Johnson communion," said Murray.

"[It has] merely said another action of the priest has forced them to suspend him. Linking the two actions together would be a naive position," Murray said, adding, "This is a sly move on the part of the archdiocese to make them look good, while at the same time maintaining unofficial support for the priests actions as far as the Eucharist."

A priest of the Moscow archdiocese (Russia), Guarnizo has served at St. John Neumann's for a year.

Nonetheless, Guarnizo grew up in northern Virginia and has spent much time in ministry in Russia and Eastern Europe, which Murray said, "should raise concerns about a more intense form of clericalism, because of the cultural religious differences."

Lesbian feminist theologian Mary E. Hunt, Ph.D., agreed. "While the Archdiocese has gone to some lengths to say that the removal of the priest from pastoral ministry was unrelated to the refusal to give communion to Barbara Johnson, one hopes that that action, combined with his apparent unwillingness to sit politely for her

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—Va. school board rewords "cross-dressing" policy

—Del. governor (left): Marriage will happen

—Chick-fil-A deals with fake flyers

eulogy for her deceased mother and his inability to accompany the family to the cemetery for the final prayers were clues to some serious problems," she said.

"Hopefully, this whole incident will prompt diocesan authorities throughout the church to keep a more careful eye on their personnel. Quality control in ministry is hard to measure but such egregious actions surely meet the test for inadequacy," said Hunt, based at WATER, the Women's Alliance for Theology, Ethics, and Ritual located in Silver Spring, Maryland.

WATER is a feminist educational center and social justice network.

More than two weeks ago, Barbara Johnson was denied communion during her mother's funeral Mass on Saturday, Feb. 25, when the presiding priest, Father Guarnizo, told her, "I cannot give you communion because you live with a woman, and in the eyes of the church that is a sin."

His denial stunned Johnson, a lifelong Catholic and former Catholic schoolteacher, who lives, in Washington, D.C., with a partner of 20 years.

Johnson has local ties here, having lived in Chicago for six years from 1986-1992.

For its part, the Washington, D.C., Archdiocese acknowledged in a statement that Guarnizo had acted inappropriately, saying, "Any issues regarding the suitability of an individual to receive communion should be addressed by the priest with that person in a private, pastoral setting."

The Washington archdiocesan policy of not withholding communion and for priests to counsel Catholics privately is similar to the rule in the Chicago archdiocese under leadership of Cardinal Francis George.

Johnson also received an apology through correspondence from Knestout.

Turn to page 6

JUDGE KAY MARIE HANLON

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PUNCH 113

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SLDN hosts national dinner

BY JEAN ALBRIGHT

Active duty military members, now free to attend in uniform without repercussions, were a large and visual part of the approximately 900 attending the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network (SLDN) annual dinner in Washington, D.C., March 3.

"History in the Making" was the first national dinner after repeal of the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" (DADT). SLDN was originally created in response to DADT becoming law, and the dinner was the group's 20th.

In the impressive venue of the National Building Museum, Valerie Jarrett, senior advisor to President Obama, delivered the keynote address.

She spoke of Obama's support of the repeal of DADT.

"From the day he took office, the president was unwavering in his commitment to repeal of DADT," she said. "In a speech shortly after taking office, he made it clear that, 'We should not be punishing patriotic Americans who have stepped forward to serve their country.'

"And throughout that time, the President's team worked tirelessly with groups such as SLDN, with our military, with members of Congress—building a coalition that could get the job done. Because repealing DADT was not just about changing the law, but about creating an atmosphere of tolerance for one another."

She went on to say, "Perhaps the most remarkable thing about what we have achieved together is that after just a few months, it already appears so unremarkable.

"I'm sure that all of you have seen some of

the recent pictures of gay and lesbian service-members sharing an embrace, or first kiss with a loved one, when they return home from duty—just like any other family. It's a reminder that the men and women of our armed forces have handled repeal with the professionalism and class that we have come to expect from the finest fighting force in the world."

SLDN co-founder Michelle Benecke presented

the Barry Winchell Courage Award to the group of plaintiffs in the organization's ongoing lawsuit challenging the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) and seeking equal recognition, support and benefits for the partners of active duty military members. The award is named for an infantry soldier murdered by a fellow soldier five years into the military's Don't Ask, Don't Tell era. Winchell's parents were on stage for the presentation.

One of the plaintiffs, Chief Warrant Officer Charlie Morgan, spoke for the group of plaintiffs. She is battling incurable stage IV breast cancer and is fighting for full military family benefits to be extended to her spouse and children. She said that the families of gay and lesbian servicemembers face the same burdens

and worries as the families of all military members and should not be denied the same support.

Recently deceased Frank Kameny (who was in the military before he started his activism) and David Guy Gainer (a recently deceased member of the SLDN board of directors) were remembered at the event.

Retired Army Col. Margarethe Cammermeyer also spoke. She is a highly decorated officer who made news in the 1990s when she answered a security clearance question honestly and thereby challenged the military's ban on homosexuality.

MSNBC openly gay correspondent Thomas Roberts emceed the event.

Photo by Tracy Baim; many more photos online at www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com



Col. Stewart Bornhoft, USA, (Ret.) and Pat and Wally Kutteles, parents of murdered Pfc. Barry L. Winchell, with the plaintiffs receiving the Barry Winchell Courage Award. Photo by Tracy Baim; many more photos online at www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com



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Michael Forti will bring over 30 years of federal and state courtroom experience and knowledge to the Cook County Circuit Court. A graduate of Northwestern University School of Law, Michael is the only candidate in his race found Highly Qualified by the Chicago Bar Association and ranked Qualified or Recommended by every other bar association. He is the endorsed candidate in the Simmons Vacancy for Circuit Judge of Cook County.

Among Michael Forti's key supporters are:

- ★ Congressman Michael Quigley
- ★ Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky
- ★ Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle
- ★ Debra Shore, MWRD
- ★ State Representative Kelly Cassidy
- ★ State Representative Sara Feigenholtz
- ★ State Representative Greg Harris
- ★ State Representative Deb Mell
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ON TUESDAY, MARCH 20TH VOTE FOR MICHAEL FORTI

PUNCH
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Former HRC figure announces bid for Congress

BY CHARLSIE DEWEY

Addressing a room full of supporters in Grand Rapids, Mich., March 10, Trevor Thomas, former communications director for the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network (SLDN) and former Human Rights Campaign deputy director of communications, officially kicked off his campaign for Michigan's 3rd District Congressional seat at The Gallery at Bar Divani.

Thomas, an openly gay candidate, is hoping to oust the current seat holder, Republican U.S. Rep. Justin Amash, in November. First, he must win the primary against Democratic challenger Steve Pestka.

"I believe strongly that what he [Amash] brought to the table I can match ... the Democratic Caucus at the federal level is much different than the GOP Caucus. The GOP Caucus is significantly younger. There are not enough young



Trevor Thomas at his campaign launch. Photo by Charlsie Dewey

people taking chances, taking great risks. So I decided to put my name out there and I was told at the beginning that we had a one-in-20 shot, now we are within reach. That thrills me. We are in the margin of error."

Just days before making his official announcement, Thomas received endorsements from former Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm and former Lt. Gov. John Cherry.

Thomas worked on Granholm's successful 2006 re-election campaign.

Former Kent County Republican Party Chair Bob Eleveld, who was also chair of the 2000 Michigan Presidential Campaign for John McCain, introduced Thomas.

Thomas shares many of the values of former President and Grand Rapids native Gerald R. Ford, and is counting on supporters like Eleveld, also a Ford supporter, to help him win the traditionally red area. The primary is Aug. 7.

Thomas will hold a Chicago event at Black Rock Pub and Kitchen, 3614 N. Damen Ave., Thursday, March 22, 7-9 p.m. Contribution levels start at \$25. Email TrevorThomas2012@gmail.com or see www.TrevorForCongress.com.

ABA to issue first Stonewall Award

For the first time ever, an American Bar Association (ABA) commission will formally honor lawyers who have considerably advanced LGBT individuals in the legal profession and successfully championed LGBT legal causes, according to a press release.

The ABA Commission on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity is taking nominations of exceptional lawyers, judges and legal academics for its inaugural Stonewall Award. Nominations must be submitted electronically by 6 p.m. ET May 31. The commission will announce award recipients in September, and the presentation ceremony will take place February 2013.

See www.americanbar.org/groups/sexual_orientation/stonewall_award.html.



Judy Shepard. Pic by Jamie Anne Royce

Judy Shepard takes stage at the Center

BY JAMIE ANNE ROYCE

Judy Shepard, LGBT-rights activist and mother of hate-crime victim Matthew Shepard, spoke at the Center on Halsted on March 10, touting a message of acceptance and education.

Shepard's talk was the opening event for H.E.R. Day, an afternoon of workshops dedicated to women's health, education and recreation.

Matthew was a Wyoming man who, in 1998, was tied to a fence, beaten and left for dead because he was gay. Since her son's death, Judy set up a foundation in Matthew's name, spreading a message of acceptance and successfully advocating for LGBT people to be included in federal hate crimes legislation.

"I want to do something beyond his death. I want to do something for his friends that are still here," said Shepard.

Because she established the foundation and was outspoken about Matthew's death, Shepard said she lost some friends who thought her "actions were inappropriate for a grieving mother."

"The prejudice I feel now is people who won't let me move on from being a grieving mother to an activist," Judy said.

Because H.E.R. day was a women's event, she also addressed the issue of including transgender females in women's-only spaces.

"As individuals, we should be accepted as who we are and express our femininity in any way we want," Judy said.

When speaking of the fight for full federal LGBT equality, Shepard lamented the lack of progress overall, especially for transgender people.

"Transgender [people] will probably be the last

ones to see progress because a lot of people just don't know about them and most don't want to. It breaks my heart," she said.

Shepard highlighted infighting among members of the LGBT community, calling for individuals to unify and fight for each other, not *with* each other. This led Shepard into the crux of her message: End hatred toward all people.

"Ignorance is a huge factor in hate. We hate what we don't trust or understand," said Shepard.

Representatives of the Matthew Shepard Foundation passed out purple bracelets with "Erase hate" printed on them to remind attendees to remove the word "hate" from their vocabularies.

"We use the word 'hate' so freely that we don't remember the impact it has," said Greg Greenhalge, development director of the Matthew Shepard Foundation. "Your story is the most powerful tool in erasing hate. What you say has a huge impact."

Minnesota school district settles with LGBT students

The Departments of Justice and Education, together with six private student plaintiffs and the Anoka-Hennepin School District, filed a proposed consent decree in the U.S. District Court for the District of Minnesota, resolving complaints of sex-based harassment of middle and high school students in the school district, according to a press release.

The students in the case will share in a \$270,000 cash settlement.

If approved by the court, the consent decree will, among other things, ensure that the school district:

- Retains an expert consultant in the area of sex-based harassment to review the district's policies and procedures concerning harassment;

- Develops and implements a comprehensive plan for preventing and addressing student-on-student sex-based harassment at the middle and high schools;

- Enhances and improves its training of faculty, staff and students on sex-based harassment;

- Hires or appoints a Title IX coordinator to ensure proper implementation of the district's sex-based harassment policies and procedures and district compliance with Title IX;

- Conducts ongoing monitoring and evaluations of its anti-harassment efforts; and

- Submits annual compliance reports to the departments.

The consent decree will remain in place for five years.

"Harassment by or against students in schools is unacceptable, and not a 'rite of passage' to be endured by anyone. Parents are entitled to know that their children will be safe in school every day," said Thomas E. Perez, assistant attorney general for the Civil Rights Division.

PRIEST from page 4

"I am sorry that what should have been a celebration of your mother's life, in light of her faith in Jesus Christ, was overshadowed by a lack of pastoral sensitivity," the bishop wrote.

Altogether, the most hurtful of Guarnizo's actions was his not being present at the cemetery with the family for their mother's burial.

That is "most egregious and upsetting to us," said Johnson during a telephone interview.

"It wasn't my funeral, it was our mother's funeral. As her children who adore her, it was our responsibility to make sure she had a beautiful and holy funeral, a sacred ritual for her soul," Johnson explained.

Although Guarnizo refused her the Eucharist, Johnson in fact received communion

from a lay minister, during the funeral Mass, she said.

Johnson voiced praise for Knestout's apology and LaHood's pastoral care.

Initially, Johnson "reached out to Father Marcel through e-mail," she said, but getting no reply, "I wrote to LaHood. He was loving, pastoral, compassionate and very kind in our subsequent telephone conversation."

Asked about her initial insistence on receiving an apology from Guarnizo, Johnson said, "I am done."

And yet, "I will always welcome a conversation with him, always," she said. "I have prayed that the two of us could have a conversation because I think we are more alike than different in our love for the Church."

"I am the kind of person who likes resolution," Johnson added. "I would cherish a direct, private conversation."

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JUDGE Celia Louise
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Punch
#182

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'Out in Chicago' curators bare all

BY YASMIN NAIR

The Chicago History Museum (CHM) hosted the last of this season's "Out at CHM" programs with a panel discussion, "Curators Bare All"—about its "Out in Chicago" exhibit, which is set to close on March 26. The event took place at the museum March 8.

The exhibit's co-curators, Jill Austin and Jennifer Brier, worked on the exhibit for three years before its unveiling in May 2011. They discussed the many often difficult decisions they had to make about what materials to include in or exclude from the exhibit, and how and why they decided upon the various themes: individuals and their bodies, family and home, communities, and political action.

The discussion was moderated by Bill Savage, a senior lecturer in English at Northwestern University and a researcher of Chicago history. His brother—Dan Savage, well-known syndicated sex columnist—was announced as a last-minute addition to the panel on the day of the event. The latter contributed some observations and several lively quips that kept the audience laughing, but the discussion focused mostly on the curators' work.

Austin and Brier discussed how they were able to "mine" the museum's own extensive archives and catalogs and discover items that had until then not been seen by the public or even by many researchers. Among the finds that emerged from their research were two photographic negatives of images of Evelyn "Jackie" Bross, who was charged with dressing as a man in 1943, and whose subsequent arrest and trial set off a firestorm of protest that caused an emendation in the cross-dressing law.

The discovery of these negatives would have been remarkable enough but it would then become part of an even more surprising discovery for some visitors to the museum. A female visitor to the exhibit who saw the photos of Bross recognized her as her husband's great-aunt, and came back with her third-grader daughter, telling her, "You need to see this. It's about your family." Brier said that while "we tend to think of cross-dressing as part of an identity," it was also, crucially, for many, a question of finding work: "It was easier to find a job as a man than as a woman." At the same time, added Austin, such moments also show that we might today consider transgender history "has always been part of this [city's history] from the beginning."

Class and race matters were central to how the curators conceived the telling of the story of Chicago's LGBTQ history. They sought to make the city's backdrop of widening racial segregation and gentrification over the course of its history integral to the narrative about the history of its LGBTQ community. As an example, Brier described how they integrated an image of a heterosexual family from an advertisement for the Carl Sandburg Village, an urban renewal project begun in the 1960s and located near the museum itself. It was, she said, "the moment when heterosexuality entered the exhibit ... showing that the way that housing gets built is a queer story." It was also a sign "that gay Chicago is not just Boystown."

Prompted by Bill Savage's question about what was left out, Austin and Brier put their responses in the context of what they described as a brave act on the part of the museum: to even support such an exhibit. They went on to speak about the exclusion of some of the more overtly sexual material they had hoped to include, such as a prop from the famous Capricorn Party (an annual lesbian party). They had wanted to display the "Wheel of Debauchery," a handmade party game that included descriptions of sexual/erotic acts but, in the end, as Brier put it, "it did not pass curatorial review" [by a larger committee]. She

said that those who opposed the display were afraid it would become the "Maplethorpe of the exhibit," especially given the then-controversy around the 2010 David Wojnarowicz exhibit in the "Hide/Seek" exhibit at the Smithsonian.

The wheel was eventually replaced with a black bra from the Black Bra party, which has come to replace the Capricorn Party. For Brier, the wheel, with its very specific sexual instructions, had been a way to indicate how lesbians were creating their own sexual selves whereas a black bra is an object that conveys very specific meanings to a straight audience. The curators have written about this specific aspect of the exhibit in a jointly written article slated to appear in the journal *Radical History Review*.

The discussion also touched upon the issue of deciding what and/or who might be considered gay or lesbian enough to be included in the exhibit. The curators spoke of Jane Addams, and of being asked if their inclusion of her meant that they considered her a lesbian. Brier said



Jill Austin. Photo by Yasmin Nair

her response was, "No, but she lived with other women" and that "she belongs here not because she's a lesbian, but because she belongs to our queer past."

With respect to Addams, they said they did not want to be overly celebratory and Austin pointed out she had been a woman of contradictions. While she stood up for their rights, Addams often told the young girls she worked with "not to have fun in the streets." About the larger impulse to sometimes declare something gay

by association, Brier said that such an exhibit sought to reveal the complexity of identity and its relationship to matters like class and race: "Material culture doesn't become queer because it was touched by a gay. Queerness [is] an interpretive strategy."

Asked about what parts of putting together the exhibit were most fulfilling, Brier and Austin spoke of their surprise at "how many new audiences we reached out to," especially the many groups of youth from diverse communities in and around Chicago. They also said that while they had expected opposition, they were pleasantly surprised to not see any public displays of the same, such as protests.

Questions from the audience touched upon the issue of how people might make up their minds about whether to leave their materials to the Gerber/Hart or to the museum. The curators concurred that a lot would depend on which institution would be the best place for materials and how the public might gain the most access to and use from the materials. Austin pointed out that CHM's interest lay in what was best for materials, not in procuring them for the sake of doing so: "There's no rivalry that exists. We look at what's best for the collection." Brier added, "Nobody owns the gay past but we do all need to do our best to preserve it."

Punch
#173

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- The Hellenic Bar Association
- * The Lesbian and Gay Bar Association
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Paid for by Friends of Judge Peter Vilkelis

Lakeview bar under fire for sexism allegations

BY KATE SOSIN

A Lakeview bar has come under fire over allegations that it does not serve women during peak business hours.

According to reports, Wang's, 3317 N. Broadway, has denied service to women not accompanied by men after 11 p.m.

The Huffington Post broke the story in an in-depth look at the bar, which shares a location with Wakamono sushi restaurant. According to the Huffington Post, a sign in the bar notes that women will not be served after 11 p.m.

More than half of dozen reports of gender discrimination at Wang's can be found in the bar's Yelp.com reviews.

Wrote one woman: "My girlfriend went up to the bar to ask for the drink menu, and he literally told her: 'I can't serve you unless you are accompanied by a man.' At first, she thought he was joking, so didn't know quite what to respond, but he kept a straight face and went about his business."

The Illinois Human Rights Act mandates equal access to public accommodations regardless of gender.

The Illinois Department of Human Rights (IDHR) has looked into the matter, said Mike Claffey, a spokesperson for the department, but so far no investigation is pending.

"We cannot verify the claims," said Claffey.

No formal complaint has been filed against Wang's, Claffey confirmed. As such, IDHR has not launched an official investigation.

An IDHR representative went to Wang's to follow-up on the allegations, however.

"We were told, and we were shown the picture [of the sign], but we haven't seen such a sign," Claffey said.

Claffey said that reports of the rule "certainly raised eyebrows," but that further investigation required a complaint to investigate.

Repeated calls to the number listed on the restaurant's website and Yelp.com page were not answered, and no voicemail picked up.

Bond set in fatal Lakeview domestic case

BY KATE SOSIN

Bond has been set at \$500,000 in the case against a Lakeview man who allegedly stabbed his roommate to death in a domestic fight, according to Lisa Gordon, a spokesperson for the Cook County State's Attorney's office.

Herbert VanStephens, 52, is facing first-degree murder charges for the slaying of his roommate John Atkinson, 25.

According to police spokesperson Officer Daryl

Beaty, both men suffered multiple stab wounds and were transported to Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center, where Atkinson was pronounced dead and VanStephens was listed in critical condition.

The men were mutual combatants, police said. VanStephens suffered multiple stab wounds in the abdomen.

The fight broke out on the 600 block of West Stratford Place March 5.

VanStephens' next court date is March 26 at 26th and California.

Rick Garcia joins TCRA staff

BY KATE SOSIN

Veteran activist Rick Garcia has joined the staff of The Civil Rights Agenda (TCRA), Executive Director Anthony Martinez confirmed March 6.

Garcia, who was controversially ousted from Equality Illinois in late 2010, has been active with TCRA throughout the past year.

He has been named the organization's policy director and will be heading TCRA's new "Equal Marriage Illinois" project, according to a statement TCRA issued.



Rick Garcia. Photo courtesy of Ed Negron

"Rick has been a key leader on every gay legislative initiative since the 1980's," said Martinez in a statement. "From Illinois' first human rights ordinance to civil unions, he has been shaping the strategy and leading the policy fight."

Garcia was one of the "Gang of Four" who pushed through the Chicago Human Rights Ordinance in 1988. He was the founding executive director of Equality Illinois, from which he was later fired.

According to a statement, Garcia's relationship with TCRA "started organically."

"They focus on the issues and the fight for equality and they operate statewide," said Garcia. "They are doing the heavy lifting."

Trans woman suing Cicero police for bias, harassment

BY KATE SOSIN

A young transgender woman has filed a federal lawsuit against the Town of Cicero and two of its police officers, claiming she was discriminated against because of her gender identity.

Bianca Feliciano, a Chicago resident, claims that two Cicero police officers singled her out for arrest because she is transgender and then continued to threaten and taunt her.

According to the lawsuit, filed in February, police officers Scott Harris and Jose Calderon stopped Feliciano and a "companion because they were in an area 'known for a high concentration of prostitution-related activity.'"

The suit states that Feliciano was not doing anything that would suggest she or her companion were engaged in sex work.

The lawsuit alleges that both officers were verbally abusive to Feliciano, calling her names and stating that her identification, indicating her female name and gender identity, were illegal.

"Defendant Officers told her not to talk back, threatened her with violence, and claimed that if she was properly disciplined and punished she would not be the way she is right now," the lawsuit claims. "She was then forced to reveal the name that she was given at birth that is no longer her name."

Feliciano was arrested for underage tobacco possession.

The lawsuit goes on state that officers in the Cicero station refused to call her by her legal name. It also alleges that officers referred to Feliciano as a man, used male pronouns and allowed a male officer to search her.

According to the suit, the officers tried to cover up the incident later.

"Subsequent to this formal complaint, Defendant Officers Harris and Calderon wrote an entirely new police report that included false and fabricated allegations of their encounter and interactions with Ms. Feliciano in order to cover up their illegal, discriminatory and unconstitutional treatment of Ms. Feliciano and avoid any discipline or liability for violating her rights guaranteed under the United States Constitution and Illinois law," the lawsuit states.

Ray Hanania, a spokesperson for the Town of Cicero, said that he cannot comment on the pending litigation. He did, however, say that he believes that both officers named in the suit are still employed by the Cicero Police Department and have not been subject to disciplinary action.

"They did investigate, and are investigating the charges," Hanania added.

Hanania said that Cicero has strong policies against discrimination.

Joey Mogul of the People's Law Office is representing Feliciano.

Candace Gingrich-Jones at NEIU March 29

Activist Candace Gingrich-Jones—the lesbian half-sister of Newt Gingrich—will speak at Northeastern Illinois University, 5500 N. St. Louis Ave., Thursday, March 29, at 7 p.m.

Gingrich-Jones will speak as part of the school's Presidential Lecture Series. She will talk about The Accidental Activist, her autobiography, among other topics.

The event is free and open to the public.

PASSAGES

Timothy M. Martin

Timothy M. Martin, a longtime resident of Chicago, died unexpectedly Feb. 27 at his home in Forestville, Calif.

He earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree in 1987 from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, where he concentrated on Time Arts and Film. In 2001, he received a Master of Fine Arts in Time Arts and Ethnography from the University of Chicago. His ethnographic fieldwork included many trips to Haiti.

From 1987 to 1993, Martin was the director of media services at the John Marshall Law School in Chicago, where he professionalized the department and launched video projects that drew upon his ethnographic and technical skills. His film projects during that time included creating short films on Haiti and a video exploring the situation of persons living with HIV/AIDS in Cuba. The film on Cuba was one of the first to document the situation of Cubans with HIV who were confined for life to live in "sicatorios" in Cuba.

He left his position with law school to be a volunteer with the Peace Corps. He served as a Peace Corps Volunteer from 1993 to 1995 in the Democratic Republic of São Tomé and Príncipe, a Portuguese-speaking island nation off the western equatorial coast of Central Africa.

When he returned to the United States, Martin took a series of jobs in e-learning and corporate education. He developed a strong vision of effective skills education through the latest and most effective training media, and became well known in the e-learning community.

He was the business unit manager and an account executive for IBM/Catapult Software Training, where he worked from 1995 to 1999.



Timothy M. Martin.

Martin was an adjunct professor at Columbia College in Chicago from 1996 to 2006, where he enjoyed working with talented students. He was an e-learning consultant from 1999 to 2003 with Allen Interactions, Inc., and the director of business development for the eLearning Guild from 2004 to 2010. He worked with Strategic Learning Development for Tandem Learning in 2010 and was director of business development for the Elearning! Media Group in 2011.

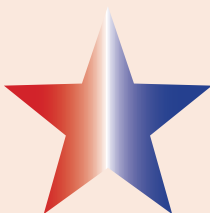
At the time of his death, he was preparing a new project on global legal skills education, bringing together his educational background, interests and vision.

Martin saw himself as an ethnographer, artist, filmmaker and lifelong student of human nature. He loved to travel around the world, taking his last foreign trip into Mexico in late December 2011. He enjoyed living in the woods of northern California, where he had built a home with his former partner, Mario Guerra, and where they raised Martin's son, Andrew Martin.

Martin is survived by a son (Andrew Martin), nephew (Kevin Gurtowski), brother (James), sister-in-law (Mary O'Dell Martin), father (Donald Martin) and mother (Alice Martin).

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WINDY CITY TIMES



2012 PRIMARY ELECTION GUIDE

Welcome to the 2012 Windy City Times Primary Election Guide.

Although a lot of local residents may be looking ahead to the general elections in November, there are many intriguing races in the primary elections March 20.

For example, there is the dogfight in the Second Congressional District between incumbent Democrat Jesse Jackson Jr. and former Congresswoman Debbie Halvorson.

On the state level, there is a heated race between lesbian state Rep. Kelly Cassidy and lesbian challenger Paula Basta in the 14th District.

This week's issue will include talks with Cook County Clerk of the Circuit Court Dorothy Brown and Ald. Ricardo Munoz, who are locked in a battle for her position. Both candidates are formidable, but reveal personal insights in their interviews with Windy City Times.

This issue will also include interviews with several judicial candidates. With the huge number of candidates for various levels of the bench, these talks may help readers to make crucial choices.

As always, there are political charts that show recommendations and endorsements from various organizations and associations as well as candidates' scores on our questionnaire. (Windy City Times does not endorse any candidates.)

Note: Regarding our charts, we have made a couple updates, including revisions of ratings for judicial candidates James Shapiro and Thomas Osran in their Eighth Subcircuit race to fill the Chiola vacancy.

WCT also has its Guide to the Gays, which lists LGBT candidates. There are currently more than a dozen who are running for everything from judicial posts to Metropolitan Water Reclamation commissioner.

Lastly, please do not forget to vote; everyone's voice deserves to be heard. And please feel free to take our charts into the voting booth with you.

Berrios holds LGBT reception

LGBT friends and allies of Toni Berrios gathered at the home of Roberto Sanabria to rally support and raise funds for her re-election bid. Berrios has represented Illinois' 39th district for nine years, but is now in a contested race with an opponent who has claimed she has wavered when it comes to supporting marriage equality. [Berrios answered in the Windy City Times questionnaire that she supports marriage equality.]

LGBT community leaders and allies attended the Berrios event to demonstrate their support. Rick Garcia, the new senior policy analyst of the Civil Rights Agenda, told attendees that Berrios has been an essential force in the struggle to pass anti-bullying legislation in the General Assembly.

Juan Calderon—director of Vida/SIDA and founder of El Rescate, Chicago's only LGBT youth homeless shelter—said Berrios should be recognized as the visionary and creator of the Illinois Statewide Advisory Council for LGBTQ issues. Ruben Feliciano, chair of Illinois' 2nd Legislative District LGBT Advisory Committee, said Berrios was someone who went out of her way to support just and progressive causes, regardless of geography.

Berrios thanked the gathered and praised her LGBT friends for their strong and constant support during the election—one that finds her district redrawn and significantly altered. She told the attendees she worked hard to help get the civil-unions bill passed, and affirmed her support for full marriage equality.

Text by Roberto Sanabria; photos by Ed Negron



Out individuals among would-be delegates

Several LGBT individuals are among those vying for spots as delegates who would attend the Democratic national nominating convention.

Attorney Gail Morse, Ald. Tom Tunney, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District Commissioner Debra Shore and Center on Halsted Executive Director Modesto "Tico" Valle are on the list.

The convention, in which delegates of the Democratic Party will choose the party's nominees for president and vice president in the 2012 national election, is slated for the week of Sept. 3. The event will take place in Charlotte, N.C.



Morse.



Tunney.



Shore.



Valle.

See more online at www.WindyCityTimes.com

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PUNCH # 184

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March 20, 2012because I'm working for you!

Paid for and authorized by Committee to Elect Jesse G. Reyes. A copy of our report is filed with the State Board of Elections and is available for review on their government websites or for purchase from the State Board in Springfield, IL. All contributions are reported.

ELECTIONS '12:

Howard Dean on Obama, GOPs and a presidential run

BY KATE SOSIN

Ask where Democratic Party powerhouse Howard Dean is a week before this season's primaries and you may be surprised at the answer: the northern suburbs of Chicago. Dean has put his weight behind 10th Congressional District candidate Ilya Sheyman, a 25-year-old pro-gay Democrat who is facing off against incumbent Democrat Robert J. Dold.

Dean caught up with Windy City Times while in town for a Sheyman fundraiser. He shared some of his thoughts on the current state of the Republican Party, Occupy movements and the future of conservative social messages, including anti-gay rhetoric.

Windy City Times: Other than Ilya Sheyman's race, what races are you eying this season?

Howard Dean: There are a lot of them. Gabby Giffords' seat in Arizona is certainly one of them. There are some interesting races in New York where we have a chance to take back some of the seats that were won by pretty extreme far-right people. I actually believe we're going to pick up the house this year if Obama wins, and I think he will.

WCT: Some have speculated that this is the last presidential election where you can run as a vehemently anti-gay candidate and be viable. Do you think that's true?

HD: I think in most parts of the country, I think that's true. I think there will be a market for that for a while in some parts of the Deep South, but in most parts of the country that's absolutely true.

WCT: Should the Democratic party adopt a platform of support for marriage equality?

HD: Yes.

WCT: Should President Obama come out for marriage equality?

HD: I don't care about that so much as I care about getting rid of DOMA [the Defense of Marriage Act]. DOMA is blatantly unconstitutional. It shouldn't be enforced. Obviously, I'm in favor of marriage equality, but I think that the prob-



Howard Dean.

lem with marriage equality is that it isn't really equality as long as you have DOMA. We don't have marriage equality in any state right now.

WCT: What do you make of the Republican Party right now?

HD: They've essentially, they've been what I call the "hate wing" of the Republican Party, cultivated in the beginning by Richard Nixon, after George Wallace's success, decided that he would try to appeal to racism in the South and other races. They've been running these anti-immigrant, anti-gay, anti-Hispanic, anti-Muslim campaigns. You can point the finger at different groups and blame them forever, which is an old political trick, but eventually people see through it in a democracy where there are lots of media outlets to counter the kind of propaganda that goes along with it.

The Republicans are going to have to have a total retooling. I do think they're going to lose, and I do think that as a result, they're going

to really focus on economic issues, and the far-right social positions that they take are going to have to be cast off. They're never going to have any chance with people under 35 [years old] with the kinds of things they're talking about and good proportion of women. Obama has opened up an enormous gap among women in this country. It's almost 20 points, the gender gap, and the Republicans have done that for us. That's not something we've done. That's something they've done by attacking every possibility that women have for economic advancement and for social advancement.

WCT: What impact do you think the Occupy movement is going to have on this election?

HD: Well, it already has had the biggest effect it's probably going to have, which is to completely change the political dialogue in the country. This businesses of the 99 percent and the one percent, everyone can identify with that. I think that has recast who the Republicans are and what they believe in. ... They're for the 1 percent.

While there are a lot of people who don't think the Democrats have done a perfect job, they can now see that Republicans are waging a war on women. They care much more about corporations than they do about people. It's pretty clear that the Republicans have no interest in the average person in the country. Their loyalty is to their corporate funders.

WCT: In 2004, when you were in the Democratic primary, you aimed to mobilize young voters with a progressive message and a handle on social media. Do you see that coming fruition now with Occupy?

HD: I think it came to fruition in 2008 in terms of the mobilization of young people. I

think there's actually been a backslide since that time. But I think the climate has changed forever in this country, and I think that Republicans just haven't gotten around to realizing it yet. I'm not entirely sure the Democrats have gotten around to realizing it yet entirely. But they're certainly a whole lot closer than where the average person under 35 is than where the Republicans are.

WCT: What would be your strategy for getting out young voters this time around?

HD: Well, I think that's tough. I think young voters have been somewhat disappointed. I do think the president is a lot closer to where they are than any Republican is, but there's a strong economic message about jobs that has to be delivered by the president, too. We can't just rely on the Republicans to self-destruct here because eventually they'll get better after they have a candidate. The 99 percent, one percent issue is absolutely critical.

WCT: Is there a way for Democrats to work with Republicans to end the gridlock in Congress?

HD: I don't think you can work with an extremist party that doesn't want to compromise.

WCT: Do you have a general prediction for the 2012 elections?

HD: Obama will win. At this point, it's a long way off but I do think he'll win and probably more handily than people suspect. I think he'll bring a Democratic house back, and I think the Senate will be very very close, possibly tied.

WCT: What are the chances we'll see a 2016 Dean presidential ticket?

HD: [Laughs] Well, let's get through this one; then we can talk about that.

ELECTIONS '12:

Lesbian judge Andrea Schleifer on bias, cases

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

In 2010, the Illinois Supreme Court appointed lawyer Andrea Schleifer to the 12th Judicial Subcircuit. To continue serving as a judge, she is running in the March 20 primary. If she wins in the primary and wins again in November, then six years from now she will run to retain her seat on the bench.

Currently, Schleifer's supporters include Rep. Jan Schakowsky, Rep. Mike Quigley, State Rep. Sara Feigenholtz, Ald. Tom Tunney and Commissioner Larry Suffredin, along with many others.

Windy City Times: You are running for the 12th judicial subcircuit. Do you have any opponents? What cities are in your subcircuit?

Andrea Schleifer: I have four opponents. My subcircuit includes Northbrook, Winnetka, Arlington Heights, Elk Grove Village, Mt. Prospect and all points in between.

WCT: As a lesbian or woman, have you experienced discrimination in your career as a lawyer or judge?

AS: I was a very active feminist and as a feminist people assumed, presumed and concluded that I must be a lesbian although I didn't have a relationship with a woman until 1994. In 1988, I did make the short list to become an associate judge but found out later that someone on the interview committee said I shouldn't be appointed because I was a lesbian since they had never seen me with a man. After that incident, I decided to run for the 8th subcircuit in 1994 but I didn't win. At that time some people believed it would be inappropriate to have judges elected who were gay or lesbian so therefore I never made the final cut. Being a lesbian didn't factor into my recent appointment, however. Now when an associate justice list is created, the LGBT community seems to be one of the con-

stituencies that is considered.

I did experience gender bias as a lawyer. I was on a committee in the late 1980s/early 1990s to study the issue. We made recommendations that judges receive sensitivity training which has reduced gender bias in the courts. Over the years it has gotten better for women lawyers in the Chicago area.

Read the full interview online at www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com.

Additional interviews

There are even more interviews online at www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com with a variety of candidates. Those past and present talks include interviews with:

—Judicial candidates Celia Louise Gamrath, Deidre Baumann, Lorna Propes, Michael Forti, Ellis Levin, James Shapiro, Deborah Gubin, Brad Trowbridge and John Ehrlich;

—U.S. House candidates Raja Krishnamoorthi and Debbie Halvorson; and

—Illinois House candidates Paula Basta, Toni Berrios, Kelly Cassidy and Will Guzzardi



Celia Louise Gamrath.

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ELECTIONS '12: METROPOLITAN WATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT

Debra Shore on climate change and her campaign

BY KATE SOSIN

Like many local LGBT politicians, Debra Shore is well known in the city's gay community. However, ask those who know Shore what her job entails as a commissioner of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD), and you're likely to get a blank stare.

It is not an office most people know about, although the job is arguably the difference for Chicagoans between drinking fresh water and sewage, and the difference between staying dry and coming home to floating furniture after it rains. Shore, along with eight other commissioners, holds the seemingly apolitical job of figuring out what to do with the water that comes from our drains and our thunderstorms.

It's a job that evolved out of her efforts as a volunteer environmentalist. Shore, who is active in the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund, is up for re-election, at a time she says, when water management is becoming an increasingly urgent issue. Windy City Times caught up with Shore about why she wants another six-year term, why casting the right vote for the office matters, and what climate change means for Chicago.

Windy City Times: This is not an office most of us are familiar with. Why is it important for us to elect the right person for MWRD commissioner?

Debra Shore: This agency manages our water resources in terms of waste water and storm water, and so it has enormous influence I think on people's quality of life. Increasingly, we live in a world where the water is salty and dirty.

We have seen two years in the last four that have been the wettest on record; 2008 was the wettest and 2011 was the second wettest. People experienced flooding and basement backups throughout Cook County. This agency can't prevent all flooding because these new kinds of storms are overwhelming to the local infrastructure, but it has a vital role to play in working with people in municipalities throughout the county to try to tackle the storms we're seeing, climate change and try to enhance quality of life.

WCT: What are the immediate challenges in terms of climate change?

DS: In terms of storm water, I think we're seeing a new kind of storm, which is more intense and more localized and less predictable, so [you have] the huge storms that compound the experience last July; five inches fell in two hours at O'Hare. That's just a huge deluge, and it's a kind of natural event on the order of a tornado or a hurricane. You can prepare for those but you can't prevent them.

That's happening on a landscape that we continue to pave over and build upon, so that 42 percent of Cook County is now impervious surface, meaning it is parking lots or roads or buildings or all kinds of development that causes runoff. And it doesn't allow rain to infiltrate, and it removes the land's ability to absorb rain. So that's one of the things we can work on, is how do we return some of that capturability for rain.

WCT: Your environmental activism led you to office. Tell me about how you first got involved.

DS: Well, I started out doing this habitat restoration in the early 1990s because I wanted to learn more about nature near where I lived. I found out about these volunteers who go out on weekend mornings to the wonderful forest preserves that we have in Cook County that har-

bor the best remaining examples of our original Midwestern wilderness. Volunteers are seeking to restore health to these remnants by cutting out this invasive brush, by collecting seeds, by pulling weeds.

WCT: Have there been any moments where your environmentalist side was frustrated with the political official?

DS: When I came into office, I certainly supported the addition of a treatment step called "disinfection" at the waste water treatment plants that would kill more of the bacteria that aren't currently in the treated wastewater that's discharged into the waterways. However, I didn't have enough votes on our board to win support for doing that and that certainly frustrated me



Debra Shore.

and my supporters in the conservation community. Happily, over the years, a number of commissioners joined the board who did also support the newer water quality standards and last June, we voted eight to one in support of disinfection.

WCT: What have been your high points thus far as commissioner?

DS: The vote to support disinfection is a high point. Our board selected and appointed a new executive director who began at the end of June. His name is David St. Pierre. This was the first time in 50 years that our board went outside the rank of district employees for this appointment. To me that is significant because it demonstrates a move towards professionalism,

towards seeking the best ideas and fresh perspectives.

I'm also proud of having supported and initiated, immediately after I joined the board, providing domestic health benefits to domestic partners both of same-sex and opposite-sex employees at the district.

I was also pushing to open up our federal lobbying contracts to competition because the district had been renewing a contract with one firm for more than 25 years. They kept getting increases each year and had never allowed other firms to compete for that contract. Finally, last year, we had the votes to do that. The same firm got the contract but their fee was more than \$200,000 less.

WCT: What do you want voters to know about you?

DS: I've been a volunteer doing habitat restoration in the Cook County Forest preserves for more than 20 years. I've been a hiker and camper and climber in the Rocky Mountains. I've climbed 42 of the 54 mountains in Colorado that are over 14,000 feet high. I have a 28-year-old son who is a graduate of architecture school, [I have] and a partner of 18 years. I live in Skokie.

Debra Shore's campaign website is www.debrashore.org.

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ELECTIONS '12:

Judge Mary Trew

BY ERICA DEMAREST

In October 2010—just eight months after losing a Democratic primary in the same district—Mary Trew was appointed judge of the 9th Subcircuit by the Illinois Supreme Court.

"I've been trying to do this [become a judge] for 13 years and, all of a sudden, it just popped," Trew said at the time.

The longtime lawyer and out lesbian has since presided over an area that includes Evanston, Niles, Skokie, Lincolnwood and Rogers Park. On March 20, Trew will face three challengers in a primary race to hold onto her seat for another six years.

Windy City Times caught up with Trew to discuss her new career, busy civil union schedule and prospects for 2012.

Windy City Times: Can you tell us how you got started in law?

Mary Trew: My entire background has been in public interest law. I started out as a public defender in Detroit. [When I moved to] Chicago, I worked for an agency called the Domestic Violence Legal Clinic, where I ultimately became executive director. That agency provides services for victims of domestic violence, as well as other family law services like orders of protection, divorces, and custody help.

In my role as executive director, we started one of the nation's first on-site court clinics in the domestic violence courthouse. My whole career has been about providing services to poor people. I didn't enter law to make money, because I never did. [Laughs] My reason was to increase access to legal services and alleviate the injustices in the world. There's a lot of [injustice] still, but I see a little bit of a difference.

It's been a 30-year career; I hate to say it. [Laughs] Time flies.



Judge Mary Trew. Photo courtesy of Trew

WCT: And did you work at the Domestic Violence Legal Clinic right up until you were appointed judge?

MT: Yes. When I first got appointed, I was in traffic court like everyone else. After about three months, I got promoted to the domestic relations division. I'm in custody and parentage court, which is a specialized court dealing with children and people who aren't married to each other, essentially. It's a pretty good match for my background.

WCT: You've said in earlier interviews that you wanted to be a judge even more than a lawyer. Does that still stand up?

MT: Oh, absolutely. One of the things I had feared when I first became a judge was: What if I don't like this after all this time? [Laughs] It is a little scary at first, when you first take the

bench. Everybody's looking at you, and you're in charge. But I was like a duck to water. My sense that this was something I wanted to do and would be good at is bearing out. I just love it.

WCT: Any exciting moments so far?

MT: I performed a lot of the civil unions when [the Civil Unions Act] first went into law last year. I've probably done about 60 or 70 of them. It's really a nice feeling to be able to do that. As a judge, I do so many things that make people mad or make one person mad. So it's really nice to do something that makes people happy.

And my partner and I got civil-unionized, or whatever you want to call it, in December. We've been together 15 years.

WCT: Do you think there are any areas of the law where LGBT people are particularly discriminated against?

MT: What's a little bit difficult is all the hodgepodge of state-to-state laws. It's pretty exciting for someone of my generation—I'm 56—to see all the change that's come in the last 5-10 years, which I regard as being kind of generational. I think young people are causing it to happen. There's a real divide for gay people between generations.

What's a little bit difficult is that bans on discrimination don't come from the top-down. In other words, it's going from state-to-state. So that does make it challenging. It's not just the marriage laws; it's all the civil area laws.... the right to travel, the right to relocate. One state's laws might be very discriminatory, and another's not so much. Other minority groups have had that [protection] at a federal level. I think ul-

timately that will happen for us; it just takes time.

I've seen a change in how courts and judges react to LGBT people; it's gotten much, much better... at least in [Cook] County.

WCT: How so?

MT: Just an attitude, really. It's completely different. When I was much younger, there was a great deal of ridicule in the court system for anybody who was gay or perceived to be. It's changed remarkably in the last few years. And I'm not saying the discrimination isn't still there. Of course it is. But it's not so institutionalized.

WCT: There are four candidates in your primary. What sets you apart from the rest?

MT: We're all good people. What makes me a little different is that I was appointed by the Supreme Court. I've been endorsed by organizations—not politicians or anything to do with politics. I was endorsed by the Chicago Tribune; and I was found qualified, recommended, or highly recommended by all of the evaluating law firms.

I was endorsed, appointed and vetted by people in the know. You hear repeatedly from voters that they don't know who the judicial candidates are. Well, the Supreme Court knows who they want to put as judge. The Tribune, the bar associations—I've been through a really lengthy and excruciating vetting process by all those entities. Those people have given me a "thumbs up," so I'm hoping the voters will, too.

To learn more about Mary Trew, visit www.votetrew.com.

ELECTIONS '12:

Gay Kane County judicial candidate talks civil rights

BY KATE SOSIN

It has been a big year for John Dalton.

In May 2011, Dalton made Kane County history when he was seated as a trustee of Elgin Community College, the first openly gay person in the county to be elected to office. The following month, he accepted the Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Award from the Illinois State Bar Association. In January, Elgin awarded Dalton their Martin Luther King Jr. Humanitarian Award, for his work against racism.

Riding high on such success, Dalton has thrown his name into the race for Kane County Circuit Court Judge in the 2nd Subcircuit. Sitting on the bench has been a longtime dream for Dalton, who unsuccessfully ran for judge in Kane County two years ago.

Dalton currently runs his own law practice in Elgin. Most of his 25 years in law have been spent as a trial attorney.

Dalton took some time out for Windy City Time and talked about his history of activism and what flaws he sees with the current judicial system.

Windy City Times: Why is judge the next step for you?

John Dalton: Well, I ran for judge in the 2010 because I really felt like I was on the right path. I was unsuccessful, but having come to the conclusion that that was the right thing for me to do at this stage of my career, another opportunity presented itself to run this time in the subcircuit race, which I have a better chance of winning because the subcircuit is either evenly balanced or may arguably favor Democrats, whereas the county as a whole strongly favors Republican candidates. Having the opportunity to achieve this dream a second time, I seized it.

WCT: What do you see as areas for improvement in the judiciary?

JD: First of all, I think the process of electing judges could be improved. Today, we have



John Dalton.

partisan political contests, and I wish the process was not partisan. It makes the focus "what are your qualifications for that position?" and not "what party are you from?"

I also think the influence of campaign contributions, in politics as a whole and in judicial races in particular is corrosive. Today, many judicial candidates, virtually all, primarily fund their campaigns through donations from attorneys. And when those same attorneys appear before those judges after the election in court, everybody pretends like that's not a conflict of interest. As a result, I've committed, both in 2010 and in this election, not to accept any campaign contributions from attorneys.

WCT: Do you support merit-based appointments over electing judges?

JD: I don't. I have an open mind with respect to merit-based selection of judges but so far, no one has devised a method of doing that that's an improvement over elections. I would just change the election to one where it is a non-partisan election.

WCT: What do you see as deprivations under law for LGBT people?

JD: I think that very few would quarrel with the assertion that right this minute, LGBT folks do not receive equal rights under the law. Illinois recognizes LGBT marriages performed elsewhere as civil unions and not as marriages, and there is no justification for that distinction.

See www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com for the full interview with John Dalton.

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ELECTIONS '12: STATE HOUSE

Sam Yingling on his district, returning salary

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

Windy City Times sat down with Sam Yingling, an openly gay candidate for the Illinois House (62nd District), to talk about his background and discuss his views on a variety of issues ahead of the March 20 primary. (Yingling doesn't have a primary challenger.)

Windy City Times: Tell me a little bit about yourself outside of politics.

Sam Yingling: I do a lot of community service work with organizations, like Mano A Mano Family Resource Center, an organization committed to improving the lives of the immigrant population, and the Round Lake Beach Cultural and Civic Center Foundation.

WCT: Is this the first time you've run for office?

SY: I previously ran for Avon Township Supervisor and won that race. I currently hold that elected office.

WCT: What made you decide to run for state office this year?

SY: After attending DePaul University to study urban planning and public policy administration, I saw a lot of opportunity for smart and ecologically sound development in Lake County. I decided to move back to the area to work with my family's real-estate business. [Yingling's family previously owned a restaurant in the 1970s.] From there, I became involved with local government and the Round Lake Area Chamber of

Commerce. In the process, I discovered how bloated and unnecessary townships are to local municipalities. The Illinois Township Code also limits what townships can do so as Avon Township Supervisor I went to Springfield, Ill to work on this issue.

While I was in Springfield, I became more aware of my own state representative and her lack of leadership. With the state of Illinois is facing the largest financial crisis in its history I decided to run against her this year to provide the district with the leadership it was lacking.

WCT: What cities/towns make up the 62nd District?

SY: Round Lake Beach and Grayslake make up about 80 percent of the district. The rest of the district is [composed] of Hainesville and parts of Third Lake, Wildwood, Gurnee and Wauconda.

WCT: On your campaign website, it says that you returned part of your salary as Avon township supervisor.

SY: I made a commitment to give back my pay raises (which were put in place by the previous administration) each year, and I have honored that commitment. I have given back about \$25,000 over the course of my term of office. That money has been used to fund operational costs of the township and the local food pantry.

WCT: As a gay candidate in the Round Lake Beach area, have you experienced any resistance to your candidacy?

SY: No.



Sam Yingling. Photo courtesy of Yingling

WCT: If you win your race, will you sign on as a co-sponsor to the bill that would legalize same-sex marriage in Illinois?

SY: I support the marriage-equality bill that was recently introduced and would also sign on as a co-sponsor.

WCT: Do you favor the current federal hate-crimes law? How about a federal ENDA law? Overturning DOMA [the Defense of Marriage Act] so same-sex marriage can be legal nationwide? LGBT people becoming foster parents and/or adopting children?

SY: Yes, I do support the recently enacted federal hate crimes law. I think that the government should provide protections to any type of minority group (including the LGBT community).

A federal ENDA law is necessary to protect workers in states that would never provide protections to their LGBT workers.

DOMA needs to be repealed so couples who are legally married in states that recognize same-sex marriage can access the same federal benefits that opposite-sex couples already receive nationwide.

Anyone who is willing and able to provide a loving home for a child should be able to adopt or become a foster parent including LGBT people.

WCT: What are your positions on abortion, comprehensive sex education and teaching LGBT history as a part of the social studies curriculum?

SY: As far as I am concerned the abortion issue was settled years ago with *Roe v. Wade*. I don't believe that government should be in the business of dictating what any woman can or can't do with her own body.

Comprehensive sex education is needed because an abstinence-only policy doesn't work and actually generates more problems for society.

Anybody or any movement that makes a contribution to society (including LGBT people and events) needs to be acknowledged from an historical perspective and should be taught as a part of the Social Studies curriculum.

WCT: Last year Illinois cut eligibility for the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP), a public program that makes HIV medications available to uninsured or underinsured persons. Do you support increasing funding for ADAP in order to meet this need?

SY: I believe that anyone who needs medication should absolutely have it. If local municipalities are consolidated money can be freed up to fund programs like ADAP.

WCT: Do you support increased funding for cost-effective HIV-prevention strategies such as condom distribution? If so, how would you propose doing that in light of possible budget cuts?

SY: Yes. Developing collaborative relationships with organizations specializing in HIV/AIDS treatment along with other governmental entities so there is a mix of private organizations and tax dollars funding this initiative.

WCT: What do you feel is the most pressing issue for the LGBT community?

SY: Continuing to work to fight the notion that separate is equal.

See www.samyingling.com.

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Judge Trew officiating at the mass civil union event, sponsored by the Civil Rights Agenda, Chicago History Museum, June 3, 2011.

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ELECTIONS '12: COOK COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT CLERK

Dorothy Brown

BY ANDREW DAVIS

After March 20, Dorothy Brown hopes to continue the post as clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County—a position she has held for more than a decade. However, she faces a potentially stiff challenge in the primary from Ald. Ricardo Munoz. Brown talked with Windy City Times about her duties and her opponent.

Windy City Times: Some people may not know what your duties are as clerk. Could you discuss those?

Dorothy Brown: The clerk of the court is the official record-keeper of the court system.

It's good to compare this office with the city clerk, who maintains the minutes of the city council and issues the city stickers, and the county clerk, who runs the elections and who maintains the minutes of the county board. I handle all the records from the circuit court.

We have to create case files, maintain electronic and manual versions of case files, and then deliver court files to judges. Then, we have to pick them back up from the judges and put them in storage.

WCT: And you've been clerk for more than a decade?

DB: Yes; I was elected in 2000. The significant thing is that this court system is the second-largest in the country. We have almost a million new cases filed every year. Data has to be entered and images are entered into the electronic dockets. It sounds simplistic but it's actually very, very complex because it's so humongous.

WCT: What are two of your biggest accomplishments?

DB: I'm very proud of our customer service. I told my staff that every case file represents a human life. People deserve to be treated with courtesy and respect when they come to the court system. We worked on customer-service training, and we got on top of things when when we had a complaint about an employee.

We focused on going above and beyond the call of duty for requirements for the court, such as interpreters—Spanish, Polish and even Mandarin; we also have interpreters for Hindu and a lot of different languages. Also, we have online forms for orders of protection. Then there's mortgage foreclosure surplus, so people can look to see if they have any surplus money if they

lost any property. Right now I have \$16 million due to people who lost their property and the bank sold it for more than it's worth.

In addition, we got a grant from the National Archives Association. We actually have microfilm for immigration documents we had from the time the clerk was responsible for that. Online, we have an index for those documents. We also do expungement seminars; I did one recently [at Center on Halsted].

The second thing I'm proud of is the technology. When I took office, the system was very outdated—to the extent that they were still writing in the books. We had to automate the divisions, and we worked on bringing in a \$5-million integrated cashiering system. We worked on an electronic filing system in 2009 that the [Illinois] Supreme Court approved of; we're waiting on the court to approve [that system] for additional case types. We also have our imaging system; we have 50 million documents that we have imaged that the public can access.

WCT: How can the system be improved further?

DB: For my next term, my plan is to have a paperless courtroom, [including] the bench and the jury. You could have a screen popping down—like at the College of William & Mary in Williamsburg, Va.—where a witness can be cross-examined outside the courtroom. People could bring in expert witnesses from all over the world.

WCT: Your opponent has said that you run your office unprofessionally and that you've even mismanaged a petition case against him. How do you respond to those charges?

DB: I didn't have a petition case against him, number one. Our office is so well-run that the chief justice of the Supreme Court appointed me to a committee to help the court come up with a policy on how to balance privacy with the public's right to see documents online. I'm always updating my skills, in terms of management. I make sure we have accountability all the way down the chain. I went to the Kennedy School of Government, and I observed performance-management techniques we will be implementing very shortly.

Of course, my opponent would say these things but he's simply wrong. He doesn't even have a website after 18 years. He talks technol-



Dorothy Brown. Photo from her campaign team

ogy, and he doesn't even have a website about what's going on in the ward. The only web page he has is with the City of Chicago. He has a campaign website, but for the office itself? No.

He told the Sun-Times he didn't have a website because he didn't want to self-promote. I said, "The only thing you have there is a web page, and the only thing you have [on it] is a bio—and an outdated bio, at that." If that's not self-promoting, I don't know what is. What's the cost of putting up a website—\$250?

WCT: I saw a recent report on CBS Chicago that had you saying you found \$700,000 in your office funds that you didn't know you had. How accurate is that?

DB: That was something [Cook County Commissioner John] Fritchey said. I know every dime in my budget; my background is in finance. I think John Fritchey made that statement to reporters after that meeting, and it was absolutely not true.

The county board had actually deleted one of my departments; the board can provide funds but can't make any decisions about how I run my office, so it was actually an error on their part. So when I went to the budget director and the chief of staff for the president, and explained the error they made and that the department they deleted was one that helped to export evidence, secure our floors and investigate. When I explained that to the county board, it was in-

dictated that, in order to have the department reinstated, I'd have to transfer funds from some of the other line items, so that's what we did. We were able to pull out about \$200,000.

So Fritchey went to the media pool and said, "She found all this money she didn't know she had." He led that charge, and I know he was working with my opponent; they were trying to use my budget time for politics.

WCT: We now have civil unions in Illinois, as you know. How do you feel about same-sex marriage being the next step?

DB: Well, I want to see how civil unions evolve. Of course, I supported it and we've done everything we could. I was at the civil-union ceremony over at [Millennium] Park [last June]. We should work with the federal government to have them recognized on a federal level—pension benefits, taxation, housing, that sort of thing. We'll keep our minds and eyes open when it comes to moving from that.

WCT: Talk a little about your history of LGBT support.

DB: I've received two awards from a Black gay youth group. I'll get that information to you.

My office is very diverse. We have our annual event in June honoring various organizations in the LGBT community. We hosted the expungement seminar at the Center on Halsted last year. I have supported increased funding for HIV/AIDS treatment. I worked really closely with the [now-defunct] Let's Talk, Let's Test Foundation. I participated in the AIDS Walk—we were actually the highest donors to that effort. When I first took office, I signed an order banning discrimination based on race, gender and sexual orientation. Of course, I participate in the pride parade every year.


WCT: Is there anything else you wanted to say about your candidacy?

DB: I feel that the voters should re-elect me because I made promises when I took office in 2000, and I have kept those promises. We have revolutionized the office, improved customer service and made it run more efficiently. And, in the tight budgetary times I inherited, I turned the deficit into a profit and brought \$365 million to the county. So we have a proven track record of management, and it's important that we have someone who can properly manage that office. I feel I'm a guardian of the public trust.

WCT: By the way, I know that you endured a personal loss regarding your home [in a fire] recently. How are you doing?

DB: Well, you know, I'm just being strong. I'm just trying to get through all the different things that are out there.

See www.FriendsOfDorothyBrown.org.



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ELECTIONS '12: COOK COUNTY
CIRCUIT COURT CLERK**Rick Munoz**

BY ANDREW DAVIS

Most March 20 primary contests are not getting much attention. However, that's not the case with the race for Cook County circuit court clerk.

In part, the attention is because of the high-profile names involved: incumbent Dorothy Brown and Ald. Rick Munoz. However, the acrimony between the two has also intensified things, with one of the key issues being the modernization (or lack thereof, some would say) of the office.

Windy City Times talked with Munoz about why he's running—and also talks about one of his own personal battles.

Rick Munoz: Hi. I'm wondering if you saw Carol Marin's article [in the Feb. 21 issue of the Chicago Sun-Times about opponent Dorothy Brown]?

Windy City Times: Yes, I did.

RM: Carol's awesome. In this one, she hit it right on the head about the pay-to-play allegations—that it seems pay-to-play when you have the candidate and her chief information officer receiving contributions from a vendor that stands to make millions of dollars.

WCT: You've been an alderman for quite a few years. What prompted you to run for this office?

RM: I looked around, and the economy has had a devastating impact on our homeowners and our property taxes are way out of control. I figured out that if I were to run for this office and just help manage it more efficiently and more effectively, we could reduce the budget and save the taxpayers some money.

I saw the fighting that happened between [Cook County Board President] Toni Preckwinkle and [Brown]. I could partner with President Preckwinkle to help reduce the tax burden by making this office more efficient. The main issue is electronic filing, and the lack thereof.

WCT: Supposedly, that's something the Illinois Supreme Court hasn't decided on.

RM: They've let DuPage County do electronic filing. They've let Will County do electronic filing. They themselves approved their own electronic-filing system a [few] weeks ago. Dorothy has been before the Supreme Court for more than two and a half years with her proposal, and they refuse to approve it for a couple of reasons.

One: The vendor is her sixth-largest campaign contributor, and it just looks bad. Two: The vendor wants to charge \$4.95 for every filing that's submitted to the office. If you do the math (based on the numbers she puts out in her own campaign materials), that's \$100 million sucked out of the economy that goes to this Alabama company.

She says that the company is "only" keeping a third, and two-thirds go to the county. Well, let's do the math: That company stills gets to keep \$30 million. That's why the Supreme Court has refused to approve her program. In DuPage and Will counties, it's free to file; in the state Supreme Court, it's going to be free to file. Her program just smells to high heaven.

WCT: You have the endorsements of quite a few people.

RM: Yes. I've gotten the endorsements of Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle; Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky; Congressman Luis Gutierrez; county commissioners [Larry] Suffredin, [Edwin] Reyes, [Jesus] Garcia and ... I'm blanking on the other one. Former Inspector General David Hoffman is endorsing my candidacy because he believes [in] my plan to reform that office.

Also, people will not have to pay me to keep their jobs so I'm going to prohibit employee contributions to the campaign, which she takes willingly. The Tribune and the Sun-Times have also reported that she compels people to contribute. Number two, I will prohibit campaign contributions from vendors seeking to do business with my office. Number three, I will end that scandal-plagued "Jeans Day" fund in her office. [Newspapers reported that office employees complained about having to pay to wear jeans on Fridays.]

WCT: I thought she discontinued that.

RM: She discontinued it on a regular basis, but she still does it. She just had one in January on the fourth Friday. It's actually the fourth Friday of every month. It's now called the Jeans Day Charitable Fund.

WCT: Going back to the fourth commissioner who's backing you—that's John Fritchey, correct?

RM: Yes, that's him. Thank you for reminding me.

WCT: One of the reasons I know that is



Rick Munoz. Photo from campaign team

because I talked with your opponent about an article that said she suddenly found \$700,000 in office funds. She said that was something Fritchey brought up, and that he's working with you so that her budget time is used for politics.

RM: Look, it's very clear. This economy has had a devastating effect on property-tax payers, and the commissioners are doing their job, going through everybody's budget. What the commissioners did was [see] that she was overspending on a couple of issues, especially her security/chaffeur detail. They sought to reduce that amount of cost by eliminating it. What she did was come back a week later and say, "Oh, my God. I found \$700,000." Now, that's not a political attack; that's just being fiscally responsible.

WCT: Something else she mentioned is that you do not have a ward website to let people know what's happening.

RM: She's making a mountain out of a molehill. I have a website. I used the City of Chicago's 22nd Ward portal to receive complaints. They just re-elected me with 64 percent of the vote. We send newsletters. We communicate very well with our constituents.

WCT: So, I'm curious: How do ward residents know what's going on?

RM: We have community meetings. I have block-club meetings, church meetings and meetings with community groups. My office is a beehive of activity when it comes to keeping residents informed.

WCT: So you would say there's transparency in your office and you're pretty accessible?

RM: Yes. I'm in my office every day, I meet with my constituents every Monday evening to listen to their concerns. I attend my CAPS meetings and block-club meetings.

I was re-elected with 64 percent of the vote. The last time [Brown] ran for office [as Cook County board president], she got 14 percent of the vote. Prior to that, when she ran for mayor, she got less than 20 percent of the vote so it seems that voters are tired of her shenanigans.

She's used the clerk's office to run for other offices for the last several years, so it's clear she doesn't want to be clerk anymore. I'm simply seeking to relieve her of the office she has today. I want to serve the people of Cook County. I'm not looking to become mayor or Cook County board president.

WCT: So are you saying you never want to be mayor or board president?

RM: No, I wouldn't say "never." I just want to save the taxpayers some money and bring electronic filing to that office.

WCT: Regarding LGBT-related issues, how do you feel about marriage equality being the next step after civil unions?

RM: It's the next logical step; I don't know why we didn't go there the first time around. I'm a full supporter of marriage equity.

WCT: Talk about your history of supporting the LGBT community.

RM: I've been a staunch supporter of LGBT rights and activities. Back when City Hall was trying to recruit the Gay Games, I was a huge supporter of that. I was at the Equality Illinois gala, and I believe in LGBT equity in practice so that, when I become clerk, my policies will be about treating the LGBT community equally and fairly.

WCT: On a more personal note, you revealed your battle with alcoholism a couple years ago. What compelled you to do that in public?

RM: We all have our imperfections; we're all human. I figured, as a public official, it was going to be hanging over my head and a monkey on my back. So it wouldn't be a point of contention, I needed to get it out of the way. I just felt it was necessary for me to do it in order to maintain my sobriety. I have a great support network, including my family.

See www.TaxpayersForRick.com.

No one is speaking louder, standing taller or fighting harder for our rights than Kelly Cassidy.

- ★ Sponsor of Illinois' Marriage Equality Bill
- ★ Facing down anti-choice conservatives
- ★ Standing up to the powerful gun lobby

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Cassidy
State Representative
Democrat, 14th District

Guide to the gays

The March 20 primary elections feature several openly gay and lesbian candidates for office. (All of the candidates are in the Democratic party.)



Paula Basta

Race: State House (14th District)
Web site: PaulaBasta.org

The skinny: This increasingly contentious race between Basta and incumbent state Rep. Kelly Cassidy took on intrigue because it's possibly the first political contest in the state pitting two out lesbians against each other. (On Jan. 19, for example, Basta's campaign issued a press release accusing Cassidy of implying through a phone-survey question that Basta's campaign was in violation of federal law.) Basta's website highlights her LGBT-related accomplishments and "deep understanding of the intricacies of aging and City services."



Kelly Cassidy

Race: State House (14th District)
Web site: CitizensForKellyCassidy.com

The skinny: Once a part of the Cook County state's attorney's office, Cassidy became a state representative in May 2011 after Harry Osterman stepped down to successfully run for alderman. Recently, she has protested library cutbacks, and helped introduce a marriage-equality bill and a gender-identity amendment.



Greg Harris

Race: Illinois State Representative (13th District)
Web site: GregHarris.org

The skinny: Harris, who is openly HIV-positive as well as being openly gay, has represented his district (which includes Uptown, Ravenswood, Lincoln Square, North Center and Bowmanville) since being elected in 2006. Although his name has appeared most prominently in LGBT publications in connection with the issue of marriage equality (introducing a civil-marriage bill), he is intimately involved with a host of other issues, such as the state budget, foreclosure mediation, children of incarcerated parents and insurance reform. He is currently running unopposed.



Deb Mell

Race: Illinois State Representative (40th District)
Web site: DebMell.org

The skinny: Deb Mell started her first term making history as the first open lesbian in the Illinois General Assembly—and then did something historic in being the only representative to vote against impeachment of then-Gov. Rod Blagojevich, her brother-in-law. A staunch advocate for marriage equality, Mell is running unopposed in the primary, although it looks like she'll face Republican Antoinette "Toni" Puccio-Johnson in the general election.



Mary Trew

Race: Cook County Circuit Court Judge
(Ninth Subcircuit, Epstein vacancy)
Web site: www.VoteTrew.com

The skinny: When she was the executive director of Domestic Violence Legal Clinic, she helped create one of the nation's first on-site civil court clinics for orders of protection in the Cook County Domestic Violence Courthouse. In November 2010, Trew was appointed by the Illinois Supreme Court to the James R. Epstein 9th Subcircuit Vacancy.



John Ehrlich

Race: Cook County Circuit Court Judge
(Eighth Subcircuit, Cole vacancy)
Web site: EhrlichForJudge.com

The skinny: Another race pitting two out candidates is a judicial one involving John Ehrlich and Brad Trowbridge. As deputy corporation counsel in the City of Chicago's law department, Ehrlich oversees almost three dozen attorneys and a staff of 15. He's personally handled cases such as the Wrightwood porch collapse and the E2 nightclub tragedy.



Brad Trowbridge

Race: Cook County Circuit Court Judge
(Eighth Subcircuit, Cole vacancy)
Website: BradForJudge.com

The skinny: On his website, Trowbridge discusses his legal and counseling/social service experience, and has worked at agencies such as the Northwestern University Counseling Center and the AIDS Legal Council. He also authored the "Alternate Family Relations and Civil Unions in Illinois" chapter for Illinois State Bar Association Family Law Handbook.

Alex Arroyo

Race: State House (84th District)
Web site: Arroyo2012.com

The skinny: Arroyo was born and raised in Aurora. The former chair of the Aurora Democratic Party is an active union member in good standing with the Association of Flight Attendants-Communications Workers of America. Arroyo also sits on the board of directors of the Illinois Coalition of Community Services in Springfield.



Mike Forti

Race: Cook County Circuit Court Judge
(Simmons vacancy)
Web site: MichaelFortiForJudge.com

The skinny: Forti has been practicing law for more than three decades and has been with the City of Chicago's law department for 17 years. In an interview with Windy City Times, he said, "This is not an instance where people have to pick either someone that is highly qualified someone that is a member of the LGBT community. I think that people in the LGBT community want and deserve both, just like the rest of the population."



John Dalton

Race: 16th Circuit Court, Kane, "A" vacancy
Web site: JohnDaltonForJudge.com

The skinny: Dalton—who would be the first openly gay judge elected outside of Cook County if he prevails—has been an arbitration chairman for more than a decade and an attorney for more than two decades. Dalton plans to fund his campaign without accepting donations from attorneys—a rare position among Illinois judicial candidates. Also, Dalton is an active member of Elgin's First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ.



Deidre Baumann

Race: Cook County Circuit Court Judge (Stewart vacancy)
Web site: DeidreBaumann4Judge.com

The skinny: Baumann is a member of the Chicago Bar Association, having served as president of the Constitutional Law Committee, the Cook County Bar Association, the Chicago Lesbian and Gay Bar Association and the legal fraternity Phi Alpha Delta. She is also an active member of her community, including serving as president of the Chicago/Cook County 4-H Foundation and as a board member of the Lane Tech Alumni Association.



Debra Shore

Race: Metropolitan Water Reclamation District board
Web site: DebraShore.org

The skinny: Shore has been on the board since 2006. One of nine elected commissioners, she chairs the committees on stormwater management and state legislation and rules. Fun fact: Shore has climbed 42 of the 54 mountains in Colorado more than 14,000 feet high.



Andrea M. Schleifer

Race: Cook County Circuit Court Judge
(12th Subcircuit, Rochford vacancy)
Web site: ElectJudgeSchleifer.org

The skinny: A resident of Des Plaines, Schleifer (a member of the LGBT organization the Alliance of Illinois Judges) has been serving as a Cook County judge at the Richard J. Daley Center for more than a year. She is currently hearing custody/visitation and child support matters, and is responsible for more than 6,400 cases.



Sam Yingling

Race: State House (62nd District)
Web site: SamYingling.com

The skinny: Yingling is a native of central Lake County and lives in Round Lake Beach, and is running in what he calls an "independent" district. He attended DePaul University, studying public policy and administration, and metropolitan land use (urban planning).



There are also LGBTs running as presidential delegates, including for President Barack Obama. Those include Gail Morse, Ald. Tom Tunney, Debra Shore and Center on Halsted's Modesto "Tico" Valle. See page 13.

Anti-gay former state rep. Penny Pullen is running as a Santorum delegate.

Few services for gay survivors of domestic abuse

BY JAMIE ANNE ROYCE

When Ron Okerson met his former partner, he thought it was love. The pair hit it off and quickly became involved, eventually cohabitating.

"He was wonderful, charming," said Okerson.

However, after the honeymoon stage, the relationship quickly spiraled into a pattern of physical, mental, psychological and sexual abuse.

"It turned out that he really wasn't [wonderful], and by the time I realized it, I was already sucked in and the abuse had already started," said Okerson. "He abused me in many unimaginable ways, ranging from beating my head while I slept to holding a carving knife to my throat threatening to cut my head off starting from the back so he could hear me scream."

Out of work and alienated from friends and family, Okerson did not have anywhere else to go. After two years of living with his partner, a neighbor who frequently overheard the abuse eventually persuaded Okerson to leave his partner by offering him a place to stay.

"The day I left, he beat me with a broomstick," said Okerson. "That's the type of guy he is."

LGBT-specific shelters and abuse-survivor services are rare, especially for men. Few federal and state surveys enumerate sexual orientation, making it difficult to show social service agencies that domestic violence is an issue for the LGBT community; however, a Center for American Progress survey estimates 30 percent of same-sex partnerships experience domestic violence.

"Most people think of domestic violence as something between a man and a woman, and are just unaware of the fact that same-sex couples sometimes have problems and difficulties and challenges. Some of those include violence between the partners, unfortunately," said Jeff Krehely, vice president of LGBT research and communications at the Center for American Progress.

Okerson called on social service agencies for the homeless to secure temporary housing, finding it difficult for an unmarried, able-bodied gay man without dependents to access services. But he eventually landed in the Illinois Department

of Human Services (DHS) Independent Living program at the Lakeview YMCA.

But even away from his home, Okerson could not escape the abuse.

"My ex showed up at the [YMCA] and yelled at me, 'I should have killed you,'" said Okerson.

Upon signing the housing agreement, Okerson's DHS case manager asked him about his job plans. To earn a higher wage, Okerson wanted to complete a certificate for medical billing and coding, but he would need money for tuition, so he sought out employment. As a homeless person, he struggled to find a job because he had no money for bus fare, let alone the basics for an interview like clean laundry or a haircut.

Okerson diligently researched every avenue he could think of for assistance, bringing his notes and documentation to every meeting with a social service agency. Through his self-advocacy, he often found that he knew more about available services than his case managers, one of whom "asked me to put my notes away because she was intimidated by them."

"I understand that while case managers may be overworked there are processes that can and should be implemented to streamline many things," said Okerson.

Navigating social services and bureaucracy proved so overwhelming and exhausting for Okerson that he started wishing he had never left his abusive partner.

"I was so beaten down by the system that I thought maybe leaving my ex was a mistake," said Okerson. "I was starting to believe I had left him for nothing."

Desperate, Okerson turned to selling his blood and plasma for cash, but before he could donate he was tested for HIV.

"My HIV diagnosis was devastating—absolutely devastating," said Okerson. "But I was told a lot of doors would be opening for me [to access HIV social services], and it was even more devastating when they didn't."

In need of counseling and HIV-related medical care, Okerson turned to Howard Brown Health Center, a place that Okerson said "absolutely saved my life."

The DHS Independent Living program only of-

fers temporary housing, and the end of his stay at the YMCA was growing near. Jobless, penniless and soon-to-be homeless, Okerson was granted a one-time, one-month extension of services, buying him some time to secure alternate accommodations.

Having exhausted every avenue he could find for help—social service agencies, elected officials, government agencies and local charities—Okerson sent a desperate plea to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). John Trasvina, assistant secretary for HUD's Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity program, shared Okerson's story with Chicago HUD office, who reached out to Okerson and referred him to a housing program.

"Domestic violence in the LGBT community is

an area where we're just lacking a lot of knowledge, a lot of services. We're hoping that can change," said Krehely.

While still struggling to access basic needs, Okerson has lined up housing for when his stay at the YMCA ends. He also landed a work-study position, for which he will receive a small stipend.

"All I am asking for is the opportunity to reclaim and rebuild my life," said Okerson. "It shouldn't be this hard."

Those dealing with domestic partner/intimate partner violence can call the Anti-Violence Crisis Hotline at the Center on Halsted at 773-871-CARE or the national Stop Abuse For Everyone hotline at 616-941-0825.



"Coming Out of the Shadows." Photo by Kate Sosin

'Coming Out of the Shadows' marks third year

BY KATE SOSIN

This year's National Coming Out of the Shadows Day in Chicago, held March 10 in Daley Plaza, drew large crowds and a heavy police presence. The event, during which youth come out as having an undocumented immigration status, is the third rally to be held in Chicago since 2010. The rally typically draws many queer activists.

More than 300 supporters attended the afternoon rally and music performance. Approximately half a dozen young people "came out" to the crowd as undocumented and told their stories.

"All my life, I had been told to hide my status and feel ashamed of myself," said one young man, who has his sights set on a medical degree.

One veteran, who identified himself as "David," said that his time serving in Afghanistan was marked by fear that his undocumented wife would be deported.

"What else do we have to go through to prove that we're worthy of a normal life?" he asked.

Youth spoke of their fear of being pulled over while driving, of being unable to home countries to see dying family members and of living in fear of being separated from their families in U.S., despite the fact that many have lived in country since a very young age.

The crowd chanted "undocumented, unafraid" while several police cars circled the plaza during the two-hour event, but the rally concluded without incident.

Performances were given by Northside College Preparatory High School's poongmul troop (a Korean folk drumming, dancing and signing group), as well as local spoken-word artist John Vietnam.

Sharon Finegan Patterson

for Circuit Court Judge, 8th Subcircuit, Durkin Roy vacancy
Democratic Primary, March 20, 2012



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Sharon with her son Tom, a clinical psychologist, who is counseling our soldiers in the US Army.

A Vote for Sharon is a Vote for Equality! Punch # 193



COMPILED BY KATE SOSIN

Benjamin Perry

Identifies as
Male

Pronouns
Gender-neutral

Life's work

"My ultimate goal is to become a fashion designer. I believe fashion is another form of activism so with that being my goal, I believe I will be able to express unlimited variations of what fashion and activism means to me."

Neighborhoods

Austin and Oak Park

Hobbies

"I like to watch movies, read books, enjoy some quiet time and to hang around my friends. Watch TV and surf the internet."

What is the best thing about being trans/gender-variant?

"I'm not quite sure. I believe it's a double edged sword. Only due to sometimes it can be something that you feel confident doing, then at other times you feel as if you're not a statistic, you won't succeed. Sometimes it becomes more of weighing out options on your part to make sure your representation doesn't get lost within stereotypes."

Do you have a coming out story?

"When I was a sophomore in high school I started to realize that I wasn't officially comfortable in my own skin. I remember wanting to have a liberating moment and I thought

about the people around me and how I wanted them to view me as being a honest and real person. I struggled to find out how to do that at first, but a light bulb went off, and I began to shed layers of my former self and embraced the person I've always wanted to be which I'm currently living now."

Do you consider yourself an activist?

"Yes I do. I remember being a youth of color, and not knowing what I could do to make me feel more a part of queer community. I didn't want to be a youth of color complaining about what opportunities I don't have, but be a part of a movement that lets me identify a problem and make change. I believe I'm speaking for millions just like me when they see me I want them to know that they can do it as well and don't be afraid of change."

What issues, if any, outside of the queer community do you care about?

"I strongly believe in equal opportunities, due to everyone being denied from something in some shape of form, and I feel if we have a government that helped decrease barriers we would be living in a more restorative world."

What do you think are the most important issues facing the trans/gender-variant community?

"Discrimination. It's hard for folks to look besides what's in front of them but think about what this person can bring to the table in some way."



To nominate a person for T in the life, email: Kate Sosin
sosin@windycitytimes.com

LIBRARY from cover

The library had indicated that answers would be submitted March 8 after the board of directors met via teleconference call. However, Sendziak said, a board member was experiencing health problems and the meeting was cancelled. WCT continued to request answers and held off publication of an expanded article to accommodate such responses until March 12. None have yet been received. WCT also invited Sendziak to go on-record in an interview.

On March 12, Sendziak wrote back to WCT and apologized for the delay. "We hope to have them to you later this week," she wrote.

WCT will update if and when responses are

made available.

Violations of bylaws often are often less serious than many non-profit transgressions, said Jody Adler, an attorney with The Law Project of the Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights.

"There are repercussions if you have a director that is concerned enough to take legal action," Adler said. Otherwise, such issues are generally taken up by an organization's board or its members.

Gerber/Hart's dues-paying members can request a meeting and vote if the organization is still operating under a set of bylaws that dates back to 2000. Under those bylaws, one third of the library's members can submit a written appeal for a meeting, if they state the purpose

of that meeting. If such a request is made, the board of directors is charged with holding such a meeting.

According to those bylaws, the membership "shall also be eligible to vote to amend the bylaws of the corporation."

Norman Sandfield is a former member of Gerber/Hart but said he has not received a renewal notice for approximately six years.

"People haven't been encouraged to join," he said.

Sandfield is circulating an email calling on LGBT Chicagoans to become members of library.

"I am not sure when, if ever, issues will be brought to the membership for voting, but we need to be prepared to vote," he wrote. Library membership forms are available at www.gerberhart.org/membership.html.

Three members have met with Sendziak in recent weeks. They represent "Friends of Gerber/Hart" and were invited by Sendziak, who shared information about the move with them before announcing it widely.

The space at 6500 N. Clark St., a large modern-looking building, appears to be under construction and empty. A listing for the building advertises that it is for sale for \$2,750,000 or for rent for \$15 to \$20 per square foot per year. The space, listed as being renovated in November, contains two floors totaling 20,000 square feet. Both appear to be vacant.

The building also offers at least 16 parking spaces and is located in close proximity to Jackhammer bar and other LGBT businesses. Gerber/Hart will be renting part of the space, not purchasing the property, a source close the library confirmed.

The library's announcement indicated that the space will include a sitting area, meeting/exhibit room and two rooms to house the library's archives and special collections.

According to the announcement, Gerber/Hart will remain open until just before the move.

WCT seeks nominations for 30 Under 30

CHICAGO—Windy City Times is seeking to recognize 30 more outstanding LGBT individuals (and allies) for its annual 30 Under 30 Awards.

Nominees should be 30 years or under as of June 30, 2012, and should have made some substantial contributions to the LGBT community, whether in the fields of entertainment, politics, health, activism, academics, sports or other areas.

The deadline to nominate individuals is Friday, April 20.

Individuals, organizations, co-workers, etc. can nominate a person by e-mailing Andrew@WindyCityMediaGroup.com or faxed to Andrew Davis' attention to 773-871-7609. Self-nominations are welcome.

The nomination should be 100 words or fewer, and should state what achievements or contributions the nominee has made. Nominators should include their own names and contact information as well as the contact information and the age of the nominee.

Note: Following the policy instituted in 2005, individuals can only win once. Those have won the award since that year are ineligible for this year's awards.

Honorees will be notified in May and recognized at a free ceremony Thursday, June 28, at 5:30 p.m., at Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted St.



The site of the new Gerber/Hart Library and Archives. Photo by Kate Sosin

LAGBAC's 25th-anniversary gala March 16

The Lesbian and Gay Bar Association of Chicago (LAGBAC) will hold its 25th-anniversary gala Friday, March 16, at the Palmer House Hilton, 17 E. Monroe St.

Open bar starts at 5:30 p.m.; the event begins at 6:30 p.m. The event, which includes a cocktail reception, dinner and silent auction, will bring together members of the legal profession, as well as local politicians, community members and other supporters.

All proceeds from the event will benefit the LAGBAC Foundation, a 501(c)(3) charitable organization providing education to both the public and legal professionals about legal issues affecting the LGBT community. In support of its charitable purpose, the LAGBAC Foundation awards scholarships annually to law students working at qualified LGBT or civil rights organizations during the summer.

Tickets are \$50-\$200, depending on general or VIP status, and member/non-member level. To purchase tickets, visit www.lagbac.org/registration.html.

Dignity/Chicago's Lent program through April 1

Dignity/Chicago and Wisdom & Word Works Foundation will present a program for Lent focused on "What Covenant means to us today ... after 40 years" through Sunday, April 1, at Broadway United Methodist Church, 3338 N. Broadway.

Visit www.dignity-chicago.org or call 312-458-9438.



Phyllis Coprich

TEXT AND PHOTOS BY ROSS FORMAN



Age
42

Lives in:
Steger, Ill.

Hobbies
Plays, movies, roller skating, dancing and traveling

Job title
Ryan White Part B eligibility associate, AIDS Foundation of Chicago

Relationship status
Partnered to LaTiste Marks. Has two sons (Phillip, 20; and Zechiah, 17) and one grandson (Phillip, Jr.)

Favorite local restaurant
Grand Lux Café

High School
Chicago Vocational

Little-known fact
"I'm adopted and I love country-line dancing," she said.

Cannot live without:
Music



Phyllis Coprich recalls the well-kept, well-spoken, clean-cut man who appeared to be in his early 30s. He walked into the headquarters for the AIDS Foundation of Chicago (AFC) and Coprich, working at the front desk that summer day in 2010, greeted him.

He told Coprich that he was in a dire situation—he was about to be without his HIV medication for the first time.

"I could tell it took a lot for him to ask for help," said Coprich, who started the ball of needed AFC services rolling for this client.

A few days later, he wrote a letter to AFC, praising Coprich. He said she, "was warm and welcoming and helped to change a very bleak outlook."

Coprich said she, "felt really proud," of the surprising letter. "It feels really good to make a difference."

Coprich has been working at AFC for three years, which initially involved business-side work with AFC's endurance-training program.

"I'm pretty transparent. I'm the same way at work as I am away from work: fun-loving and full of life," said Coprich, who admits she prefers to hug people as opposed to shaking hands. "[I am] excited and eager to explore and learn about anything and everything. I am a proud mom and NaNa. It's really strange saying that [I am a grandmother.] I love spending time with my small family and [also] just getting in my car driving and ending up somewhere I've never been before. I'm a sky gazer and can find beauty in the simplest of things.

"I love helping others find a voice, get an answer and hopefully in what I do one day find a cure."

Coprich has lost many loved ones to AIDS, and knows others close to her infected with HIV.

"Not knowing what to do [before working at AFC] or where to go to help them help themselves was so very frustrating. I began to network and ask questions and get answers, and speak up and out about the virus," Coprich said. "Now, helping people affected by and living with HIV/AIDS is a part of my DNA. My passion is the younger generation. If each one can reach and teach one, I truly believe that we can stop the spread of HIV/AIDS."



**Friday, March 16
7:30 p.m.
Mary Romero
The Maid's Desire: Living
Inside and Outside
the American Dream**

**Wed., March 21
7:30 p.m.
Barbara Froman
Shadows and Ghosts**



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PUNCH #153 on March 20, 2012

ENDORSEMENTS

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Chicago Federation of Labor
Personal Pac, IVI-IPO
Cook County College Teachers Union #1600
Chicago Fire Fighter Union Local 2
Indo-American Democratic Organization
Committee For Honest Government
Hon. Jan Schakowsky, Hon. Mike Quigley,
Vernita Gray, Hon. Tom Tunney,
Hon. Sara Feigenholtz,
Rick Garcia, Ellen Meyers,
Art Johnston

EXPERIENCE

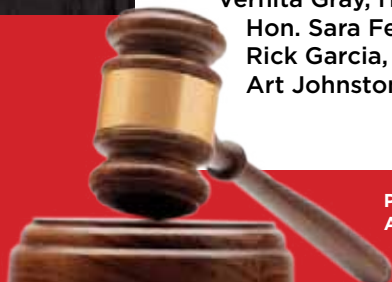
Lawyer for 21 years with trial experience
Judge assigned to Traffic Court
Performs Civil Unions

BAR RATINGS

Qualified or recommended by many bar associations including:
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Decalogue Society, Illinois State Bar,
Puerto Rican Bar and Hispanic Lawyers.

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- *INTEGRITY
- *HONESTY
- *EXPERIENCE



Paid for by Citizens To Elect Diann Karen Marsalek.
A copy of our report is or will be available for purchase from the Illinois State Board of Elections, Springfield, Illinois.

Election 2012

COOK COUNTY RACES

WCT = Windy City Times questions, number listed is of the total questions correct for that race

IVI = Independent Voters of Illinois/Independent Precinct Organization

PPAC = Personal PAC

EI = Equality Illinois

CNOW = Chicago NOW PAC

AIDS Foundation of Chicago also does a survey of candidates, but the results were not ready in time for the WCT Election Guide.

In addition, the Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund endorses Debra Shore for Metropolitan Water Reclamation District.

	WCT	IVI	PPAC	EI	CNOW
COOK COUNTY CLERK					
Dorothy A. Brown (D)	11/12	Y	Y		
Ricardo Munoz (D)	12/12				
RECORDER OF DEEDS					
Karen Yarbrough (D)	9/9		Y	Y	
STATE'S ATTORNEY					
Anita Alvarez (D)			Y	Y	
METROPOLITAN WATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT					
Patricia Young (D)		Y			
Patricia Horton (D)					
Patrick Daley Thompson (D)	6/6				
Debra Shore (D)	6/6	Y	Y	Y	
Kari Steele (D)		Y	Y		
Stella Black (D)	6/6		Y		
Karen Roothaan (G)	6/6				
Harold "Noonie" Ward (R)					
Dave Ehrlich (G)					
Julie Samuels (G)					

US CONGRESS RACES

WCT = Windy City Times questions, number listed is of the total questions correct for that race

IVI = Independent Voters of Illinois/Independent Precinct Organization

HRC = Human Rights Campaign 111th Congress, ratings are a percentage of total 100% based on HRC tracking of how candidates voted in the 111th Congress

PP = Planned Parenthood

AIDS Foundation of Chicago also does a survey of candidates, but the results were not ready in time for our WCT Election Guide.

	WCT	IVI	HRC	PP
1ST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT				
Bobby L. Rush (D)			94	Y
Clifford M. Russell, Jr. (D)				
Jordan Sims (D)	15/19			
Fred Smith (D)				
Raymond M. Lodato (D)	18/19	Y		
Harold L. Bailey (D)				
Frederick Collins (R)	14/19			
Donald E. Peloquin (R)				
Jimmy Lee Tillman II (R)				
2ND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT				
Jesse L. Jackson, Jr. (D)		Y	100	Y
Deborah "Debbie" Halvorson (D)	18/19		78	
James H. Taylor, Sr. (R)				
Brian Woodworth (R)				
3RD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT				
Daniel William Lipinski (D)			40	
Farah Baqai (D)				
Arthur J. Jones (R)				
Richard L. Grabowski (R)				
Jim Falvey (R)				
4TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT				
Luis V. Gutierrez (D)			100	Y
Jorge Zavala (D)	17/19			
Hector Concepcion (R)				
5TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT				
Mike Quigley (D)			100	Y
Dan Schmitt (R)				
6TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT				
Leslie Coolidge (D)	17/19			
Geoffrey Petzel (D)				
Tim Ritter (D)				
Maureen E. Yates (D)				
Peter J. Roskam (R)			0	
7TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT				
Jacques A. Conway (D)				
Danny K. Davis (D)		Y	100	Y

8TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Raja Krishnamoorthi (D) Y
 Tammy Duckworth (D)
 Robert Gregory Canfield (R)
 Richard Evans (R)
 Joe Walsh (R)

9TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Janice D. Schakowsky (D) 19/19 Y 100 Y
 Simon Ribiero (D)
 Timothy Wolfe (R)
 Susanne Atanus (R)

10TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Vivek Bavda (D) 18/19
 Brad Schneider (D)
 Ilya Sheyman (D) 19/19 Y
 John Tree (D)
 Aloys Rutagwibira (D)
 Robert Dold (R)

11TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Bill Foster (D)
 Jim Hickey (D) 16/19
 Juan Thomas (D)
 Judy Biggert (R)
 John A. "Jack" Cunningham (R)
 Diane M. Harris (R)

13TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

David M. Gill (D) Y
 Matthew J. Goetten (D)
 Michael Firsching (R) 6/19
 Tim Johnson (R)
 Frank L. Metzger (R)

14TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Dennis Anderson (D) Y
 Johnathan Farnick (D) 17/19
 Randy M. Hultgren (R)

16TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Adam Kinzinger (R)
 Donald A. Manzullo (R)

17TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Greg Aguilar (D)
 Cheri Bustos (D) Y
 George Gaulrapp (D)
 Bobby Schilling (R)

18TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Steve Waterworth (D)
 Matthew A. Woodmancy (D) 17/19
 Aaron Schock (R)
 Darrel Miller (R)

ILLINOIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY RACES

WCT = Windy City Times questions, number listed is of the total questions correct for that race

IVI = Independent Voters of Illinois/Independent Precinct Organization

PPAC = Personal PAC

EQIL = Equality Illinois PAC

PP = Planned Parenthood

AIDS Foundation of Chicago also does a survey of candidates, but the results were not ready in time for our WCT Election Guide.

In addition, Gay & Victory Fund endorses Alex Arroyo for State House of Representatives, 84th District.

	WCT	IVI	PPAC	EI	PP
1ST SENATE DISTRICT					
Adolfo Mondragon (D)					
Antonio "Tony" Munoz (D)			Y	Y	
2ND SENATE DISTRICT					
William "Willie" Delgado (D)			Y	Y	Y
3RD SENATE DISTRICT					
Mattie Hunter (D)			Y	Y	Y
4TH SENATE DISTRICT					
Kimberly A. Lightford (D)			Y	Y	Y
5TH SENATE DISTRICT					
Patricia Van Pelt Watkins (D)		Y			
Annazette R. Collins (D)			Y	Y	Y
6TH SENATE DISTRICT					
John J. Cullerton (D)			Y	Y	Y
7TH SENATE DISTRICT					
Heather Steans (D)			Y	Y	Y
8TH SENATE DISTRICT					
Ira I. Silverstein (D)			Y		Y

9TH SENATE DISTRICT

Daniel Biss (D)
 Marc Levine (R)

10TH SENATE DISTRICT

John G. Mulroe (D)

11TH SENATE DISTRICT

Martin A. Sandoval (D)

13TH SENATE DISTRICT

Kwame Raoul (D)

14TH SENATE DISTRICT

Emil Jones III (D)

15TH SENATE DISTRICT

Patricia "Pat" Mahon (D)
 Donna Miller (D) 17/17 Y
 Napoleon Harris (D)
 Joseph T. "Joe" Letke, Jr. (D)

16TH SENATE DISTRICT

Jacqueline "Jacqui" Collins (D)

17TH SENATE DISTRICT

Donne E. Trotter (D)

19TH SENATE DISTRICT

Michael E. Hastings (D)
 Gregory J. Hannon (D)

20TH SENATE DISTRICT

Iris Y. Martinez (D)

22ND SENATE DISTRICT

Tim Elenz (D)
 Michael Noland (D) Y Y Y

23RD SENATE DISTRICT

Greg Brownfield (D) Y
 Thomas E. Cullerton (D)
 Kevin Allen (D)
 Carole Pankau (R)
 Randy Ramey (R)

25TH SENATE DISTRICT

Corinne M. Pierog (D) 16/17 Y Y Y
 Steven L. Hunter (D)
 Dave Richmond (R)
 Richard C. Slocum (R)
 Jim Oberweis (R)

26TH SENATE DISTRICT

Amanda Howland (D)
 Dan Duffy (R) Y Y

28TH SENATE DISTRICT

Daniel W. Kotowski (D)
 Jim O'Donnell (R)
 Gayle A. Smolinski (R) Y Y Y

29TH SENATE DISTRICT

Julie A. Morrison (D)
 Milton J. Sumption (D) Y
 Arie Friedman (R)

30TH SENATE DISTRICT

Terry Link (D)
 Don Castella (R) Y Y Y

31ST SENATE DISTRICT

Melinda (Willen) Bush (D)
 Linwood "Linnie" Jarratt (R)
 Lawrence "Larry" Leafblad (R)
 Michael L. White (R)
 Joe Neal (R) Y Y

34TH SENATE DISTRICT

Marla J. Wilson (D)
 Dan Lewandowski (D)
 Glenn Patterson (D)
 Steven "Steve" Stadelman (D)
 Frank M. Gambino (R) Y Y

36TH SENATE DISTRICT

Mike Jacobs (D)
 Mike Boland (D) Y
 Bill Albracht (R) Y

38TH SENATE DISTRICT

Kevin E. Kunkel (D)
 Christine Benson (D)
 Tom Ganiere (D)
 Sue Rezin (R) Y Y

39TH SENATE DISTRICT

Don Harmon (D)

40TH SENATE DISTRICT

Toi W. Hutchinson (D) Y Y Y

	WCT	IVI	PPAC	EI	PP		WCT	IVI	PPAC	EI	PP		WCT	IVI	PPAC	EI	PP	
42ND SENATE DISTRICT Linda Holmes (D) Peter Hurtado (R)			Y	Y	Y													
43RD SENATE DISTRICT Arthur "AJ" Wilhelmi (D) Sandi Johnson (R)				Y														
46TH SENATE DISTRICT James K. Polk (D) Marvin Bainter (D) David Koehler (D) Pat Sullivan (R)			Y	Y	Y													
52ND SENATE DISTRICT Michael W. Frerichs (D) John Christian Bambenek (R)			Y	Y	Y													
54TH SENATE DISTRICT Danny L. Stover (D) Kyle McCarter (R)					Y													
57TH SENATE DISTRICT James F. Clayborne, Jr. (D) Wyatt C. Frazer (D) Dave Barnes (R)			Y	Y	Y													
1ST REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Daniel J. Burke (D)			Y	Y	Y													
2ND REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Edward J. Acevedo (D) Cuahutemoc "Temoc" Morfin (D) Josip "Joe" Trutin (D)			Y	Y	Y													
3RD REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Luis Arroyo (D)			Y	Y	Y													
4TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Cynthia Soto (D)			Y	Y	Y													
5TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Kenneth Dunkin (D) Dori Collins (D) John Hu (D)			Y	Y	Y													
6TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Esther Golar (D)				Y														
7TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Emanuel "Chris" Welch (D) 17/17 Princess C. Dempsey (D) Beyonca Johnson (D) Rory Hoskins (D) Sherby J. Miller (D)			Y	Y	Y													
8TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT La Shawn K. Ford (D)				Y														
9TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Arthur Turner (D)			Y		Y													
10TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Derrick Smith (D) Tom Swiss (D) Vetress M. Boyce (D)			Y	Y	Y													
11TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Ann M. Williams (D)			Y	Y	Y													
12TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Sara Feigenholtz (D)			Y	Y	Y													
13TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Gregory Harris (D)			Y	Y	Y													
14TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Paula A. Basta (D) 17/17 Kelly M. Cassidy (D) 17/17			Y	Y	Y													
16TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Lou Lang (D) 17/17 Vincent William Romano (R)			Y	Y	Y													
17TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Laura Fine (D) Kyle Frank (R)			Y	Y	Y													
18TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Robyn Gabel (D)			Y	Y	Y													
19TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Robert F. Martwick, Jr. (D) Sandra Stoppa (D)			Y	Y	Y													
20TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Bruce Randazzo (D) Michael P. McAuliffe (R)					Y													
21ST REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Rudy Lozano (D) 17/17 Silvana Tabares (D)			Y	Y														
22ND REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Michael J. Madigan (D) Olivia Trejo (D) Michele J. Piszczor (D) Mike Rodriguez (D) Robert Handzik (R)										Y								
23RD REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Anna Goral (D) Michael J. Zalewski (D)										Y								
24TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Robert R. Reyes (D) Neftalie Gonzalez (D) Elizabeth "Lisa" Hernandez (D)								Y		Y	Y							
25TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Barbara Flynn Currie (D)			Y	Y	Y					Y	Y							
26TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Christian L. Mitchell (D) 16/17 Kenny Johnson (D)			Y	Y	Y					Y	Y	Y						
27TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Preston Brown, Jr. (D) Monique D. Davis (D)										Y	Y	Y						
28TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Robert "Bob" Rita (D) Michael E. Mayden (D) James J. Taylor (D) Patricia "Teesha" Hanson (D)										Y	Y	Y						
29TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Thaddeus Jones (D)			Y		Y						Y							
30TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT William "Will" Davis (D)			Y	Y	Y					Y	Y	Y						
31ST REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Mary E. Flowers (D)										Y								
32ND REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Andre Thapedi (D) Bobby Joe Johnson (D)										Y								
33RD REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Marlow H. Colvin (D)										Y								
34TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Elgie R. Sims, Jr. (D) Richard A. Wooten (D) Kyle Kasperek (D) Paul Steven Gregoire (D) Sandra J. Wortham (D)			Y	Y	Y					Y	Y	Y						
35TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Frances Ann Hurley (D) Anthony R. Martin (D) Andrew Byrne Hodorowicz (D) Steven Williams (R)										Y								
38TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Al Riley (D) Clifton Graham, Jr. (D)			Y	Y	Y					Y	Y	Y						
39TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Maria Antonia "Toni" Berrios (D) 17/17 Will Guzzardi (D) 17/17			Y	Y	Y					Y	Y	Y						
40TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Deborah L. Mell (D) Antoinette "Toni" Puccio-Johnson (R)			Y	Y	Y					Y	Y	Y						
43RD REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Keith Farnham (D)			Y	Y	Y					Y	Y	Y						
44TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Fred Crespo (D) Ramiro Juarez (R)										Y	Y							
45TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Joann Franzen (D) Dennis M. Reboletti (R)			Y	Y						Y	Y							
50TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Andrew Bernard (D) Kay Hatcher (R)										Y								
55TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Martin J. Moylan (D)			Y		Y					Y		Y						
56TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Michelle Mussman (D) John R. Lawson (R)			Y		Y					Y		Y						
57TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Elaine Nekritz (D) Jonathan L. Greenberg (R)			Y	Y	Y					Y	Y	Y						
58TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Scott Drury (D) Mark G. Neerhof (R) Lauren G. Turelli (R)																Y		Y
59TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Carol Sente (D) Sidney H. Mathias (R)															Y	Y	Y	
61ST REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Ed Erwin (D) JoAnn D. Osmond (R)															Y		Y	
62ND REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Sam Yingling (D) Sandy Cole (R)																Y		Y
63RD REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Jack D. Franks (D)																Y		
67TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Charles E. "Chuck" Jefferson (D) Gloria M. Lind (D)															Y		Y	
68TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Carl R. Wasco (D) Clint Little (D) John M. Cabello (R)															Y		Y	
71ST REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Mike Smiddy (D) James F. Arduini (D) Richard Morthland (R)															Y	Y	Y	
72ND REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Glen Evans (D) Patrick Verschoore (D) Jonathan Wallace (R) Neil Anderson (R)																		Y
77TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Kathleen Willis (D) Angelo "SKip" Saviano (R)																	Y	
78TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Camille Y. Lilly (D) Michael D. Nardello (D) Raph P. Vara (R)															Y	Y	Y	
80TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Anthony DeLuca (D)															Y	Y	Y	
84TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Ken Maurice (D) Alex Arroyo (D) 16/17 Stephanie A. Kifowit (D) Carole Cheney (D) Patricia "Pat" Fee (R)															Y	Y	Y	
85TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Emily McAsey (D)															Y	Y	Y	
86TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Jack McGuire (D) Ryan Martin Alm (R)																Y		
92ND REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Jehan Gordon (D)															Y	Y	Y	
96TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Winston Taylor (D) Sam Cahnman (D) Sue Scherer (D) Jared S. Perry (R) Dennis Ross Shackelford (R)															Y		Y	
97TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Tom Cross (R)															Y		Y	
98TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Natalie A. Manley (D) Robert "Bob" Kalnicky (R) Janet C. Silosky (R)															Y		Y	
103RD REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Naomi D. Jakobsson (D) Robert A. Meister (R)															Y	Y	Y	
113TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Jay Hoffman (D) Melinda Hult (R)																Y		
114TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Eddie Lee Jackson (D) Ryan Stookey (R)															Y	Y	Y	

This week's charts have been updated from last week. Please use these charts for most current information. Particular races for which there were no data have been deleted for space. See our downloadable charts at WindyCityTimes.com.

JUDICIAL EVALUATIONS

Windy City Times does not endorse candidates. Rather, we list their answers to our questionnaire as well as the ratings of legal organizations so that readers can make informed choices when they vote.

Key to Organizations:

WCT = Windy City Times questions, number listed is of the total questions correct for that race
 PPAC – Personal PAC
 IVI - Independent Voters of Illinois/Independent Precinct Organization
 CCL – Chicago Council of Lawyers
 CCBA – Cook County Bar Association
 DSL – Decalogue Society of Lawyers
 ISBA – Illinois State Bar Association
 LAGBAC – Lesbian and Gay Bar Association of Chicago
 WBAI – Women’s Bar Association of Illinois
 CBA – Chicago Bar Association

Key to Ratings:

Q – Qualified
 NQ – Not Qualified
 WQ – Well Qualified
 HQ - Highly Qualified
 HR - Highly Recommended
 R - Recommended
 NR - Not Recommended
 NE - Not Evaluated
 (D) = Democrat
 (R) = Republican

In addition, Planned Parenthood endorses Mary Jane Theis for Illinois Superior Court, 1st District; and Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund endorses Michael Forti for Cook County Circuit Court and Mary Trew for Cook County Circuit Court, 9th Subcircuit.

NOTE: Charts have been updated since the March 7, 2012, issue. Please use this version for voting. Ratings listed are the most current available at press time.

	WCT	PPAC	IVI	CCL	CCBA	DSL	ISBA	LAGBAC	WBAI	CBA
Sup. Ct-1st Dist. (Fitzgerald vacancy)										
Mary Jane Theis (D)	8/9	Y		HQ	R	HR	HQ	HR	R	HQ
Aurelia Marie Pucinski (D)			Y	NQ	R	NR	NQ	NR	NR	Q
Joy Virginia Cunningham (D)				WQ	R	R	Q	R	R	HQ
Thomas W. Flannigan (D)				NQ	NE	NR	NQ	NR	NR	NR
James Gerard Riley (R)				NQ	R	R	Q	R	R	Q
App. Ct-1st Dist. (Cahill vacancy)										
Pamela E. Hill-Veal (D)				NQ	R	NR	NQ	NR	NR	NR
Mathias William Delort (D)	8/9	Y	Y	WQ	R	R	HQ	R	R	HQ
Kay Marie Hanlon (D)	9/9			Q	R	R	Q	R	R	HQ
Mary Brigid Hayes (D)		Y		Q	NR	R	Q	HR	R	Q
James Michael McGing (D)				Q	R	R	Q	R	R	HQ
Laura Marie Sullivan (D)				NR	NR	NR	NQ	NR	NR	Q
App. Ct-1st Dist. (Johnson Coleman vacancy)										
Nathaniel Roosevelt Howse, Jr. (D)	8/9		Y	Q	HR	HR	HQ	HR	R	HQ
App. Ct-1st Dist. (Gallagher vacancy)										
Patrick J. Sherlock (D)				NQ	R	R	Q	R	R	Q
P. Scott Neville, Jr. (D)			Y	Q	HR	HR	HQ	HR	R	Q
Marguerite Anne Quinn (D)	8/9	Y		NQ	NR	NR	NQ	R	R	Q
App. Ct-1st Dist. (O'Brien vacancy)										
Jesse G. Reyes (D)	8/9	Y	Y	Q	HR	HR	Q	R	R	Q
Rodolfo "Rudy" Garcia (D)				WQ	HR	R	Q	R	R	Q
William Stewart Boyd (D)				WQ	HR	R	Q	R	R	Q
Ellen L. Flannigan (D)				NQ	NR	NR	NQ	NR	NR	NR
Don R. Sampen (D)				WQ	R	R	Q	R	R	HQ
App. Ct-1st Dist. (Theis vacancy)										
Maureen Elizabeth Connors (D)				WQ	R	R	Q	R	R	Q
App. Ct-1st Dist. (Tully vacancy)										
Terrence J. Lavin (D)				Q	R	R	Q	R	R	Q
William D. O'Neal (D)										
App. Ct-2nd Dist. (O'Malley vacancy)										
Joe Birkett (R)										
App. Ct-4th Dist. (Myerscough vacancy)										
Carol Pope (R)										
App. Ct-5th Dist. (Donovan vacancy)										
Judy Cates (D)										
Stephen McGlynn (R)										
Cook Circuit Court (Conlon vacancy)										
Karen Lynn O'Malley (D)	9/9			Q	R	R	Q	R	R	Q
Jo Anne Hopson Guillemette (D)				NQ	NR	NR	NQ	NR	NR	NR
Stanley L. Hill, Sr. (D)	8/9		Y	Q	R	R	Q	R	R	Q
Cook Circuit Court (Jordan vacancy)										
Jean Prendergast Rooney (D)				WQ	R	HR	Q	R	R	HQ
Cook Circuit Court (Kinnaird vacancy)										
Kevin Cunningham (D)	9/9			Q	R	R	Q	R	R	Q
Erica L. Reddick (D)	4/9		Y	Q	HR	R	HQ	R	R	Q
Cook Circuit Court (Moran vacancy)										
Russell W. Hartigan (D)	7/9	Y		Q	R	HR	HQ	HR	R	HQ
Cook Circuit Court (O'Brien vacancy)										
Gerald V. Cleary (D)				Q	R	HR	Q	R	R	HQ
Cynthia Ramirez (D)	8/9		Y	Q	R	HR	Q	R	R	Q
Cook Circuit Court (O'Mara Frossard vacancy)										
Nichole C. Patton (D)				NQ	R	NR	NQ	R	R	NR
Kevin W. Horan (D)				Q	R	R	Q	R	R	Q
Diann Karen Marsalek (D)	8/9	Y	Y	NQ	R	R	Q	R	R	Q
Rodrick F. Wimberly (D)				NR	NR	NR	NQ	NR	NR	NR
Cook Circuit Court (Pucinski vacancy)										
Edward J. Maloney (D)	8/9			Q	R	HR	Q	R	R	Q
Lorna Ellen Propes (D)		Y		WQ	R	R	Q	NR	R	HQ

Cook Circuit Court (Simmons vacancy)

Michael A. Forti (D)
 Jessica A. O'Brien (D)
 James A. Wright (D)

Cook Circuit Court (Stewart vacancy)

Pamela M. Leeming (D)
 Terrence M. Jordan (D)
 Deidre Baumann (D)
 Mary Margaret Burke (D)
 Sammy W. Lacey, Jr. (D)
 Rhonda Sallee (D)
 Steve Demitro (D)

Cook Circuit Court (Stralka vacancy)

Michael Tully Mullen (D)

Cook Circuit Court (Ward vacancy)

Alfred M. Swanson, Jr. (D)
 Denise Marie Nalley (D)
 Elizabeth Mary Hayes (D)
 Joan Marie Kubalanza (D)
 Peter J. Vilkelis (D)
 Brian J. Stephenson (D)

Cook Circuit Court-2nd Sub (Stuttley vacancy)

Carl B. Boyd (D)
 Arthur Wesley "Wes" Willis (D)
 Alma Learetta Tyson (D)
 Chester Slaughter (D)

Cook Circuit Court-3rd Sub (McGann vacancy)

Maureen Leahy Delehanty (D)
 Scott Edward Lipinski (D)

Cook Circuit Court-3rd Sub (McSweeney-Moore vacancy)

Thomas J. Carroll (D)
 Daniel R. Degnan (D)

Cook Circuit Court-4th Sub (Riley vacancy)

Daniel Lawrence Peters (D)
 William "Gomo" Gomolinski (D)
 Michael J. "Mike" Dickman (D)
 Terry Gallagher (D)
 Joanne Marie Rogers (D)
 Harry J. Fournier (R)

Cook Circuit Court-4th Sub ('A' vacancy)

Julie Line Bailey (D)
 Karin Elizabeth Swanson (D)
 Linda A. Walls (D)
 Martin D. Reggi (D)
 Edward M. Maloney (D)
 Christine Cook (R)

Cook Circuit Court-6th Sub (Delgado vacancy)

Beatriz Santiago (D)
 Mark V. Ferrante (D)
 Gregory Emmett Ahern, Jr. (D)
 Carlos Claudio (D)
 Kent A. Delgado (D)
 Ricardo Lugo (D)
 Glenn J. Kahn (D)

Cook Circuit Court-7th Sub (Jones vacancy)

Aicha Marie MacCarthy (D)

Cook Circuit Court-7th Sub (Starks vacancy)

Tommy Brewer (D)
 Roxanne L. Rochester (D)

Cook Circuit Court-7th Sub (Terrell vacancy)

William G. Gamboney (D)

Cook Circuit Court-7th Sub (Toney vacancy)

Arthur P. Wheatley (D)
 Mable Taylor (D)
 Kimberly D. Lewis (D)
 Mark Battaglia (D)

Cook Circuit Court-8th Sub (Chiola vacancy)

NOTE: Listings updated from last week.

Rodney W. Stewart (D)
 Celia Louise Gamrath (D)
 James A. Shapiro (D)
 Thomas N. Osran (D)

Cook Circuit Court-8th Sub (Cole vacancy)

Brad Trowbridge (D)
 John H. Ehrlich (D)
 Gideon Abraham Baum (D)
 Helaine "Lainie" Berger (D)
 James L. Kaplan (D)
 Ellis B. Levin (D)

Cook Circuit Court-8th Sub (Durkin Roy vacancy)

Deborah Jean Gubin (D)
 Sharon Finegan Patterson (D)
 Nicholas Geanopoulos (D)

Cook Circuit Court-8th Sub ('A' vacancy)

Laura Liu (D)

	WCT	PPAC	IVI	CCL	CCBA	DSL	ISBA	LAGBAC	WBAI	CBA
Michael A. Forti (D)	9/9	Y		Q	R	R	Q	R	R	HQ
Jessica A. O'Brien (D)	9/9		Y	Q	R	R	Q	R	R	Q
James A. Wright (D)	9/9			Q	R	R	Q	R	R	Q
Pamela M. Leeming (D)				Q	R	R	Q	R	R	Q
Terrence M. Jordan (D)	7/9			NR	NR	NR	NQ	NR	NR	NR
Deidre Baumann (D)	9/9	Y	Y	NQ	R	R	NQ	NR	R	NR
Mary Margaret Burke (D)				NR	NR	NR	NQ	NR	NR	Q
Sammy W. Lacey, Jr. (D)				NR	NR	NR	NQ	NR	NR	NR
Rhonda Sallee (D)				NQ	R	NR	NQ	NR	NR	NR
Steve Demitro (D)				NR	NR	NR	NQ	NR	NR	NR
Michael Tully Mullen (D)				WQ	R	HR	HQ	R	R	HQ
Alfred M. Swanson, Jr. (D)	8/9	Y	Y	Q	R	R	Q	R	R	Q
Denise Marie Nalley (D)				NR	NR	NR	NQ	NR	NR	NR
Elizabeth Mary Hayes (D)				NQ	NR	NR	NQ	R	NR	NR
Joan Marie Kubalanza (D)	6/9			Q	R	R	Q	R	R	Q
Peter J. Vilkelis (D)	9/9			Q	R	R	Q	R	R	Q
Brian J. Stephenson (D)				Q	R	R	Q	R	R	Q
Carl B. Boyd (D)				NQ	R	R	NQ	R	R	NR
Arthur Wesley "Wes" Willis (D)				Q	R	R	Q	R	R	Q
Alma Learetta Tyson (D)				NR	NR	NR	NQ	NR	NR	NR
Chester Slaughter (D)				NR	NR	NR	NQ	NR	NR	NR
Maureen Leahy Delehanty (D)				Q	R	R	Q	R	R	Q
Scott Edward Lipinski (D)				NQ	NR	NR	NQ	NR	NR	NR
Thomas J. Carroll (D)										
Daniel R. Degnan (D)				NR	NR	NR	NQ	NR	NR	NR
Daniel Lawrence Peters (D)				NQ	R	R	Q	R	R	Q
William "Gomo" Gomolinski (D)				Q	R	R	Q	R	R	Q
Michael J. "Mike" Dickman (D)				NQ	R	R	NQ	NR	NR	NR
Terry Gallagher (D)				Q	R	R	Q	R	R	Q
Joanne Marie Rogers (D)				Q	R	R	Q	R	R	Q
Harry J. Fournier (R)			Y	NQ	R	R	Q	R	R	NR
Julie Line Bailey (D)				Q	NR	NR	Q	NR	R	Q
Karin Elizabeth Swanson (D)				Q	R	R	Q	HR	R	Q
Linda A. Walls (D)				NQ	R	NR	NQ	NR	R	Q
Martin D. Reggi (D)										
Edward M. Maloney (D)				Q	R	R	Q	NR	R	Q
Christine Cook (R)				Q	NR	NE	Q	R	R	Q
Beatriz Santiago (D)			Y	Q	R	R	Q	HR	R	NR
Mark V. Ferrante (D)	9/9			WQ	R	HR	Q	R	R	HQ
Gregory Emmett Ahern, Jr. (D)				Q	R	R	Q	HR	R	HQ
Carlos Claudio (D)				NR	NR	NR	NQ	NR	NR	NR
Kent A. Delgado (D)				Q	R	R	Q	R	R	Q
Ricardo Lugo (D)				NQ	R	NR	NQ	NR	NR	NR
Aicha Marie MacCarthy (D)				NQ	NR	R	Q	R	R	NR
Tommy Brewer (D)			Y	Q	R	R	NQ	NE	R	Q
Roxanne L. Rochester (D)				Q	R	R	Q	R	R	NR
William G. Gamboney (D)				Q	R	R	Q	R	R	HQ
Arthur P. Wheatley (D)			Y	Q	HR	HR	Q	HR	R	Q
Mable Taylor (D)				NQ	NR	NR	NQ	NR	NR	NR
Kimberly D. Lewis (D)				NR	NR	NR	NQ	NR	NR	NR
Mark Battaglia (D)				NQ	R	NR	NQ	NR	NR	NR
Rodney W. Stewart (D)	9/9			NQ	R	R	Q	R	R	Q
Celia Louise Gamrath (D)	8/9	Y		Q	R	R	Q	R	R	HQ
James A. Shapiro (D)		Y	Y	Q	R	HR	Q	R	R	HQ
Thomas N. Osran (D)				Q	R	R	Q	R	R	Q
Brad Trowbridge (D)	9/9	Y	Y	NQ	R	R	Q	R	R	NR
John H. Ehrlich (D)	9/9	Y		WQ	R	HR	Q	HR	R	HQ
Gideon Abraham Baum (D)				Q	R	R	Q	R	R	NR
Helaine "Lainie" Berger (D)		Y		NQ	R	R	Q	R	R	NR
James L. Kaplan (D)				Q	R	R	Q	R	R	Q
Ellis B. Levin (D)	9/9	Y								

	WCT	PPAC	IVI	CCL	CCBA	DSL	ISBA	LAGBAC	WBAI	CBA		WCT	PPAC	IVI	CCL	CCBA	DSL	ISBA	LAGBAC	WBAI	CBA	
Cook Circuit Court-9th Sub (Bender vacancy) Michael Ian Bender (D) Lionel Jean-Baptiste (D)	5/9 8/9			Q Q	R HR	R R	Q Q	HR R	R R	Q Q												
Cook Circuit Court-9th Sub (Epstein vacancy) Mary S. Trew (D) Abbey Fishman Romanek (D) David C. Adams (D) Larry G. Axelrood (D)	9/9 8/9	Y Y	Y	Q Q NR WQ	R R NR R	R R NR HR	Q Q NQ HQ	HR R NR HR	R R NR R	Q Q NR HQ		8/9										
Cook Circuit Court-10th Sub (Locallo vacancy) Thomas R. Allen (D)		Y		Q	R	R	Q	R	R	Q		5/9	Y									
Cook Circuit Court-11th Sub (O'Brien vacancy) Maureen A. Murphy (D) Michael R. Clancy (D) Maritza Martinez (D) Roger Zamparo (D)			Y	Q Q Q NR	R R R NR	R R NR NR	Q Q Q NQ	R R NR NR	R R NR NR	Q Q Q Q												
Cook Circuit Court-11th Sub (Urso vacancy) Lisa Ann Marino (D) Pamela McLean Meyerson (D) Deborah J. Fortier (D) Jennifer A. Blanc (D)	9/9		Y	Q Q NQ NQ	R R R NR	NR HR NR NR	Q Q NQ NQ	NR HR NR NR	R R NR R	Q Q NR NR												
Cook Circuit Court-12th Sub (Rochford vacancy) Andrea M. Schleifer (D) Michael John Halloran (D) Robert P. Babbitt (D) Daniel P. Scott (D) James C. Murray (D) James Paul Pieczonka (R)	9/9	Y		WQ Q NR NR WQ NQ	R R NR NR R NR	R HR NR NR R NR	Q Q NQ NQ Q NQ	HR R NR NR R NR	R R NR NR R NR	Q Q NR NR Q NR												
Cook Circuit Court-13th Sub (Pietrucha vacancy) Ketki "Kay" Steffen (R) Paul S. Pavlus (R) Nicholas G. Grapsas (R) Peter A. Pacione (R)	6/9		Y	Q Q Q NR	R R R NR	R R R NR	Q Q Q NQ	R R R NR	R R R NR	Q Q HQ NR												
Cook Circuit Court-13th Sub ('A' vacancy) Martin C. Kelly (R)				NQ	R	R	Q	NR	NR	NR												
Cook Circuit Court-14th Sub (O'Gara vacancy) Regina Ann Scannicchio (R)				WQ	R	R	Q	HR	R	Q												
16th Circuit Court-2nd Sub. ('A' vacancy) John G. Dalton (D) John F. Hurlbut (R) John N. Walter (R)	9/9	Y																				
17th Circuit Court-3rd Sub. ('A' vacancy) Brendan Maher (R)																						
18th Circuit Court (Thompson vacancy) Alice Wilson (D) Patrick J. O'Shea (R) Bob Gibson (R) Brian McKillip (R)																						
19th Circuit Court-2nd Sub. ('A' vacancy) Patricia Fix (D) Luis A. Berrones (R)																						
19th Circuit Court-3rd Sub. ('A' vacancy) Jeffrey S. Braiman (D) Daniel B. Shanes (R)																						
19th Circuit Court-3rd Sub. ('B' vacancy) Nancy Waites (D) Thomas Schippers (R) Todd Brian Projansky (R)																						
20th Circuit Court (O'Malley vacancy) Vincent J. Lopinot (D) Ronald R. Duebbert (R)																						
20th Circuit Court (Wharton vacancy) Zina R. Cruise (D) Anne Fohne Keeley (D) Laninya A. Cason (R)																						
20th Circuit Court-St. Clair Co. (Cueto vacancy) Brian K. Trentman (D) Julie A. Koluszek (R) Daniel J. Emge (R)																						
23rd Circuit Court-DeKalb Co. (Klein vacancy) Ronald G. Matekaitis (D) Bill Brady (R)																						
23rd Circuit Court-Kendall Co. ('A' vacancy) Melissa S. Barnhart (R) David S. Kim (R)																						

This week's charts have been updated from last week. Please use these charts for most current information. Particular races for which there were no data have been deleted for space. See our downloadable charts at WindyCityTimes.com.

WINDY CITY TIMES

2012 PRIMARY ELECTION GUIDE

March 7 & 14



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The for me

Patient model. Pill shown is not actual size.

INDICATION

COMPLERA® (emtricitabine 200 mg/rilpivirine 25 mg/tenofovir disoproxil fumarate 300 mg) is a prescription HIV medicine that contains 3 medicines, EMTRIVA® (emtricitabine), EDURANT™ (rilpivirine), and VIREAD® (tenofovir disoproxil fumarate) combined in one pill. COMPLERA is used as a complete single-tablet regimen to treat HIV-1 infection in adults (age 18 and older) who have never taken HIV medicines before.

COMPLERA does not cure HIV and has not been shown to prevent passing HIV to others. It is important to always practice safer sex, use latex or polyurethane condoms to lower the chance of sexual contact with any body fluids, and to never re-use or share needles. **Do not stop taking COMPLERA unless directed by your healthcare provider. See your healthcare provider regularly.**

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

Contact your healthcare provider right away if you get the following side effects or conditions while taking COMPLERA:

- Nausea, vomiting, unusual muscle pain, and/or weakness. These may be signs of a buildup of acid in the blood (lactic acidosis), which is a serious medical condition
- Light-colored stools, dark-colored urine, and/or if your skin or the whites of your eyes turn yellow. These may be signs of serious liver problems (hepatotoxicity), with liver enlargement (hepatomegaly), and fat in the liver (steatosis)
- If you have HIV-1 and hepatitis B virus (HBV), your liver disease may suddenly get worse if you stop taking COMPLERA. Do not stop taking COMPLERA without first talking to your healthcare provider. Your healthcare provider will monitor your condition

COMPLERA may affect the way other medicines work, and other medicines may affect how COMPLERA works, and may cause serious side effects.

Do not take COMPLERA if you are taking the following medicines:

- other HIV medicines (COMPLERA provides a complete treatment for HIV infection.)
- the anti-seizure medicines carbamazepine (Carbatrol®, Equetro®, Tegretol®, Tegretol-XR®, Teril®, Eptol®), oxcarbazepine (Trileptal®), phenobarbital (Luminal®), phenytoin (Dilantin®, Dilantin-125®, Phenytek®)
- the anti-tuberculosis medicines rifabutin (Mycobutin), rifampin (Rifater®, Rifamate®, Rimactane®, Rifadin®) and rifapentine (Priftin®)
- a proton pump inhibitor medicine for certain stomach or intestinal problems, including esomeprazole (Nexium®, Vimovo®), lansoprazole (Prevacid®), omeprazole (Prilosec®), pantoprazole sodium (Protonix®), rabeprazole (Aciphex®)
- more than 1 dose of the steroid medicine dexamethasone or dexamethasone sodium phosphate
- St. John's wort (Hypericum perforatum)
- other medicines that contain tenofovir (VIREAD®, TRUVADA®, ATRIPLA®)
- other medicines that contain emtricitabine or lamivudine (EMTRIVA®, Combivir®, Epivir® or Epivir-HBV®, Epzicom®, Trizivir®)
- rilpivirine (Edurant™)
- adefovir (HEPSERA®)

In addition, also tell your healthcare provider if you take:

- an antacid medicine that contains aluminum, magnesium hydroxide, or calcium carbonate. Take antacids at least 2 hours before or at least 4 hours after you take COMPLERA
- a histamine-2 blocker medicine, including famotidine (Pepcid®), cimetidine (Tagamet®), nizatidine (Axid®), or ranitidine hydrochloride (Zantac®). Take these medicines at least 12 hours before or at least 4 hours after you take COMPLERA
- the antibiotic medicines clarithromycin (Biaxin®), erythromycin (E-Mycin®, Eryc®, Ery-Tab®, PCE®, Pediazole®, Ilosone®), and troleandomycin (TAO®)
- an antifungal medicine by mouth, including fluconazole (Diflucan®), itraconazole (Sporanox®), ketoconazole (Nizoral®), posaconazole (Noxafil®), voriconazole (Vfend®)
- methadone (Dolophine®)

This list of medicines is not complete. Discuss with your healthcare provider all prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, or herbal supplements you are taking or plan to take.

COMPLERA is a prescription medicine used as a complete single-tablet regimen to treat HIV-1 in adults who have never taken HIV medicines before. COMPLERA does not cure HIV or AIDS or help prevent passing HIV to others.

COMPLERA. A complete HIV treatment in only 1 pill a day.

Ask your healthcare provider if it's the **one** for you.

Before taking COMPLERA, tell your healthcare provider if you:

- have **liver problems**, including **hepatitis B or C** virus infection
- have **kidney problems**
- have ever had a **mental health problem**
- have **bone problems**
- are **pregnant or plan to become pregnant**. It is not known if COMPLERA can harm your unborn child
- are breastfeeding; **women with HIV should not breast-feed** because they can pass HIV through their milk to the baby

Contact your healthcare provider right away if you experience any of the following serious or common side effects:

Serious side effects associated with COMPLERA:

- **New or worse kidney problems** can happen in some people who take COMPLERA. If you have had kidney problems in the past or take other medicines that can cause kidney problems, your healthcare provider may need to do blood tests to check your kidneys during your treatment with COMPLERA
- **Depression or mood changes** can happen in some people who take COMPLERA. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any of the following symptoms: feeling sad or hopeless, feeling anxious or restless, or if you have thoughts of hurting yourself (suicide) or have tried to hurt yourself
- **Bone problems** can happen in some people who take COMPLERA. Bone problems include bone pain, softening or thinning (which may lead to fractures). Your healthcare provider may need to do additional tests to check your bones
- **Changes in body fat** can happen in people taking HIV medicine. These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast, and around the main part of your body (trunk). Loss of fat from the legs, arms and face may also happen. The cause and long-term health effect of these conditions are not known
- **Changes in your immune system (Immune Reconstitution Syndrome)** can happen when you start taking HIV medicines. Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections that have been hidden in your body for a long time. Tell your healthcare provider if you start having new symptoms after starting your HIV medicine

Common side effects associated with COMPLERA:

- trouble sleeping (insomnia), abnormal dreams, headache, dizziness, diarrhea, nausea, rash, tiredness, and depression

Other side effects associated with COMPLERA:

- vomiting, stomach pain or discomfort, skin discoloration (small spots or freckles), and pain

Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effect that bothers you or that does not go away. These are not all the possible side effects of COMPLERA. For more information, ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist. Call your healthcare provider for medical advice about side effects.

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

Take COMPLERA exactly as your healthcare provider tells you to take it

- **Always take COMPLERA with a meal.** Taking COMPLERA with a meal is important to help get the right amount of medicine in your body. A protein drink does not replace a meal
- **Stay under the care of your healthcare provider during treatment with COMPLERA and see your healthcare provider regularly**

Please see Patient Information for COMPLERA on the following pages.



COMPLERA[®]
emtricitabine 200mg/rilpivirine 25mg/
tenofovir disoproxil fumarate 300mg tablets

Learn more at www.COMPLERA.com

FDA-Approved Patient Labeling**Patient Information****COMPLERA® (kom-PLUH-rah)****(emtricitabine, rilpivirine and tenofovir disoproxil fumarate) Tablets**

Important: Ask your doctor or pharmacist about medicines that should not be taken with COMPLERA. For more information, see the section “What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking COMPLERA?”

Read this Patient Information before you start taking COMPLERA and each time you get a refill. There may be new information. This information does not take the place of talking to your healthcare provider about your medical condition or treatment.

What is the most important information I should know about COMPLERA?**COMPLERA can cause serious side effects, including:**

1. Build-up of an acid in your blood (lactic acidosis). Lactic acidosis can happen in some people who take COMPLERA or similar (nucleoside analogs) medicines. **Lactic acidosis** is a serious medical emergency that can lead to death.

Lactic acidosis can be hard to identify early, because the symptoms could seem like symptoms of other health problems. **Call your healthcare provider right away if you get any of the following symptoms which could be signs of lactic acidosis:**

- feeling very weak or tired
- have unusual (not normal) muscle pain
- have trouble breathing
- have stomach pain with
 - nausea (feel sick to your stomach)
 - vomiting
- feel cold, especially in your arms and legs
- feel dizzy or lightheaded
- have a fast or irregular heartbeat

2. Severe liver problems. Severe liver problems can happen in people who take COMPLERA or similar medicines. In some cases these liver problems can lead to death. Your liver may become large (hepatomegaly) and you may develop fat in your liver (steatosis) when you take COMPLERA.

Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any of the following symptoms of liver problems:

- your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice).
- dark “tea-colored” urine
- light-colored bowel movements (stools)
- loss of appetite for several days or longer
- nausea
- stomach pain

You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or severe liver problems if you are female, very overweight (obese), or have been taking COMPLERA or a similar medicine containing nucleoside analogs for a long time.

3. Worsening of Hepatitis B infection. If you also have hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection and you stop taking COMPLERA, your HBV infection may become worse (flare-up). A “flare-up” is when your HBV infection suddenly returns in a worse way than before. COMPLERA is not approved for the treatment of HBV, so you must discuss your HBV therapy with your healthcare provider.

- Do not let your COMPLERA run out. Refill your prescription or talk to your healthcare provider before your COMPLERA is all gone.
- Do not stop taking COMPLERA without first talking to your healthcare provider.
- If you stop taking COMPLERA, your healthcare provider will need to check your health often and do regular blood tests to check your HBV infection. Tell your healthcare provider about any new or unusual symptoms you may have after you stop taking COMPLERA.

What is COMPLERA?

COMPLERA is a prescription HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) medicine that:

- is used to treat HIV-1 in adults who have **never** taken HIV medicines before. HIV is the virus that causes AIDS (Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome).
- contains 3 medicines, (rilpivirine, emtricitabine, tenofovir disoproxil fumarate) combined in one tablet. EMTRIVA and VIREAD are HIV-1 (human immunodeficiency virus) nucleoside analog reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NRTIs) and EDURANT is an HIV-1 non-nucleoside analog reverse transcriptase inhibitor (NNRTI).

It is not known if COMPLERA is safe and effective in children under the age of 18 years.

COMPLERA may help:

- Reduce the amount of HIV in your blood. This is called your “viral load”.
- Increase the number of white blood cells called CD4+ (T) cells that help fight off other infections.

Reducing the amount of HIV and increasing the CD4+ (T) cell count may improve your immune system. This may reduce your risk of death or infections that can happen when your immune system is weak (opportunistic infections).

COMPLERA does not cure HIV infections or AIDS.

- Always practice safer sex.
- Use latex or polyurethane condoms to lower the chance of sexual contact with any body fluids such as semen, vaginal secretions, or blood.
- Never re-use or share needles.

Ask your healthcare provider if you have any questions about how to prevent passing HIV to other people.

Who should not take COMPLERA?

- Do not take COMPLERA if your HIV infection has been previously treated with HIV medicines.
- **Do not take COMPLERA if you are taking certain other medicines.** For more information about medicines that must not be taken with COMPLERA, see “What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking COMPLERA?”

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking COMPLERA?**Before you take COMPLERA, tell your healthcare provider if you:**

- have liver problems, including hepatitis B or C virus infection
- have kidney problems
- have ever had a mental health problem
- have bone problems
- are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if COMPLERA can harm your unborn child
- **Pregnancy Registry.** There is a pregnancy registry for women who take antiviral medicines during pregnancy. Its purpose is to collect information about the health of you and your baby. Talk to your healthcare provider about how you can take part in this registry.
- are breast-feeding or plan to breast-feed. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that mothers with HIV not breastfeed because they can pass the HIV through their milk to the baby. It is not known if COMPLERA can pass through your breast milk and harm your baby. Talk to your healthcare provider about the best way to feed your baby.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take, including prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements.

COMPLERA may affect the way other medicines work, and other medicines may affect how COMPLERA works, and may cause serious side effects. If you take certain medicines with COMPLERA, the amount of COMPLERA in your body may be too low and it may not work to help control your HIV infection. The HIV virus in your body may become resistant to COMPLERA or other HIV medicines that are like it.

Do not take COMPLERA if you also take these medicines:

- COMPLERA provides a complete treatment for HIV infection. Do not take other HIV medicines with COMPLERA.
- the anti-seizure medicines carbamazepine (CARBATROL®, EQUETRO®, TEGRETOL®, TEGRETOL-XR®, TERIL®, EPITOL®), oxcarbazepine (TRILEPTAL®), phenobarbital (LUMINAL®), phenytoin (DILANTIN®, DILANTIN-125®, PHENYTEK®)
- the anti-tuberculosis medicines rifabutin (MYCOBUTIN®), rifampin (RIFATER®, RIFAMATE®, RIMACTANE®, RIFADIN®) and rifapentine (PRIFTIN®)
- a proton pump inhibitor medicine for certain stomach or intestinal problems, including esomeprazole (NEXIUM®, VIMOVO®), lansoprazole (PREVACID®), omeprazole (PRILLOSEC®), pantoprazole sodium (PROTONIX®), rabeprazole (ACIPHEX®)
- more than 1 dose of the steroid medicine dexamethasone or dexamethasone sodium phosphate
- St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*)

If you are taking COMPLERA, you should not take:

- other medicines that contain tenofovir (VIREAD®, TRUVADA®, ATRIPLA®)
- other medicines that contain emtricitabine or lamivudine (EMTRIVA®, COMBIVIR®, EPIVIR® or EPIVIR-HBV®, EPZICOM®, TRIZIVIR®)
- rilpivirine (EDURANT™)
- adefovir (HEPSERA®)

Also tell your healthcare provider if you take:

- an antacid medicine that contains aluminum, magnesium hydroxide, or calcium carbonate. Take antacids at least 2 hours before or at least 4 hours after you take COMPLERA.
- a histamine-2 blocker medicine, including famotidine (PEPCID®), cimetidine (TAGAMET®), nizatidine (AXID®), or ranitidine hydrochloride (ZANTAC®). Take these medicines at least 12 hours before or at least 4 hours after you take COMPLERA.
- the antibiotic medicines clarithromycin (BIAXIN®), erythromycin (E-MYCIN®, ERYC®, ERY-TAB®, PCE®, PEDIAZOLE®, ILOSONE®), and troleandomycin (TAO®)
- an antifungal medicine by mouth, including fluconazole (DIFLUCAN®), itraconazole (SPORANOX®), ketoconazole (NIZORAL®), posaconazole (NOXAFIL®), voriconazole (VFEND®)
- methadone (DOLOPHINE®)

Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist if you are not sure if your medicine is one that is listed above.

Know the medicines you take. Keep a list of your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist when you get a new medicine. Your healthcare provider and your pharmacist can tell you if you can take these medicines with COMPLERA. Do not start any new medicines while you are taking COMPLERA without first talking with your healthcare provider or pharmacist. You can ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for a list of medicines that can interact with COMPLERA.

How should I take COMPLERA?

- **Stay under the care of your healthcare provider during treatment with COMPLERA.**
- **Take COMPLERA exactly as your healthcare provider tells you to take it.**
- **Always take COMPLERA with a meal.** Taking COMPLERA with a meal is important to help get the right amount of medicine in your body. A protein drink does not replace a meal.
- Do not change your dose or stop taking COMPLERA without first talking with your healthcare provider. See your healthcare provider regularly while taking COMPLERA.
- If you miss a dose of COMPLERA within 12 hours of the time you usually take it, take your dose of COMPLERA with a meal as soon as possible. Then, take your next dose of COMPLERA at the regularly scheduled time. If you miss a dose of COMPLERA by more than 12 hours of the time you usually take it, wait and then take the next dose of COMPLERA at the regularly scheduled time.
- Do not take more than your prescribed dose to make up for a missed dose.
- When your COMPLERA supply starts to run low, get more from your healthcare provider or pharmacy. It is very important not to run out of COMPLERA. The amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time.
- If you take too much COMPLERA, contact your local poison control center or go to the nearest hospital emergency room right away.

What are the possible side effects of COMPLERA?**COMPLERA may cause the following serious side effects, including:**

- **See “What is the most important information I should know about COMPLERA?”**
- **New or worse kidney problems** can happen in some people who take COMPLERA. If you have had kidney problems in the past or take other medicines that can cause kidney problems, your healthcare provider may need to do blood tests to check your kidneys during your treatment with COMPLERA.
- **Depression or mood changes. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any of the following symptoms:**
 - feeling sad or hopeless
 - feeling anxious or restless
 - have thoughts of hurting yourself (suicide) or have tried to hurt yourself
- **Bone problems** can happen in some people who take COMPLERA. Bone problems include bone pain, softening or thinning (which may lead to fractures). Your healthcare provider may need to do additional tests to check your bones.
- **Changes in body fat** can happen in people taking HIV medicine. These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck (“buffalo hump”), breast, and around the main part of your body (trunk). Loss of fat from the legs, arms and face may also happen. The cause and long term health effect of these conditions are not known.
- **Changes in your immune system (Immune Reconstitution Syndrome)** can happen when you start taking HIV medicines. Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections that have been hidden in your body for a long time. Tell your healthcare provider if you start having new symptoms after starting your HIV medicine.

The most common side effects of COMPLERA include:

- trouble sleeping (insomnia)
- abnormal dreams
- headache
- dizziness
- diarrhea
- nausea
- rash
- tiredness
- depression

Additional common side effects include:

- vomiting
- stomach pain or discomfort
- skin discoloration (small spots or freckles)
- pain

Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effect that bothers you or that does not go away.

These are not all the possible side effects of COMPLERA. For more information, ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist.

Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088 (1-800-332-1088).

How do I store COMPLERA?

- Store COMPLERA at room temperature 77 °F (25 °C).
- Keep COMPLERA in its original container and keep the container tightly closed.
- Do not use COMPLERA if the seal over the bottle opening is broken or missing.

Keep COMPLERA and all other medicines out of reach of children.**General information about COMPLERA:**

Medicines are sometimes prescribed for purposes other than those listed in a Patient Information leaflet. Do not use COMPLERA for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give COMPLERA to other people, even if they have the same symptoms you have. It may harm them.

This leaflet summarizes the most important information about COMPLERA. If you would like more information, talk with your healthcare provider. You can ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for information about COMPLERA that is written for health professionals. For more information, call (1-800-445-3235) or go to www.COMPLERA.com.

What are the ingredients of COMPLERA?

Active ingredients: emtricitabine, rilpivirine hydrochloride, and tenofovir disoproxil fumarate

Inactive ingredients: pregelatinized starch, lactose monohydrate, microcrystalline cellulose, croscarmellose sodium, magnesium stearate, povidone, polysorbate 20. The tablet film coating contains polyethylene glycol, hypromellose, lactose monohydrate, triacetin, titanium dioxide, iron oxide red, FD&C Blue #2 aluminum lake, FD&C Yellow #6 aluminum lake.

This Patient Information has been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration
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'Angels' playwright Tony Kushner comes to Chicago

BY STEVEN CHAITMAN

Although the nature of the AIDS epidemic has changed since Tony Kushner's Pulitzer Prize-winning *Angels in America* first hit Broadway, the play's legacy has only begun to take shape. As evidenced by revivals of fellow works such as *The Normal Heart*, the epidemic has entered a stage of historical reflection in the public consciousness.

In that spirit, the Court Theatre in Chicago opens its production of *Angels in America* (both parts one and two) March 30, directed by Charles Newell. In addition, the AIDS Foundation of Chicago is giving those who attend its annual spring dinner on March 27 the opportunity to not only purchase tickets for a performance benefiting the foundation, but also to hear from Kushner himself, who will deliver the dinner's keynote speech.

In advance of his visit to Chicago, Kushner spoke with the *Windy City Times* about AIDS as seen both today and 30 years ago and how *Angels in America* fits into that history. He also spoke a bit about his work writing the upcoming Steven Spielberg biopic, *Lincoln*, which will come out at the end of the year.

Windy City Times: When you look back now at the early days of AIDS, do you think about it differently or have a different perspective on its genesis than you did 10 or even 20 years ago when *Angels in America* first premiered?

Tony Kushner: I've said this a number of times, but since the arrival of *Angels*, in a funny, weird way there's a similarity between the general attitude toward AIDS now and then in the sense that the causes are very different, but in the late '80s/early '90s with the motto of ACT UP, one of the struggles was to make it impossible for people to ignore what was really happening, and also to try and not get people to ignore the inhumanity of it. There was a great struggle against a kind of conspiracy of silence that went all the way up to the White House and every aspect of culture and society. Now there's another kind of silence and in a way a more terrifying and more difficult to overcome this kind of silence because the magnitude, the spread is incidentally greater than it was in the early days of the epidemic. It's migrated in consciousness—at least to a certain extent—out of the West We don't talk about it now because we don't have to, it's not in our midst. It's happening in Africa, it's happening in India, it's happening in Asia ... there's a great pull of silence and the disease has sort of disappeared again.

WCT: What in your eyes are the main fronts in the fight against AIDS at present and looking into the future?

TK: Obviously increased funding for research, creating government participation free from corporate influence in terms of people sharing information and learning more about making progress and about copyrights and patents. Also, there's making sure at a scientific level and at a research level that we still continue to pursue the possibility of a vaccine, something that will extricate the HIV virus There's also an identification, whether it's intentional or not, of the virus with gay sexuality and so the fight against AIDS is very much wrapped up in a fight against homophobia and the systematic oppres-

sion of lesbians, gay, transsexual, bisexual and intersexual people ... it's sort of a grim thing to see people moving in the opposite direction we're hoping at this point they'd be moving, but there's still a way in which the virus and the fight against the virus are tied into the struggle of the acceptance of LGBTI people.

There's two things about the AIDS epidemic during the time that *Angels* is describing in the mid-'80s and right before the ACT UP revolution. One of the extraordinary things about that revolution is the way the LGBT community confronted the really horrifying and initially dismaying challenge of a biological medical crisis inflicting a community of people fighting for liberation. We didn't allow it to be appropriated by the Right in the way that we had to deal with it and confront it and take care of ourselves, our adamant refusal to see the epidemic as some kind of verdict against our political ambitions. We really changed not only our own community, and the rights of LGBT people in the United States and in Europe advanced during the worst and weakest moments of the epidemic.

We kept moving forward and used the epidemic as a kind of occasion for organizing, which is unprecedented in human history and really an astonishing thing. The notion of a patient population, of a population of a biologically beset people demanding power in their own care, refusing to be passive participants and victims and instead responding to the medical establishment with an appropriate level of argument and skepticism and a real desire to be intimately involved, it changed the way people who are dealing with illness think about themselves and in a way became part of a cure. It's obviously not a cure for AIDS any more than it is a cure for cancer to have a sense of agency, but it's very much the case that the way you see yourself when you're sick will have some effect on even your health.

WCT: In what way do you think *Angels* fit in the narrative of AIDS today, and what kind of a role do you think it might play going forward?

TK: I feel very proud that the play had some use and value to people who were fighting for healthcare, human rights and for LGBT liberation and I think the play was seen as being a part of that particular moment in history. I don't make any claims for it other than some other immensely important things happened around the time that *Angels* was becoming a well-known play. I know in '93 when it opened on Broadway there was a moment when Rock Hudson had died and it was really a watershed moment in a way ... people knew the world of the epidemic was changing and the most terrible part of the early years was in a sense over. What that did was give people a moment to grieve and I think because of the vast public scale of the epidemic people needed a public place to mourn. The AIDS quilt did that when it first appeared and I think in a way *Angels* as well.

When people come to see the play now ... I would be very happy if the play served as a means of remembering what happened There are a lot of young people who have no idea who the Rosenbergs were or who Roy Cohn was and the extent that *Angels* is what's keeping them in our collective memory is great. But all those things having been said; the only reason that



Tony Kushner. Photo by Joan Marcus

the play ever really worked and the only reason it will continue to work is if the central dialectic is something that will speak to individuals and collectively as an audience. I think the answer is yes, but we'll see what people think when they see it at the Court.

WCT: What if any recent films, plays or other works centered around AIDS have you seen or read that in a positive way add or build on *Angels* or the AIDS narrative or taught you something new?

TK: There was a very powerful exhibit in a gallery at NYU of photographs of front doors of various New York building where a number of prominent artists who had died of AIDS in the '80s had lived. It was quite spooky and very effective and a really shocking reminder of how many immensely gifted artists we lost to the epidemic.

WCT: The Oscars just came and went and looking at next year a lot of people are very excited to see how *Lincoln* turns out. What inspired you to take on the project and what do you expect audiences to get out of it?

TK: After we finished *Munich* together, Spielberg asked me to write *Lincoln* and I've always

admired Lincoln. I knew what most people know about him and thought it would be a good opportunity to learn more. There's a great deal of my volition politically that made me suspect Lincoln would be a good person to spend some time with. Whatever happens with the movie I will never regret having spent five years on it because I really spent a great time digging deeply into the life of somebody for whom my admiration has only grown and grown. I know that I can say without any exaggeration that working on Lincoln had a title effect on my life. I'm not the same person or the same writer coming out of this project that I was going into it.

WCT: Other things you've been passionate about lately that's inspiring any upcoming creative projects?

TK: I have a lot of stuff waiting for me to do. Some film work and a possible television series. I did an opera this summer with Jeanine Tesori with whom I did *Caroline, or Change* and I'm excited to continue work on it. I'm also excited and scared and hopeful and scared about the upcoming election.

See www.aidschicago.org and www.courttheatre.org.

Heather Sawyer reflects on AIDS and the law

BY ERICA DEMAREST

With more than two decades under her belt, Heather Sawyer has firmly established herself as one of the country's leading civil rights attorneys.

As a young lawyer at Schiff Hardin in the early 1990s, Sawyer fought for a Chicago gay man's right to work for the Boy Scouts of America and won a favorable ruling from the Human Rights Commission. After moving to Lambda Legal in 1996, Sawyer spearheaded landmark HIV/AIDS cases that resulted in widespread policy changes.

During her 18 years in Chicago, the active attorney maintained a strong presence in the LGBT community. At a 2011 event, former Lambda co-worker Jim Bennett half-jokingly called Sawyer "the most popular lesbian that has ever come out of Chicago." An avid softball player, Sawyer could often be found on the field.

"I pitched because I'm a control freak," Sawyer said with a laugh. "I mean: think about it. Not a single play can start until the pitcher decides to start. It's the perfect position for a control freak."

In 2007, Sawyer started a new chapter in her career as senior counsel for the U.S. House Committee on the Judiciary. In that capacity, she's overseen post-9/11 civil liberties work, led the committee's efforts to challenge the Defense of Marriage Act's (DOMA's) constitutionality, and served as lead counsel for important legislation such as the 2008 ADA Amendments Act and the 2009 Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act.

During a recent trip to Chicago, Sawyer sat down with the *Windy City Times* to talk about first jobs, AIDS litigation and life on the Hill.

WCT: We hear you had a pretty interesting first job.

HS: I worked for Sesame Street out of college; I was one of the researchers. They're very serious about having their programmatic stuff track children's learning abilities so we would go out, test various concepts with the kids, and see what they knew. Then we'd meet with the writers and script it. The writers would film with the Muppets, and we'd take the tapes back out to see if they actually worked.

WCT: What made you decide to go to law school?

HS: I was in New York, and my brother got very ill so I moved back to Ohio to be with my family. I was there for a year, and I worked at a law firm as a paralegal. I thought it was intellectually interesting work, so I figured: Maybe I'll like law. My mentor was crushed; he always encouraged people to do the path not taken. I moved out here to Chicago and stayed here for 18 years. I loved it. It's a wonderful city.

WCT: How did you end up at Lambda Legal?

HS: I worked at Schiff Hardin right out of law school for four years, then I joined Lambda Legal in 1996. At the time, the office had been open three or four years; it was relatively new. It was originally just one lawyer: Pat Logue. Then they hired Barry Taylor as their HIV Project lawyer. When he decided to go work for Equip for Equality, a position came open, and I thought: 'Perfect. Here's my chance.' I just jumped on it.

WCT: You had some high-profile cases pretty early on.

HS: We had a pretty big case against Chicago Public Schools (CPS). This is going to sound truly outrageous now, because fortunately, times have changed and people do have a better understanding of HIV as a medical condition. But there was a point in time when CPS would not hire, and would even fire, employees who had HIV. [CPS] had a questionnaire at the time, where, if they found out you had HIV, they asked



Heather Sawyer. Photo by Erica Demarest

you how you got it and required you to have mental health counseling.

They were, and probably still are, the third largest school district in the country. For that size of a school district to have such an appalling policy... I will say they did step up to the plate. We settled, and they changed their policy. They really did do the right thing. But it was one of those appalling things, where, when you discovered it, you thought: How can this be?

WCT: You had another game-changer with Mutual of Omaha, right?

HS: Yes. They were capping coverage for people with HIV at a mere fraction of what you could otherwise have in terms of your lifetime policy.

Here's how it worked: You'd get a lifetime policy of \$1 million for any medical condition, whatever it would be, and you could renew it. So, let's say you got cancer. You had a series of treatments, then you went into remission and didn't have treatments for three years. [The lifetime policy] would renew if you didn't incur an expense after three years—for pretty much any condition except for HIV and AIDS. They established a \$25,000 lifetime cap. Once it was exhausted, you were done.

We challenged that policy, and again, we had a wonderful decision at the district court. It did get reversed on appeal on the grounds that the content of an insurance policy is not covered by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). It was a heartbreaking decision, but [the case] did result in the company changing their position—I think—because they got such adverse press.

It was shown during the course of litigation that there was no actual valid reason for them to [cap coverage]. I think they panicked when HIV was first discovered. The insurance companies thought there was going to be such a glut of people that they didn't know what to do.

WCT: Were a lot of cases settled out of court?

HS: Yes. Most of them settled without us even having to go to trial. I think most people, when they looked at what the science said and what the reality was, they'd come to the conclusion that discrimination could not be sustained—that their policies were really much more fear-based than science-based.

The difficulty about those times was that a lot of people were doing things in a knee-jerk manner. For the most part, when people were challenged on it, they would educate themselves—and allow us to help educate them—then step up to the plate and do the right thing.

WCT: How did you choose your cases?

HS: None of our clients were ever looking to challenge a policy or have a lawsuit. No one wants to engage in litigation; it's no fun and it's very stressful. You have to put your life out there for people to explore.

We'd try to get everyone help, but for some of the clients, we felt like their issues needed to be cases because their problems were system-wide: school districts, big employers, important employers, public employers, an insurance company. We wanted to try to shape the discussion.

WCT: What was the environment like?

HS: Quite frankly, people were very discriminatory because the people who got HIV weren't necessarily people they cared for. People thought: Well, you either got HIV because you're gay or because you were using intravenous drugs. There was a lot of stigma around how HIV was transmitted that got put into the policies.

If you look at some of the congressional debate, people would say this was the punishment for being gay. Or that people engaged in unnatural behavior, and this was God's punishment. It created a sense of 'They're them, and we're us, and it's okay to exclude them.'

There were calls for quarantines or public lists that identified people who have HIV. There were restrictions on food handlers, health care workers, police officers, and teachers. They didn't want people in the workplace who had HIV because everyone was so worried about transmission. There were these really draconian, horrible campaigns that you would never imagine in respect to any other medical condition. And it wasn't even that long ago. We've come a long way.

WCT: How so?

HS: Some of the stigma has gotten better, though it's not entirely gone. People have a much better understanding of the science now. It's about facts and how to help people.

The biggest problem now is funding battles: How do we get treatments to people who

couldn't otherwise afford it? How do we reach the population that has HIV but doesn't have health insurance? The conversation is much more about the practicalities of treating people.

WCT: What prompted your 2005 move to Washington, D.C.?

HS: It was partly for personal reasons and partly just for a change of pace; it was an amalgam of things. When I first moved to D.C., I taught at Georgetown. I did that for a few years, and then I went over to the Hill, and it's been some exciting work. It's important work. My portfolio has included LGBT issues, but there's also a lot of other civil rights work. For the first few years I was [on the Hill], a lot of my agenda was dealing with Iraq and our national security policy—things like people getting tortured or being sent to other countries to be tortured.

That was very surprising to me. I had never really thought of America as a place where that could happen. Maybe that was naive of me. If so, I feel proud to have been that naive about America. I was pretty much taken aback. Obviously some troubling things came out. A lot of my time those first couple years was spent figuring out what we were really doing, what we've been accused of doing. Sometimes that was very difficult to find out because there was such secrecy.

WCT: What do you mean?

HS: Congress is supposed to be able to have oversight on the executive branch. That is one of the key checks: The executive branch is supposed to execute the law, and Congress is supposed to check in and make sure that in doing so, the executive branch is actually complying with the Constitution.

We were being stonewalled. You just couldn't get the facts.

WCT: How's life on the Hill been going otherwise?

HS: It's been very interesting, and it's great work. It's been a nice opportunity, but I still miss Chicago. I think of Chicago as home. I really felt like I found a great community and friends, both in the professional law field and the community. I consider Chicago home even though I wasn't born or raised here; I feel like I grew up in Chicago.

Parents volunteer to help raise money in AIDS ride

BY ROSS FORMAN

An extra-large portion of kismet was served Valentine's Day 2011 at Melrose Restaurant in Lakeview. The husband-wife combo of Fred and Meg Valentini gobbled it down, served from a stranger sitting in the booth next to them, with an assist from Chuck the waiter.

Hollywood would love this story.

In reality, the story started about three years ago—in the bathroom of the Valentini's suburban Oak Park home, believe it or not. That's where their son, Phil, then 16, cornered his mom to tell her that he is gay. Three months before that, he had first come out to his twin: Mitchell, who, like everyone in their family, has been overly accepting.

Phil, though, had just finished his junior year at Oak Park and River Forest High School, where he was a member of the school's wrestling team, and thus, he wanted to keep his coming out fairly quiet.

Meg, looking for resources as a new parent of a gay son, discovered PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays), including a chapter for the Oak Park area. But, since Phil wanted to keep his coming out quiet, Meg and Fred instead chose to go to PFLAG meetings in Lakeview.

"We figured no one would know us," at the Lakeview PFLAG chapter, Fred said.

They embraced PFLAG and PFLAG embraced Meg and Fred, and the two also became active with the Broadway Youth Center—so they were in Lakeview last February in conjunction with a kids-only party at the youth center.

Meg and Fred, who have been married for 32 years and have four children, went to Melrose after setting up at the party. They had three hours to kill time before returning to clean up after the party.

That's when Melrose waiter Chuck told them about Richard Cordova who, ironically, was sit-

ting in the booth right next to theirs. Cordova is the director of athletic events for the Test Positive Aware Network (TPAN), anchored by the annual Ride For AIDS Chicago (RFAC), a TPAN beneficiary.

Cordova convinced Meg and Fred, now 55 and 57, respectively, that, yes, they could do The Ride and that they could ride a tandem bicycle.

Several months and hundreds of training miles later, Meg and Fred were riding 200 miles in two days with the rest of the RFAC contingent. They fund-raised about \$4,500 which was more than double the amount they were required to raise.

They were the lone two riders for Team PFLAG in the 2011 RFAC, but that didn't bother them, even when other teams had 50-plus riders. They still had a wonderful experience, and bonded easily with the RFAC's diverse mix of riders, crew, volunteers and staff.

"The Ride was one of the most fun things I have ever done in my life," said Fred, who works as a salesman. "Everything was so well organized and coordinated throughout. The only thing we really had to do was, show up and ride.

"What motivates you to ride is, wanting to accomplish something, and also, the fact that you're doing it for a good cause."

Still, Meg admits she was "scared to death" that Saturday morning, minutes before starting the first day's 100-mile ride from the Evanston campus of Northwestern University.

"We did The Ride for [Phil] and so many others who we have met [on this journey] and become friendly with," said Fred, who admitted the two-day Ride was "emotional."

Meg and Fred were greeted in Evanston on that Sunday afternoon, after completing all 200 miles, by their two oldest children: Steve, 25; and Nikki, 23.

"We were sore, but it was a blast," Fred said.

Meg added: "One of the reasons we're doing The Ride again this year is because we had so much fun last year."



Fred and Meg Valentini. Photos courtesy of TPAN

Meg and Fred trained religiously last year, including once-a-week spin classes at Cheetah Gym in Andersonville. This year, they've upped their training—they actually started training last October when they started taking spin classes three times per week. Plus, they also have been doing yoga, Pilates, running, lifting weights, and sticking to a healthy diet.

"We're going to kill it this year," Fred said, laughing.

They will ride this summer once again on a tandem bicycle, and they again want to fund-raise at least another \$4,500.

"No one has been judgmental of us, being the older folk, and the fact that we are parents. In fact, [the other riders] have been embracing, very open and accepting of us," Meg said.

Fred added: "The other riders inspired us to keep going back [to the weekly long training rides, starting] at 7 a.m. each and every Sunday.

"We quickly realized that we couldn't miss the training sessions because we needed them, plus,

we really wanted to see the other riders because they're awesome and we were having so much fun," Meg said.

Though they were among the oldest riders in the 2011 Ride, they weren't the last to finish, which was a goal of theirs.

"With their commitment and passion to PFLAG, their family, and to the Ride, you can't help but love them," Cordova said.

"Meg is the quintessential role model of what unconditional love and acceptance looks like," said 2011 RFAC participant Michael Reyes.

"When you first meet Meg, you see her as a loving mom to her kids, one of which is gay. That's what I thought of her when I first met Meg. I quickly realized Meg and Fred not only show unconditional love and acceptance to their son, they've shown it to all involved in the Ride and quickly become parents to all of us child-like adults. Every person coming out in the gay community should have parents like these two to welcome them to the realization they are loved simply because they are deserving of love, not for any other reason."

Said 2011 RFAC participant Sean Blay: "Meg and Fred were so amazing with their positive attitudes towards training and pushing through the hardest parts of the 200-mile, 2-day Ride. I looked at them and told myself, 'Damn it, if they can do The Ride on a tandem [bike,] then I can do it on my bike.'"

Added 2011 RFAC participant Beth DeMars: "Fred and Meg, with their trademark tandem bike, participated in the Ride for AIDS Chicago to support not just their son, but also the LGBT community as a whole. They are loving parents and friends to all, regardless of [one's] sexual orientation. They are an inspiration to all riders and crew, and we are very lucky to know them."

Though Father Time slowed their time on The Ride, neither has lost their pride or passion for success, competition ... or just being a kid.

That explains why, after the first 100 miles last year, they jumped in a nearby lake—fully clothed.

"When my son came out, you kind of automatically think about all of the [potential] negative things—the bullying, the discrimination and so much more," Fred said. "But, through PFLAG and the Ride For AIDS Chicago, we saw so much positive, people who were successful, in successful relationships, with kids, and more."

See <http://bit.ly/megandfredrideforaids> .



Author helps others living with HIV

BY ROSS FORMAN

Justin B. Terry-Smith woke up that day in 2006 and, with a dose of irony, knew something was wrong, really wrong.

His satin sheets were wet from sweat and he was confused why, how. He felt sick and vomited multiple times.

Terry-Smith knew he had to get tested for HIV, having been around plenty of HIV-positive people for years, so he knew some of the side effects. After all, he was 19 when he first dated someone who was HIV-positive.

Terry-Smith went for the test with his best friend, Bryan, and, sure enough, he was told that he too was HIV-positive.

He cried for hours, and then the two went to a bar for a drink.

"I was very surprised [with the diagnosis], mostly because I had that mentality that, being in my 20s, I was invincible. Not true," Terry-Smith said.

Now 32 and living in Laurel, Md., Terry-Smith has become an

activist in support of HIV/AIDS and a fiction author on HIV. He has entered 98 new updates to his video blog, Justin's HIV Journal—and was planning his 100th to coincide with National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day Feb. 7. Plus, he wrote *I Have A Secret*, the fictional story of a sixth-grader, Jay, whose secret is: he is HIV-positive.

"I don't call it [being HIV-positive] a blessing, nor do I call it a curse," said Terry-Smith who, in 2009, married Dr. Phillip B. Terry-Smith, who also is HIV-positive. "HIV has made me be a better person; it's made me keep my health in check; it's made me take better care of myself. There's no point in shying away [from my status]. I just have to deal with it."

To that, he was on the board of directors at Whitman-Walker Health, one of the largest HIV/AIDS clinics in the Washington, D.C. area. Plus, he recently debuted his advice column for *A&U Magazine*, which bills itself as America's AIDS magazine.

"In 2008, when I learned that I had to start [taking] medication

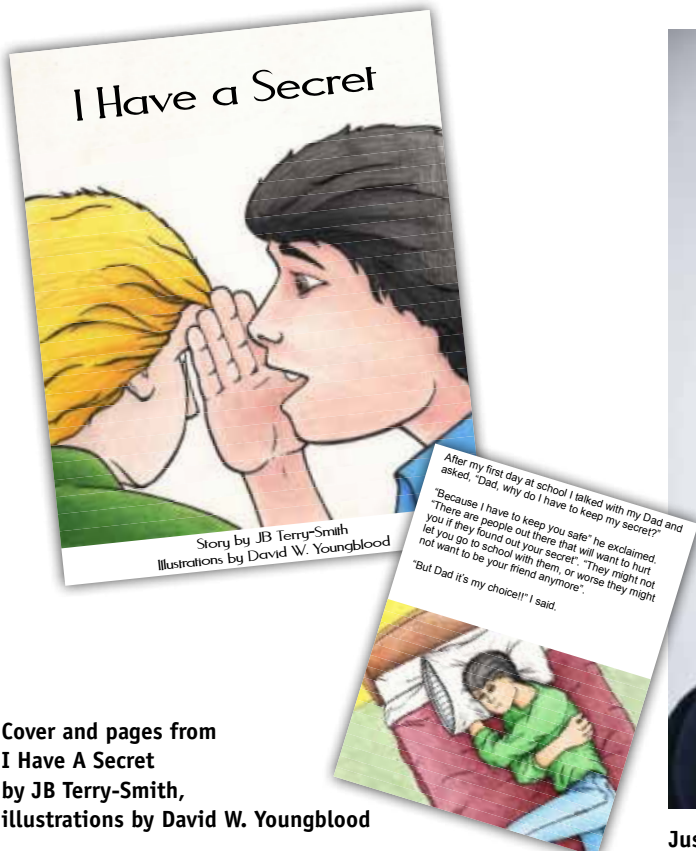
for HIV, I looked online and yet couldn't find much about HIV-positive Black gay men who were using audio and visual to document their lives. I was kind of disappointed none were out there," Terry-Smith said. "So, I just figured I could do it to help others like me—whether positive, negative, Black, white, Asian, Hispanic, gay, straight, women, men, old or young. I wanted people to be more aware of what someone would have to go through if they were HIV-positive, and specifically what I have to go through."

He posted his first video blog in May, 2008.

Terry-Smith's 40-page soft-cover book, titled *I Have A Secret*, was released last April. It tells of Jay, and how he struggles keeping the secret inside, hiding it from his friends at school.

Ultimately, "the ending is very happy," Terry-Smith said. "It's my first book; I absolutely cherish it. I love it; I'm so happy with it. The response has been excellent."

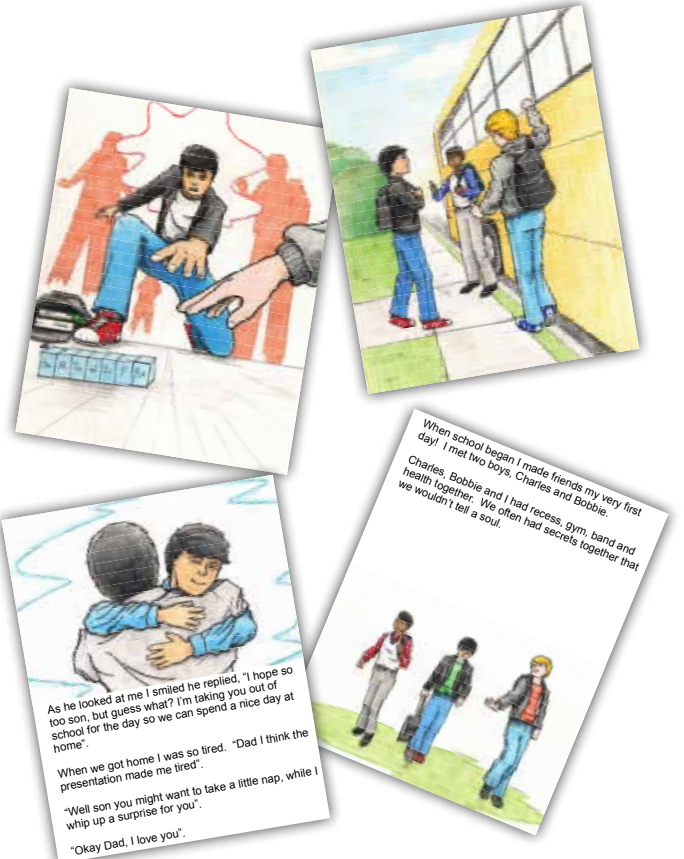
Terry-Smith is co-authoring another children's book that also deals with HIV, scheduled to be released in May.



Cover and pages from *I Have A Secret* by JB Terry-Smith, illustrations by David W. Youngblood



Justin B. Terry-Smith. Photos courtesy of Smith.



Study: Kidney risk with HIV med Viread

BY ENID VÁZQUEZ, POSITIVELY AWARE

The potential for kidney toxicity associated with the popular HIV medication Viread (tenofovir, also found in Truvada, Atripla, and Complera) was once again confirmed in the largest study of the issue to date.

However, despite the new data from the Veterans' Administration (VA), the tenofovir story remains the same: patients taking it should be monitored for kidney toxicity, especially if they have pre-existing risk factors such as hepatitis C, high blood pressure, or a family history of diabetes.

Positively Aware advisory board member Dr. Joel Gallant of Johns Hopkins University explains that, "While it's great to have new data from well designed studies, the VA study essentially confirms what we already know: that tenofovir can cause kidney damage in some people who take it. It shouldn't be surprising that the risk of kidney damage increases with longer time on the drug; that's true of most drug toxicities. The combination of tenofovir and emtricitabine [Emtriva; combined to make up Truvada] is still the preferred nucleoside backbone for most HIV-positive people in all current treatment guidelines, based on the wealth of clinical data dem-

onstrating its effectiveness and safety. Tenofovir has been included in the vast majority of clinical trials involving initial antiretroviral regimens. These trials have universally shown excellent long-term safety, including minimal development of kidney toxicity. The risk of nephrotoxicity may be higher when it's combined with protease inhibitors, when it's used by older people or those with pre-existing kidney disease, or in people who are taking other drugs that can damage kidneys, such as the non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (e.g. ibuprofen)."

He added, "We know how to monitor for kidney toxicity, which generally happens gradually. We can always change drugs if it occurs."

Dr. Daniel S. Berger of Northstar Medical Center in Chicago, also a member of the PA advisory board, wrote, "Tenofovir was long known to be associated with kidney function risks, as is having HIV infection itself, but it more commonly occurs with other predisposing illnesses such as diabetes and hypertension. We monitor renal function routinely in our daily practice, as we do for other side effects."

The observational study conducted by the San Francisco VA Medical Center and the University of California, San Francisco looked at the electronic health records of nearly 11,000 VA pa-

tients with HIV (the majority of them male). The study looked at three types of renal problems—proteinuria (protein in the urine), rapid decline in kidney function, and the development of chronic kidney disease (CKD), and found that the risk increased for people who had taken tenofovir versus those who hadn't.

Moreover, kidney toxicity remained after people stopped taking tenofovir, from out to six months to one year in this data, which showed that toxicity was not reversible, at least in the short term (however, the follow-up was 1.2 years after tenofovir discontinuation, indicating that the risk did go away). These risks were found after weighing other risk factors such as older age, non-white race, and smoking.

The researchers wrote that, based on this data, "If you were to follow 1,000 HIV-infected patients for a year, you would expect to see 50 extra cases of significant protein in urine (132 events vs. 82 events), 38 extra cases of rapid decline (92 vs. 54 events), and 11 extra cases of chronic kidney disease (19 vs. 8 events) in users of tenofovir versus non-users."

After controlling for other risk factors, they found that each year of tenofovir use was associated with a 34% increased risk of proteinuria, 11% increased risk of rapid decline in kidney

function, and 11% increased risk of CKD.

Said Dr. Gallant in his e-mail message, "Remember that while an increased risk of 'up to 34%' sounds scary, this is not the same thing as a 34% risk. A 34% increase in a very low risk is still a very low risk. As an example, if your risk of developing kidney disease without tenofovir were 1% per year, and tenofovir increased your risk by 34% per year, then your risk of kidney disease on tenofovir in the first year would be 1.34%."

Added Dr. Berger, "What makes Viread and Truvada the most popular HIV treatment today, is its excellent safety profile, tolerability and the forgiveness provided by its long intracellular half-life (longevity in the blood and cells). These characteristics are responsible for many important strides in HIV therapy and for many reasons that we currently observe much less nucleoside resistance with higher durability and lasting success of many HIV regimens overall."

The study was published in February in *AIDS*; see the entire report at www.natap.org.

Enid Vázquez is associate editor of *Positively Aware* magazine.

VIEWPOINTS

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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.



TRACY BAIM

To endorse or not to endorse

There is a long tradition of newspapers endorsing candidates for election, but lately some papers are changing course.

While the Chicago Sun-Times has opted out of the process, the Chicago Tribune has written about continuing its more-than-150-year tradition of telling readers who they should vote for.

I don't think there is any correct answer to the question of whether a newspaper should endorse a candidate, but let me tell you why we at Windy City Times do not endorse in any elections, even when there is a gay person running against a homophobe.

First, here's some background. When I was at GayLife newspaper in 1984, right out of college, that paper did endorse candidates, and its owner, Chuck Renslow, was very active in Democratic politics. While Renslow did not influence our editorial coverage, he did have a say in our endorsements. When we disagreed, we could write our own opinions in the paper about why we backed someone else. And, of course, people wrote letters to the editor in opposition. The community was even smaller then, and with Renslow being an activist in Democratic politics, it presented a perception of conflict of interest.

When I co-founded Windy City Times, the publisher, Jeff McCourt, wanted to continue the tra-

dition of gay papers endorsing, so we did. But we soon had disagreements, including his backing of a straight aldermanic incumbent (Ald. Bernie Hansen) over a gay challenger (Dr. Ron Sable). He and I ended up doing competing endorsement editorials in 1987.

When I left to start Outlines newspaper a few months later, I felt strongly that we should not endorse candidates, and we began a long trend of this by the late 1980s. When we purchased Windy City Times from McCourt in 2000, we stopped the WCT tradition of endorsements.

Some people were upset that Windy City Times would no longer endorse candidates. However, most of those were people who were pitching for their own candidates, and wanted the newspaper to help sway our readers in their favor.

For readers, I have found few who really care what a newspaper tells them to do—but they have long appreciated our approach of listing the endorsements and ratings of a range of LGBT and pro-LGBT groups. We also survey the candidates on our own series of LGBT questions. (The questions depend, in part, on what office they are seeking.) For more than 20 years, we have then taken all that information and created a chart with the endorsements, rankings and recommendations—something easy to carry into the voting booth.

Would telling readers how to vote make a difference? I don't think so. I have seen some newspapers that pretty much always endorse one party or the other. Some newspapers that are so conservative they are tone-deaf to the actual voting patterns of their constituents. And some newspapers endorse candidates despite the efforts of their own reporting staffs to try to be objective in covering campaigns.

So there are several kinds of voters, and I don't believe that any kind is served by a newspaper endorsing:

- 1) Voters who do their own research.
- 2) Voters who rely on organizations that reflect their views to recommend candidates.
- 3) Voters who just make up their minds in the voting booth.

4) Voters who don't show up to vote.

Because the LGBT community is a small subset of the mainstream, we also have a secondary burden. A lot of people know one another, and there are potentially a lot of conflicts of interest. Windy City Times has a few dozen shareholders. None of them, except me, have ever been active in running the paper. But some of them do donate money to candidates, gay and non-gay, local and national. I am not even aware of most of their donations, and because we don't endorse candidates, we don't have to worry about those conflicts impacting our selections.

This is likely the case on a larger scale at the major newspapers. The owners and shareholders likely do back certain candidates, but their readers may never know those conflicts.

We also have a very diverse community, along political, racial, gender, religious and class lines. We barely can agree on any agenda, much less a candidate.

In journalism school, the discussions often centered around whether a reporter should even vote in elections—that just by pulling a lever, a reporter was taking sides, and could not be objective. Interestingly, some of the same newspaper editors who pushed for this non-voting approach for reporters worked for publishers who had no problem telling their readers how to vote.

How were readers to distinguish between what a paper told them to do election day, and an allegedly fair report on the race itself in the news pages? Those lines inevitably blurred in the minds of readers, and in the minds of candidates.

So Windy City Times does not endorse in elections. But we do rate, we do interview and we do report on the races extensively. In addition, we hope those readers who do care enough to vote will use our guides to make a more informed decision.

Tracy Baim is publisher and co-founder of Windy City Times.

LETTERS

Stonewalled

Dear Editor:

As a lesbian, a research scientist and a librarian, I have never been taken seriously by the Gerber/Hart Library or allowed to volunteer there for more than placing stickers on items for the book sale. I have lived in Illinois since 2007. I wanted to find access to research resources and acceptance as a writer at the Gerber/Hart Library, so I attended the annual Pride readings and spoke to the Karen Sendziak. As a lesbian, libraries are enduring sources of information and acceptance over the course of my life.

In Chicago, I dreamed of a city where the LGBTQ archives in open libraries would be resources I could explore to write independent scholarship about our lives in workplaces and organizations. As a social scientist, I faced a lifetime of partial information, partial access and even closed access to LGBT resources.

Chicago turned out to be full of challenges I did not anticipate. First, I have no university-level affiliation to conduct research, so the databases carried by schools like Northwestern University and the University of Chicago were not open to general members of the working-class public. The public-college system was open, but I saw that many people never venture into it unless they are going back to school, and their collections are not exhaustive or specific. The public libraries are heroic in providing working-class Chicagoans a rich collection of literature. In addition, I imagined starting an online school where people could share information,

courses and research resources for the general working-class public reader.

Second, I have a long-term project about the sociological conditions for success in a gender-diverse workplace with a theoretical outline that I want to pursue, so I was attracted to the Gerber/Hart Library archive description.

Third, in the last two years I achieved a master's in library and information science because I was so committed to the importance of libraries to the world. On all of these points of interest I was rejected and stonewalled in the great city of Chicago. On several occasions, Sendziak has taken my name and listened to my offer to: (1) volunteer at the library, (2) volunteer in the archive and (3) work unpaid to develop a better catalog for the archive, when she could not provide me with a guide to the archive collections or any professional help in my areas of research interest.

On each occasion, she told me that she would have to speak to the board, that she would give my name to the board and that she would contact me when she knew more about her staff turnover. Karen was polite to me, and I continued to support the Gerber/Hart Library events. I was offered one opportunity to place stickers on items for a book sale, and I showed up and did that. During the book sale set up I was told by the two women who regularly staff the library that they are bisexual, not lesbians, and I felt challenged by them to respond. I said that was cool, I accept their identification.

I asked about lesbian writing and reading groups and I was told those are no longer happening. I was curious about starting a writing

group and I was given the names of some local people outside the library I could ask. Karen mentioned that someone with inherited money gave the library what it needed. I suspected that might be Karen or a friend, but the person was never named. Karen seemed to be the sole decision-maker at the library, but I assumed there was a board or an organized group who was rejecting my application to volunteer and my research interests.

By accident, I was a stand-in reader for the regional Lambda Literary Award finalists one year at Gerber/Hart, and I enjoyed that event. I am a social scientist, a librarian, a teacher and an interested lesbian, so what more does Gerber/Hart want? Is Karen Sendziak the only person making decisions for the library? Is Gerber/Hart friendly to everyone in the community? Note: I have no criminal record, no psychiatric record, no history of violence or any physical or mental challenge that would exclude me from library work, archival research or discourse. I have taught college for more than 20 years in different places in our country.

I welcome more investigation from Windy City Times so that I can understand my own experience.

Sincerely,
 Kimberly Ayn Reed,
 Ph.D., M.A., MLIS
 aka Kim Reed
 Chicago

GOINGS-ON

WINDY CITY TIMES' ENTERTAINMENT SECTION



Photo by T Charles Erickson

PIPE DREAMS

Zainab Jah is Prudence in the play *The Convert*, set in South Africa. Read the review on page 38.

DISH

'River' dance.
Page 48.Ed Negron photo taken at
Fulton's on the River

FILM

'Chair' apparent.
Page 43.

PR photo of Laverne Cox



TRAVEL

O, Canada.
Page 46.

Photo by Jerry Nunn



DANCIN' FEATS

Gypsies, tramps
and thieves

BY VICKI CRAIN

A feisty gypsy girl enchants a soldier. Smitten, he helps her escape incarceration and is forced to desert the military and join a band of smugglers. The gypsy eventually breaks his heart, leaving him for a celebrated bullfighter. In a jealous rage, the soldier kills the gypsy. That, in a nutshell, is the story of *Carmen*, the famed opera and ballet that has enthralled audiences worldwide since 1875. Luna Negra Dance Theater's artistic director Gustavo Ramirez Sansano re-imagines the classic for a world premiere, one-night-only event next weekend.

The Spanish-born, gay choreographer took over the reigns of Luna Negra in 2010 from founder Eduardo Vilario and has taken Chicago audiences by storm. If you haven't seen the new Luna, you're missing out. Sansano's long, lean frame betrays the lightning-fast, quirky movement style that is his signature, but his wide smile and infectious laugh are easily seen in his humorous, passionate and all-too-human choreography.

The Picasso-inspired *Carmen.maquia* will be the first full-length production (at just more than an hour, with no intermission) for Luna Negra, but Sansano, 34, has created many evening-length works during his international career. "Normally the companies in Chicago do three pieces," he said after rehearsal at the company's shared State Street studios. "I wanted to propose a different system for the show. I thought it would be interesting to have a full-length experience and see how we will react and

how the audience will react." If the Chicago premiere in 2010 of his work *Toda Una Vida*, set to Georges Ravel's *Bolero* is any indication, the reaction will be rave reviews and standing ovations. Sansano tackles another famous score this time with Maurice Bizet's *Carmen*. The familiar music has been heard everywhere from Europe's largest opera houses to children's television shows like *Gilligan's Island* and *Tom and Jerry* cartoons. For this show, Sansano uses multiple stylistic versions and adds in other Bizet compositions to layer the plot themes.

Luna Negra's production for 14 dancers, while abstract, follows *Carmen*'s libretto closely. Sansano enlisted Spanish artists Luis Crespa and David Delfin to collaborate with the sets, lighting and costumes. The three young men set out to re-envision the classic tale of love, heartbreak, betrayal and freedom with an all-white aesthetic and Picasso's *Carmen* artwork in mind. "What we're doing is the same thing with different eyes. We're not changing the scenes or the perspective," said Sansano. "That was the challenge for me, to not do whatever I wanted, but to tell a specific story. *Carmen* is a piece of music and a ballet that's always been in my eyes. I don't know how many times I've seen that story told. When I see something done so many times, I think, 'how would I do that?'" Add the fact that this season's theme for Luna Negra is the "Year of the Woman," and everything came together.

With a blushing smile, Sansano didn't want to talk about his current relationship, stating it was too soon, but admitting he hoped it was the "beginning of something really nice." So



Gustavo Ramirez Sansano.

why does a man on the cusp of love want to tell a story that ends in betrayal and death? "I think the story today still speaks to us, but in a different way," he said.

"We don't kill anyone for the pain of love, but we do all feel that pain and what it means to give yourself to somebody and it isn't reciprocal. We all know *Carmen*'s side. One day you love somebody and then one day, for some reason, you don't feel that way any more. Something similar was going on in my life when I was putting the story together," he added. "Life gives you inspiration."

Luna Negra Dance Theater presents *Carmen.maquia* at the Harris Theater for Music and Dance at Millennium Park, 205 E. Randolph St., Saturday, March 24, at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$25-\$65; call 312-334-7777 or visit www.lunanegra.org.

On stage this weekend:

Alejandro Cerrudo (another Spanish choreographer gaining international attention) presents his world premiere of "Little Mortal Jump" at the Harris Theater for Music and Dance at Millennium Park, 205 E. Randolph St. As the resident choreographer for **Hubbard Street Dance Chicago**, Cerrudo creates a number of new works for the first and second companies, as well as various contemporary groups around the world.

In addition to the premiere, Hubbard Street

will perform two audience favorites from last season: Israeli choreographer Sharon Eyal's *Too Beaucoup* and **LINES Ballet** director Alonzo King's *Following the Subtle Current Upstream*. Hubbard Street performs at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 15-17, and 3 p.m. on Sunday, March 18. Tickets are \$25-\$94; call 312-334-7777 or visit www.hubbardstreetdance.com.

Israeli contemporary company **Batsheva Dance Company** performs two pieces at the Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University, 50 E. Congress Pkwy. Saturday, March 17, at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, March 18, at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$30-\$90; call 800-982-2787 or visit www.ticketmaster.com/auditorium.

Lastly, a mixed bill of modern works is featured in the **Chicago Moving Company's** "Dance Shelter 2012" at the Hamlin Park Fieldhouse at 3035 N. Hoyne Ave. Choreographers featured include Nana Shineflug, Atalee Judy, Rachel Bunting, Ayako Kato, Karla Beltchenko, Sarah Gottlieb, Lindsay Reich and Suzy Grant. It will take place Thursday and Friday, March 15 and 16, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$12-\$15; visit www.brownpapertickets.com/event/229140 or buy at the door.

Vicki Crain also writes a Chicago-based dance blog at www.rogueballerina.com. Send items to vic@vickicrain.com or Andrew@WindyCityMediaGroup.com.



The Laramie Project: Ten Years Later. Photo by Kimberly Loughlin

THEATER REVIEW

The Laramie Project: Ten Years Later

Playwright: Moises Kaufman, Leigh Fondakowski, Greg Pierotti, Andy Paris, Stephen Belber
At: Redtwist Theatre, 1044 W. Bryn Mawr Ave.
Tickets: 773-728-7529 or www.redtwist.org; \$25-\$30
Runs through: April 7

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

A decade after the 1998 Matthew Shepard murder and the documentary drama about it, *The Laramie Project*, the play's authors returned to interview their subjects again along with people who came to Laramie later. To their shock, they uncovered denials that the death of Matthew Shepard was a homophobic hate crime. Stimulated by a 2004 episode of TV's *20/20*, some now believe the murder was a drug deal gone bad, or an out-of-control robbery, or that perps Aaron McKinney and Russell Henderson were meth-binging—anything *but* gay-bashing—all of which were thoroughly disproved by the original evidence and Henderson/McKinney statements.

Although cavalier and untrue, such opinions are real expressions of "the desire for control over memory or over history," as an expert states in the play. A decade on, after experiencing a growth boom, Laramie doesn't want to be regarded as a bigoted, hateful society, or to be known chiefly for the Shepard murder. Citizens cannot deny what happened, so they alter the reality of why it happened. That doesn't make them homophobic, but it means they might not

recognize homophobia if it hit them upside the head, which should concern us all.

The Laramie Project: Ten Years Later is interesting rather than exciting. It's not an entirely fresh reality check, in part because it spends much time reminding folks of the original conclusions in the case. The show also notes the election of a lesbian to the Wyoming legislature, the unexpected defeat by the legislature of a defense-of-marriage act and—above all—the passage of federal hate-crimes legislation (the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Act). However, the long digression about the Wyoming legislature is linked only indirectly to the Shepard case and seems curiously off-point.

The very skilled director Greg Kolack easily guides his amiable eight-person cast through numerous character changes demanded of each, with strong assistance from lighting designer Christopher Burpee. Even so, the show seems static—not boring, mind you, but static—in the tiny Redtwist space with audience on either side of the small playing area. One wonders how it might be presented on a larger stage and whether that would make it less of a voice play.

The highlights, perhaps, are prison interviews with Henderson and McKinney. Henderson comes off as sympathetic and remorseful while McKinney is hard-boiled, unrepentant and somewhat devious. Still, Henderson was the enabler whose lack of intervention cost Shepard his life. In a way, they encompass the ambiguities of Laramie then and now, and most other places as well. The show aptly calls itself "an epilogue to *The Laramie Project*," an addition rather than something entirely new, and one resolved to reconfirm the original conclusions.

SPOTLIGHT



The celebrated Chicago physical theater troupe Plasticene (*The Palmer Raids*, *From a Fading Light*) will stop creating new work as a collective, but not without one final production called **GRAPHOMANIAX**. Plasticene describes the production as a "meta-theatrical exploration of meaning, privacy and consequence in a paranoid world flooded with data" and they utilize video animations, textured lighting and rolling chalkboards to tell the story.

Plasticene's **GRAPHOMANIAX** plays 10 performances between March 17 and April 1 at the Chopin Theater, 1543 W. Division St. Performances are at 7:30 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays with 3 p.m. matinees on Sundays (a special opening night performance is 7:30 p.m. Monday, March 19.) Tickets are \$10 for previews, \$20 for the regular run with \$12 student rush tickets if available. Call 773-960-9098 or visit www.plasticene.com.

Photo of Brian Shaw, Julia Neary and Mark Comiskey in **GRAPHOMANIAX** by Dexter Bullard

THEATER REVIEW

The Convert

Playwright: Danai Gurira
At: Goodman Theatre, 170 N. Dearborn St.
Tickets: 312-443-3800;
www.goodmantheatre.org; \$12-\$42
Runs through: March 25

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

Our setting is South Africa—but not the war-torn Africa of recent years, replete with repugnant tales of genocidal atrocities, suffering civilians and Uzi-toting guerrillas. No, this is the colonialist Africa of 1895, our immediate environment is the home of a native-born Christian pastor, and the local citizenry dress in Victorian fashions lending the initial scenes an almost Shavian ambience. Nobody is raped in the course of the action, and violence is kept safely offstage or hidden from view behind furniture more suited to a parlor in Derbyshire than an office in a tropical jungle.

Squeamish audiences hesitant to confront the horrors associated with "Dark Continent" dramas have nothing to fear, in other words. The conflict addressed by playwright Danai Gurira involves a young woman who finds liberation from gender-repressive tribal customs in a gospel promising eternal freedom—a view shared by her evangelist employer, whose aspiration is to become a fully-ordained priest. Their peers may play along, or play into, the White Man's image of the incumbent population, but these pilgrims are sincere in their faith. In a country where those in power refuse, literally, to practice what they preach, this can only end badly—and bloodily.

The lesson we are to draw from this parable is largely dependent on what we arrive expecting to be taught—the roots of the partisan paranoia prevalent in the nation now called Zimbabwe, perhaps, or a crisis of identity as our eager pilgrim struggles in her loyalties to her new-found mentor and to her unreconstructed family. Auxiliary characters provide insight, evident in our own history, into how conquered peoples often assimilate foreign customs into their own culture. Lazy playgoers can even wallow in reparative guilt after secretly indulging their nostalgia de l'exotique.



The Convert. Photo by T Charles Erickson

The cast assembled by director Emily Mann, featuring Pascale Armand as the innocent Ester and LeRoy McClain as the ambitious Chilford—with sly scene-stealing support from Cheryl Lynn Bruce and Zainab Jah as the crafty housekeeper Mai Tamba and trophy mistress Prudence, respectively—deliver marathon-stamina performances, evoking empathy for the archetypal personalities in Gurira's symposial story, despite a protracted running time (three hours, with two intermissions) that, on a smaller stage, could be reduced by 45 minutes without cutting a single word, whether in English or Bantu.

THEATER REVIEW

Absolute Hell

Playwright: Rodney Ackland
At: Gift Theatre, 4802 N. Milwaukee Ave.
Tickets: 773-283-7071;
www.thegifttheatre.org; \$20-\$30
Runs through: April 29

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

If Chekhov is credited with inaugurating the sit-and-chat play, Maxim Gorky took it out of the parlors and into the dives. Rodney Ackland's 1951 group portrait of post-WWII London proposes a "private" club where assorted bohemian-fringe types fraternize in defiance of pre-war caste systems. (Even the occasional U.S. soldier is allowed access.) For this effrontery, his candid depiction of *carpe diem* profligacy and ambisexual promiscuity would find itself eclipsed by John Osborne's "kitchen-sink"—and therefore, strictly working-class—drama six years later.

The club is a first-floor bar/restaurant called *La Vie En Rose* (the play's original title being *The Pink Room*), boasting a gramophone, black-market cuisine and a surprising array of alcoholic beverages. This is fortunate, since drinking and smoking (relax, the cigarettes are props) are the favored activity of her customers: queer would-be writer Hugh Mariner, his fussy budget boyfriend, his bluestocking mother and his swaggering agent; flirtatious Elizabeth, her devoted Austrian consort

and her handsome USAF boy-toy; imperious art-critic R.B. Monody and her obsequious chauffeur; and drunken artist Michael, dotty spinster Julia and free-thinking sidewalk evangelist Madge (preaching to the club's denizen's through the window). Overseeing this motley brood are proprietor Christine and long-suffering waitress Doris.

Fitting 21 actors onto a 13-by-22-foot stage (with the street door to Milwaukee Avenue contributing offstage urban ambience) is not easy, but even with Sheldon Patinkin's primary directorial duties reduced to the traffic variety, in this intimate space, the cast—some playing cross-gender or alternatively engaging mobile roles—create immediately engaging personalities. (When a GI displays snapshots, we crane our necks in an effort to see them.) The action encompasses only two weeks, during which we witness citizens dispatched to rebuild broken cities and lives, while others linger to watch their world crumble like the bombed-out ruins of their stalwart metropolis.

Configuring a three-hour drama (with one intermission) to the comfort levels of modern audiences may, likewise, seem daunting, but not for nothing does the playbill proclaim "The Gift is an ensemble" (albeit with Michael Patrick Thornton's rendering of lovable hustler Mariner anchoring the empathy from his first entrance). Assisted by period-perfect tech design—special commendation to dialect coach Eva Breneman—the cohesive flow of activity onstage makes the time pass as swiftly and smoothly as the waters of the Thames.

DOUBLE REVIEW

Bring It On: The Musical

Playwright: Jeff Whitty; Score: Tom Kitt, Lin-Manuel Miranda, Amanda Green
 At: Cadillac Palace Theatre, 151 W. Randolph St.
 Tickets: 800-775-2000 or www.broadwayinchicago.com; \$18-\$85
 Runs through: March 25

Dreamgirls

Libretto: Tom Eyan; Composer: Henry Krieger
 At: J Ruffin Entertainment at Harold Washington Cultural Center, 4701 S. Martin Luther King Dr.
 Tickets: 773-373-1900 or www.hwccchicago.org; \$30
 Runs through: March 25

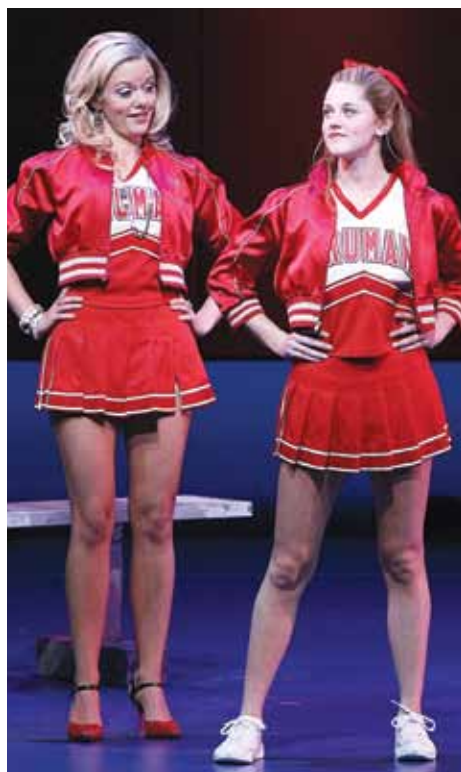
BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

Versions of the 2000 film *Bring It On* and the 1981 Broadway musical *Dreamgirls* are on Chicago stages at the moment, although both shows might not be what audiences initially expect of them.

The producers of the national tour of *Bring It On: The Musical* couldn't obtain the rights to the original film's screenplay, so instead a very impressive team of award-winning theater artists crafted an original show inspired by the film's many franchise sequels.

The result is a very-now musical about competitive cheerleading competitors that will definitely satisfy legions of *Glee* fans. Like that hit FOX-TV show, *Bring It On: The Musical* mixes self-aware sarcasm with heartfelt emotions as it shows high schoolers struggling to fit in and succeed.

Bring It On: The Musical shows the culture clash that occurs when Campbell (Taylor Louder-



Bring It On. Photo by Michael Lamont

man), the cheerleading captain of the Truman Buccaneers, is transferred to the more urban Jackson High School under very mysterious circumstances. (We soon find out that she was the victim of a plot hatched by an unlikely suspect played to the scheming hilt by Elle McLemore.) Campbell tries to get on the good side of Danielle (Adrienne Warren), the leader of Jackson High's hip-hop dance crew, in part so they can create a rival cheerleading squad to challenge her former teammates.

Along the way, there are lessons to be learned about body image, cultural appropriation, lying and even acceptance of sexual minorities. (Gregory Haney is very impressive as Jackson High

transgender dancer La Cienega.) It's all done in a fun and winking style by the show's authors, who make a virtue of bitchiness paired with politically correct plotting.

Director/choreographer Andy Blankenbuehler does a great job of mixing the talented musical-theater pros with the veterans of competitive cheerleading in the *Bring It On* cast to dazzle with plenty of jaw-dropping stunts and energetic hip-hop-inspired dance routines. It's truly a fun and fluid high-tech staging, complete with moving LED screens by set designer David Korins.

Yet *Bring It On: The Musical* doesn't always endear us to the characters, since we're invited so often to laugh at them more than fully empathizing with them. Also, one gets the sense that the show won't date very well since it is so of-the-moment with its technology and pop-culture references (either that, or it might become emblematic of the era of corporate franchise entertainment it was created in).

Watching J Ruffin Entertainment's take on *Dreamgirls* shows how difficult it can be to successfully pull the iconic Tom Eyan/Henry Krieger musical clearly inspired by the rise of *The Supremes*. Ruffin directs and doesn't always move the show along at a cinematic speed as he could.

Ruffin is also very beholden to the 2006 film version of *Dreamgirls*, cutting the sung dialogue in favor of spoken lines between the songs. Audiences who want a better sense of the original show's pacing and structure might want to wait for the Marriott Theatre's production later this season.

Still, you can't deny the energy and vocal talent of the large cast—particularly the powerful singing of 19-year-old China Stewart in the demanding role of Effie and Mark Smith as the wild soul singer James "Thunder" Early. It's also great fun to see a show like *Dreamgirls* on the South Side with such an enthusiastic audience that isn't afraid to shout out its constant approval.

CRITICS' PICKS

A Catered Affair, Porchlight Music Theatre at Stage 773, through April 1. Harvey Fierstein and John Bucchino's 2008 Broadway musical, based on the 1956 Bette Davis film, receives a lovely and emotionally well-acted chamber-sized production courtesy of the fine folks at Porchlight. SCM

fml: How Carson McCullers saved my life, Steppenwolf Theatre, through March 18. Sarah Gubbins' Steppenwolf for Young Adults world-premiere drama provides a nice portrait of a La Grange lesbian student in a Catholic school who knows that "It Gets Better" later, but is having a hard time making it through. SCM

The Jackie Wilson Story, Black Ensemble Theatre, through March 18. It's your last chance to see the show that helped build the shiny new theater now lighting up the corner near Clark and Montrose. Don't you be the one crying "Lonely Teardrops" after it's gone. MSB

Show Boat, Lyric Opera of Chicago, through March 17. I have some nits about this new production, but the bottom line is that it's a brilliantly-sung, colorfully-staged and engaging version of a justifiably legendary Broadway show. Go, hear "Old Man River," "Can't Help Lovin' Dat Man" and "You Are Love." JA

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge and Morgan

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One of the works at the Woman Made Gallery. Photo from Beate Minkovski

Woman Made Gallery marking 20 years

BY NATASHA HEMLEY

Woman Made, a Chicago art gallery, will be celebrating its 20th anniversary next month.

Beate Minkovski, the gallery's executive director, had no intentions of opening a gallery or of going back to college. A little nudging from her youngest of five children pushed Minkovski, 44 at the time, to attend Northeastern Illinois University.

"I got a scholarship which forced me to go full time. I didn't want to accept it because I felt I was too old," said Minkovski.

At Northeastern, Minkovski met a woman named Kelly Hensen. The pair opened a studio for their senior show in order to graduate; said studio became the Woman Made Gallery.



Beate Minkovski. Photo courtesy of Minkovski

"We opened the gallery as our studio. I sold bagels in the morning because we couldn't pay the rent otherwise," said Minkovski.

The Woman Made Gallery opened its doors in 1992. Its first group show was "Women Do Women." In 1993 Hensen left the gallery, and Janet Bloch stepped in as gallery director until 2000.

"[Hensen] wanted to work in wood. I had to get a license to sell coffee and bagels in the morning [so] you cannot make any wood dust. She got upset and said that's what we wanted to do, we wanted to have our personal studio," said Minkovski.

The gallery opening couldn't have come at a better time. A 1992 statistic report by the NEA (National Endowment for the Arts) showed that only 17 percent of women had shows in U.S. galleries. The Bureau of Labor showed that in 1993, 48 percent of U.S. artists were women.

"All these other women came along to show their art and so it became something completely different. It was not planned," said Minkovski.

The gallery is non-profit and, since its opening, has held shows for 7,000 women from all over the United States and outside the country. The goal of the gallery is to make the public aware of women's art and to acknowledge the accomplishments of the women artists whose works the gallery displays.

The gallery has six different showings a year. Some are themed, while others are open to any

artists and any style of art. The gallery then picks a guest judge, either from another gallery or another artist, to judge the work and decide which pieces will go in the show. What sets Woman Made apart from some commercial galleries is that this gallery doesn't discriminate. Any woman—whether straight, lesbian or transgender—can submit artwork.

"Our mission is to support the woman in the arts. I think women need a safe space to show. ... I think some [headways] need to be made," said Minkovski.

To mark its 20th anniversary, Woman Made will be doing a variety of artistic things throughout the year, the first one being its annual gala, which will be held April 20 at Salvage One, 1840 W. Hubbard St. Guests of the gala will be able to bid on items during a live and silent auction. The gallery's board decided to recognize Minkovski at this year's gala.

As part of this year's special campaign, photos of 20 women artists will be posted throughout the city; each will have a QR code that can be scanned to take the viewer to that woman's

photo and story and then to the Woman Made website.

In July, the gallery will be showing the works of 20 jurors who have helped jury past shows, including Barbara Crane, Indira Freitas Johnson and Yolanda Lopez. The gallery will also be hosting a group show in September celebrating Women Artists in Illinois. The biggest undertaking for Woman Made Gallery will be working with 20 Chicago neighborhood organizations in areas where art barely exists or not at all. One of the neighborhoods participating is East Rogers Park, where women refugees from Kosovo live.

"The art has to do with how you envision your life, your home or community," said Minkovski.

Even though the gallery was started in the early '90s, it keeps current with social-media outlets like Facebook and Twitter.

"We have different people who post on [twitter] including me and that has to be always current," said Minkovski.

Follow Woman Made Gallery on Twitter @WomanMade or visit www.womanmade.org.



From left: Tony Hernandez, Rick Bayless and Heidi Stillman in Cascabel. Photo courtesy of Lookingglass Theatre

Lookingglass' 'Cascabel' debuting March 21

Lookingglass Theatre, Frontera Grill and Silverguy Entertainment present Rick Bayless in Cascabel: Dinner—Daring—Desire, a theatrical adventure featuring a feast, world-class circus acts and a love story starring celebrity chef Rick Bayless.

It will run March 21-April 22 at Lookingglass Theatre Company, 821 N. Michigan Ave.

Many of the performances of Cascabel are sold out. Tickets are no longer available for March 21, 22, 23 and 31 as well as April 7, 13, 14, 18, 20 and 21. Regular-run tickets are \$200-\$225; see www.lookingglasstheatre.org or call 312-337-0665. (Preview tickets are sold out.)

Walgreens is the presenting sponsor of Cascabel.

Clown revue at Neo-Futurarium March 25

The Chi-Town Clown Revue returns to the Neo-Futurarium, 5153 N. Ashland Ave., on Sunday, March 25, at 9:30 p.m. for its eighth installment.

Physical comedians, circus clowns, vaudevillians and bouffons will present their unique comic stylings in the 70-minute show.

Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at www.chitownclown.com.

Gay-themed play at Red Tape Theatre

The Fine Print Theatre Company is presenting the gay-themed play The Xylophone West—a play by Windy City Times writer Alex Lubischer and directed by Josh Sobel—at Red Tape Theatre, 621 W. Belmont Ave., March 16-April 4.

The Xylophone West chronicles a young boy's journey into the heart of violence and back again. Set against the backdrop of an insular, rural community in Nebraska, the story ignites with Patrick plotting a flight west to escape an increasingly hostile gang of boys at his high school. When a nightmarish accident nixes his chance of outrunning them, he is forced to confront his aggressors—and himself.

Tickets are \$20-\$25; they're available at www.TheFinePrintTheatre.org and www.BrownPaperTickets.com.

'Little Shop' at Street Tempo Theatre April 9

Street Tempo Theatre announces Little Shop of Horrors as the second production for the newly launched musical theatre company.

Street Tempo Theatre Artistic Director Brian Posen and Music Director Kory Danielson are co-direction the production.

The production will run April 9-May 13 at Stage 773, 1225 W. Belmont Ave. Tickets are \$38 each (\$15 for previews April 9-10); visit www.stage773.com, call 773-327-5252 or stop by the box office.

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Dan and Bill Savage hold forum at Steppenwolf

BY ALEX LUBISCHER

Dan Savage, co-creator of the "It Gets Better" project, engaged audience members in a post-show discussion about homophobia and anti-gay bullying following the March 9 production of *fml: How Carson McCullers saved my life at Steppenwolf*.

Savage was joined onstage by brother Bill Savage, a Distinguished Senior Lecturer in English at Northwestern University, who shared his own perspective as a former victim of teen bullying. The event was organized by Steppenwolf for Young Adults' Artistic and Educational Director, Hallie Gordon.

contrary to the advice Jo gets from her friends and family and teacher. Maybe you do have to tone it down just to survive." When asked what he thought of a scene in which Jo questioned the actuality of a "better" future, Savage lauded the play for its honest representation of a perspective many LGBT teens might share.

"Billy Lucas' suicide made me realize that the last 15 years, as we've really gone from success to success, with occasional setbacks like Prop 8, it's actually gotten much, much worse for queer kids than it used to be," said Dan.

"You have all these kids going to school who have watched their parents beat up gay people abstractly with their checkbooks and their bal-



Dan (left) and Bill Savage at the Steppenwolf post-show discussion. Photo by Alex Lubischer

Savage, a Chicago native, began the discussion by explaining the origins of the project, which seeks to remind teenagers in the LGBT community that they are not alone, and that life will get better.

"I wrote about the suicide of Billy Lucas, a 15-year-old growing up in Greensburg, Ind., who was brutally bullied for being perceived to be gay," said Dan. After Dan posted the article on his blog, it received the comment, "I wish I had known you and been able to tell you that things get better. Rest in peace, Billy Lucas."

"And that phrase leapt out at me because it was so true—on the macro level for the LGBT community as a whole and at the individual level," Dan said. Soon after, Dan created the first "It Gets Better" video with his husband, Terry Miller, and posted it on YouTube.

Dan also responded directly to "fml," whose teen protagonist, Jo, is brutally attacked for being a lesbian. He stressed that coming out is rarely the cure-all for problems faced by LGBT teens, and that it can often be safer to wait.

Bill added, "Especially kids in rural schools or in situations like this [in the play], which is

lots, and then they [their kids] go to school on Monday morning and feel they have a right to beat up gay kids they encounter."

After taking several questions from Steppenwolf patrons, Dan ended the post-play discussion by illustrating what he saw as the essence of the "It Gets Better" project. "What people need to remember is that there really is an up-raised middle finger at the heart of the project," he said.

"It is an aggressive act. We're talking to these bullied LGBT kids ... the isolated ones who are cut off from support, perspective, and advice, whether their parents want us to or not. Whether their preachers want us to or not. ... One day you'll [the parents] thank us. But we are kicking down doors. That's what the 'It Gets Better' project is."

fml: How Carson McCullers saved my life, by Sarah Gubbins, runs through March 18 at Steppenwolf Theatre, 1650 N. Halsted St. See www.steppenwolf.org.

Dan Savage's syndicated column, "Savage Love," can be found online at www.thestranger.com/seattle/SavageLove.

Orion to mark Women's History Month

In honor of Women's History Month in March, the all-female Orion Ensemble will be "Celebrating Women Composers" of three centuries, four countries and four distinct styles.

The group's performances conclude March 14 at Roosevelt University's Ganz Memorial Hall in Chicago.

Shows will cover the works of Stacy Garrop, Louise Farrenc, Phyllis Tate and Fanny Mendelssohn.

The Orion Ensemble consists of five musicians: Kathyne Pirtle (clarinet), Florentina Ramniceanu (violin), Diana Schmück (piano), Judy Stone (cello) and Jennifer Marlas (viola).

Single tickets are \$26, \$23 for seniors and \$10 for students; children 12 and younger are free. A four-ticket flexible subscription provides a 10-percent savings on full-priced tickets. For tickets or more information, call 630-628-9591 or visit www.orionensemble.org.

'Second Class' filmmaker exceeds goal

Filmmaker Ryan James Yezak launched an effort to raise funding for Second Class Citizens, his planned documentary about the gay-rights movement—and more than surpassed his goal.

Aiming for \$50,000, Yezak's Kickstarter campaign closed with 4,272 supporters pledging \$176,354, according to a press release.

"I first thought of the idea [for the docu-

mentary] when I came out to Los Angeles [several years ago] to intern in the entertainment industry. [Same-sex] marriage was passed on my roadtrip out here; that was very exciting," Yezak, 25, told Windy City Times. "I also witnessed [same-sex marriages] when [that right was] taken away.

The documentary will encompass all areas in which the LGBT community is discriminated against, including marriage rights; gays being denied admission to private schools, private organizations and religious institutions; and more.

Lakeside Pride's 'Salute to Uptown' March 24

The Lakeside Pride Symphonic Band will perform "A Salute to Uptown" Saturday, March 24, at 8 p.m. at the Preston Bradley Center, 941 W. Lawrence Ave.

In honor of Chicago's Uptown neighborhood, the band's concert features music that reflects the legacy of this entertainment district.

Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door; they are \$12 for seniors and students. See www.LakesidePride.org.

Antiques fair in Chicago April 26-30

The 15th annual Merchandise Mart International Antiques Fair will take place April 26-30 on the eighth floor of the mart.

General-admission tickets are \$20; preview tickets are \$40-\$150. Visit www.MerchandiseMartAntiques.com.

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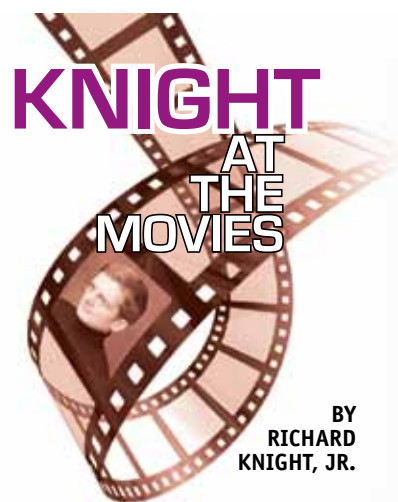
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BY
RICHARD
KNIGHT, JR.

I Killed My Mother; 21 Jump Street

By the time *I Killed My Mother*, the debut feature from queer French Canadian auteur Xavier Dolan, was screened at Reeling, Chicago's Gay & Lesbian Film Festival in the fall of 2010 it was already a given that his astonishingly insightful black comedy was going to break out of the festival circuit and reap mainstream acclaim.

The semi-autobiographical 2009 movie, penned by Dolan when he was 16 and made when he was 19 (he wrote, directed and starred) had already won three prestigious awards when screened at the Director's Fortnight at Cannes and received critical raves.

But then the film—which made my 2010 LGBT film list based on those two Reeling screenings—encountered big trouble when its U.S. distributor, Regent Entertainment, got embroiled in a lawsuit that put *I Killed My Mother* and nearly 100 other queer-themed movies into legal limbo. Abruptly, Dolan's movie disappeared from sight in the United States. The young filmmaker—already focused on his follow-up movie, *Heartbeats*—publicly had little to say about the fate of his debut. (His few comments were appropriately derisive about the distributor and wistful about the fate of his film.)

Although the Regent lawsuit has yet to be settled, the rights to *I Killed My Mother* have reverted to its French distributor, Rezo. However, even though the film is still awaiting either a U.S. feature or DVD release, there is good news for the movie on the local front. For the first time in the nearly two years since its Reeling debut, it's going to be shown in Chicago. This will be at a free screening Wed., March 21, at 6:30 p.m. at the Chicago Cultural Center in the Claudia Cassidy Theater, 78 E. Washington St., as



I Killed My Mother.

part of Cinema Q II, the LGBT-themed film series (of which Windy City Times is one of the media sponsors). The presentation is being generously underwritten by the Quebec Government Office in Chicago.

So what is all the fuss about? Dolan's feisty dramedy crackles with vitality and, given the filmmaker's young age, is astounding in its maturity and technique. The story focuses on the combative relationship (poignant and hilarious) between the prickly, artistic 16-year-old Hubert, who is gay, and his no-nonsense, conventional single mother who is doing her best to ignore the repeated displays of temper by her son and just get along. Anne Dorval plays the role with a combination of world-weariness and blithe indifference, and turns in a tremendous, complicated performance.

Hubert's mother, with her tacky outfits and deplorable eating habits, is no pushover and will only put up with her drama queen son's pushing and prodding for only so long. She doesn't care a bit that Hubert is gay—just that she was the last to be told (and by the mother of his boyfriend, no less). When Hubert's rages escalate beyond her control, she and his almost nonexistent father promptly send him off to boarding school—setting in motion another round of high drama.

Late in the film the mother has a phone conversation with the headmaster of Hubert's boarding school. The monologue Dorval delivers—in which she becomes almost insane with anger at the headmaster's overbearing suggestion that Hubert needs the guiding hand of a male authority figure—is one of the most breathtaking instances of film acting I can remember in years.

For Dorval's acting alone, the film is a must-

see. Add to that Dolan's own petulant performance, knowing eye for character detail, offbeat camera set-ups and assured direction, and *I Killed My Mother* becomes a blissful character study. One doesn't really need the subtitles (the movie's in French) to discern what's going on in the epic battles between mother and son, who clearly love one another, yet can't seem to get along for more than five minutes. Never have I seen a movie that more clearly illuminates the psychological wars between parent and child; that it focuses on a gay teenager is a huge bonus. It's *fabulous*. See www.queerfilmsociety.org.

Of related interest: Dolan's 2010 sophomore follow-up, *Heartbeats*, is now available On Demand through IFC. Although it's considerably less audacious and inventive than *I Killed My Mother*, the movie has its own charms and continues to showcase the young filmmaker's striking originality behind the camera. Dolan again stars, this time as a college student who falls hard for a golden-haired Adonis named Nicholas who is also the object of adoration by his best gal pal, the stylish Marie. As the film progresses the duo, in between bedding other lovers, tries its hardest to woo the young beauty.

"Someday I want to see a gay-dude comedy," I thought to myself as I sat watching Jonah Hill and Channing Tatum go through their expected paces in *21 Jump Street*, a comedic adaptation of the late '80s-early '90s TV series. By that point, I had counted about 13 of the more-than-25 gay sight gags and penis references in



Channing Tatum in *21 Jump Street*. Photo by Scott Garfield

the script. It's not that the movie is bad—it certainly entertained the twentysomething urbanites I saw it with, and it has its share of genuine laughs; it's just that it's interchangeable with dozens of other movies that have come before it. Somehow, straight-dude comedies can't seem to exist without lots of gay sight gags. This always makes me wonder, "Would a gay-dude comedy with the dudes finding themselves horrified by their peers thinking they're straight reverse the process and illuminate how prominent (and really tired) this brand of 'humor' is?"

Hill (who wrote the story) and Tatum play two recent graduates of the police academy chosen for their young looks (and apparent immaturity) to go undercover at a local high school and discover the supplier of a crystal meth-like drug that is killing unsuspecting teens. Basically, the two are an updated version of Laurel and Hardy, with Tatum as the good-looking, idiotic former jock and Hill as the brainiac, shy nerd with a weight problem. It's been only five years since the duo were high school seniors but they discover immediately upon driving into the parking lot that Tatum's superior attitude, his punching a "faggot" and his insistence on driving a gas-guzzling sports car are all now politically incorrect.

On the surface it seems that things have changed but as the movie progresses, the age-old gay-baiting and the dick jokes pile up and the same questions I always ask myself at these dude comedies came to mind: What is it about straight boys inadvertently simulating anal sex that drives audiences to the point of hysteria, anyway? And more important: When queer culture becomes totally integrated into mainstream society, will this kind of stuff become as antiquated and uncomfortable to straight audiences as actors in blackface from classic cinema are? Dude, I hope to live to see it—and what cultural minority gets to get fucked in the ass, humor-wise, next.

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

Glessner House to host film narrated by John Waters

Glessner House Museum, 1800 S. Prairie Ave., will host the Chicago premier of a feature-length documentary film entitled *Of Dolls and Murder on Sunday*, March 25, at 7 p.m.

Of Dolls and Murder explores a haunting collection of dollhouse crime scenes created by Chicagoan Frances Glessner Lee (1878-1962), a respected pioneer in the field of homicide investigation and the first female state police captain in the country. From criminally minded college students and real-life detectives, to CSI and a visit to "The Body Farm," John Waters narrates the tiny world of big-time murder. See www.ofdollsandmurder.com.

Glessner House Museum is a national historic landmark and the last surviving work by H.H. Richardson in Chicago. Completed in 1887, the museum is recognized nationwide for its groundbreaking architecture as well as its important collection of original decorative arts.

The cost for the event is \$15 per person. Reservations are required and may be made by calling 312-326-1480. The museum is easily accessible by taking the #3 or #4 bus south on Michigan Avenue to 18th Street, and then walking two blocks east.

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Transgender advocate Laverne Cox in groundbreaking film

BY ROSS FORMAN

Laverne Cox hits the big screen this month for the first time in her career, which, up until this point, has been highlighted by a few reality-TV show appearances and numerous independent films.

Cox portrays Chantelle, who she describes as “sassy, sexy and wise,” in *Musical Chairs*, a movie about wheelchair ballroom dancing. The movie opens March 23 in New York and Miami, and then March 30 in Chicago and Los Angeles.

Chantelle is African-American, transgender and disabled (paraplegic), “but she doesn’t allow any of those categories to interfere with her



Laverne Cox. PR photo

being fantastic, an amazing person,” Cox said. “Chantelle has a great sense of humor about life and her circumstances.”

Musical Chairs, according to the movie’s website, is a romantic tale of two New Yorkers—Armando from the Bronx, and Mia from the Upper East Side—who come together through their love of ballroom dancing. When a tragic accident puts Mia in a wheelchair, Armando, aided by a group of colorful misfits at the rehab center, dedicates himself to helping Mia dance once more by introducing her to the world of competitive wheelchair ballroom dancing.

Cox filmed the movie about a year ago in New York City.

“It’s a beautiful film about the power of the human spirit. It’s a gorgeous film; I’m so happy with it. I’m very proud of it,” said Cox, who truly took her role to heart—and the streets—one day in Times Square.

She went with actress Auti Angel and others for lunch—and all were in wheelchairs.

“That experience was interesting, illuminating. I developed a new-found respect and admiration for people with disabilities, especially those who thrive, not just survive, in a world that isn’t really made for them,” Cox said. “[That

lunch] was truly an amazing, amazing experience.”

Cox, who has been acting in movies for about 10 years, said she is “excited and nervous” for *Musical Chairs*, one of six films she worked on in 2011.

“Even though I’ve already seen [*Musical Chairs*] seven times, I’m still going to see it in the theatres with the general public—to see how they respond to it,” Cox said. “Acting has been my dream for a really long time. Part of the reason I got into reality TV was because I wanted to advance my career as an actor. I think the goal for every actor is to just keep acting, and that’s the case for me, too.”

Cox is now working on a TV pilot, but could not elaborate. She also is a producer and transgender advocate who made television history when she became the first African-American transgender woman to appear on an American reality show. She was a finalist in 2008 on VH1’s *I Want to Work for Diddy*, the show that won the GLAAD Media Award for Outstanding Reality Program.

Cox then starred in her own show, *TRANSform Me*, making her the first African-American trans woman to produce and star in her own TV show. *TRANSform Me* was nominated for a GLAAD media award for Outstanding Reality Program.

Cox also has had guest starring roles on *Law and Order*, *Law and Order: SVU*, and HBO’s *Bored to Death*.

“[The] *Diddy* [show] was one of the most intense and insane things I have ever done in my whole life,” Cox said. “It was very stressful; I felt a great deal of pressure to represent my [transgender] community.”

“Diddy has this philosophy that sleep is forbidden. Apparently, he is up all night, and expects his assistants to be up all night, too. It was a crazy, exhausting experience. I’m really glad that I did it, but I don’t think I’d ever want to do anything like that ever again.”

“It definitely led to some really fantastic things in my career.”

“All of my advisors and friends told me not to

Queer occult films April 6-8

“The Homocult Show”—featuring short experimental queer films about the magic and the occult—will take place April 6-8 at the S&S Project, 3145 S. Morgan St.

Among the artists whose works will be shown are Christos Andres, Sofia Moreno, Daniel McKernan and Erika Keck, among others. McKernan is curating the festival.

See www.facebook.com/bridgeportart.

‘Show Biz Kids’ cabaret March 19

The Show Biz Kids From Hell!—a musical comedy duo starring Wild Chicago’s Emmy-winning Dick O’Day (the alter ego of Windy City Times film critic Richard Knight Jr.) and Singer Spotlight showcase creator Becca Kaufman—present “The Show Biz Kids: 20 Years of the Trailer Park of Cabaret!”

The event will take place Monday, March 19, at 7:30 p.m. at the Wilmette Theatre, 1122 Central Ave., Wilmette.

Tickets are \$15-\$20; visit www.wilmette-theatre.com/events/#event610981-cabaret-at-the-mette-the.

do it, but I’m really glad that I did.”

Cox said *TRANSform Me* was a “dream,” but a lot of pressure, too.

“I love the process of making a TV show or a movie,” Cox said. “*TRANSform Me* was one of the happiest times of my life—traveling around the country, shooting that TV show. I feel grateful to have had that experience.”

TRANSform Me only survived one season.

“We never quite found our audience, but I learned so many lessons and am so grateful that I had that experience, and it’s led to some really fantastic things,” Cox said.

Cox said the media spotlight has certainly been pressure-packed, especially being a pioneer.

“There are more transgender folk in the media [spotlight] now, which is fantastic, but there are just not a lot of us,” Cox said. “People might see one trans person and then just assume that we are all like that. The real thing is, it’s about diverse folks in the media; it’s not just about me or just about Chaz Bono or anyone else. It truly is a diverse community. I don’t think one person alone can represent the transgender community. Rather, if a lot of us are in the media spotlight, in various capacities, being ourselves, then the country and the world can get a better idea of who we are ... because we’re all different.”

Cox is among an ever-growing list of stars who have made the transgender world more visible.

“We’re now more visible,” Cox said. “Since 2007, which was a watershed year when Candis Kayne was on *Dirty Sexy Money*—that really changed my thinking of what was possible for me and my career.”

“Awareness [of the transgender community] has improved; it’s something that’s very different from even, oh, five years. But it’s still an uphill battle because we still need protection against being discriminated against; we need more awareness and laws to protect us, but progress has been made, though we still have a long way to go.”

“Clearly, education is the key. A lot of people just don’t know, or fully understand, what it means to be transgender. I am always humanizing [the] transgender experience, [to] make it relatable; I feel like that is my job.”

However, don’t call Cox a role model.

“I don’t like that term,” she said. “I think that term sort of suggests that there’s something that you’re doing that other people should emulate—and I never would be that presumptuous or that arrogant, to think that the way I’m living my life, or approaching my career, is something that other people should do. I’m just trying to be as authentic to my views and visions of what I want.”

“I am aware that my work and my visibility has inspired others, but I don’t think of myself as a role model. I just want to make things better for the people who follow me.”

Cox considers Leontyne Price, the late African-American opera star, as her inspiration.

“Black opera singers were able to do things after her that they weren’t able to do before her,” Cox said.

Cox confirmed she is single, and has been for about seven years. “Dating has been an interesting journey, with men and being trans,” Cox said. “Dating and relationships is not something I really know anything about.”

Cox said she has only been in one long-term relationship.

“I’m not really sure I understand dating,” Cox said. “I am now focused on cultivating the friendships that I have. I have amazing friends, people who are really supportive of my life—and I value them, a lot.”

So who’s the perfect person for Cox?

“Someone who I could be myself with, someone who fully accepts and respects me,” Cox said. She added that admiration, communication and sense of humor are also key.

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The Nightlife in Bronzeville. Courtesy Chicago History Museum



Valda Gray at Joe's Deluxe.



Rev. Clarence Cobbs. The photo of Cobbs has a photographer's stamp on the front. R.D. Jones, Chicago 1930s. No other information available. Courtesy of Vivian G. Harsh Research Collection of Afro-American History and Literature

Queer Bronzeville:

A History of African American LGBTs on Chicago's South Side, 1900-1985

Part II: Being Black and Queer in 1940s Bronzeville: Race, Class and Queer Identities in Black Chicago, 1940-1950

BY TRISTAN CABELLO

This is the second of a multi-part series.

In the 1940s, queers were certainly present in all social strata of Bronzeville's society, silent and visible at the same time.

Just like Bronzeville's heterosexuals, Bronzeville's queers organized themselves around the urban spaces where they lived, and according to their class and gender identities. Working-class queers had created a discourse of their own featuring well-defined sexual systems and different types of personas. Bronzeville's middle class used these identities to help them sustain and achieve their social status. Powerful queers were often able to protect their status by controlling their images.

During and after the Second World War, the mass migration of homosexuals to urban centers altered the social geography of large cities such as Chicago. In response to this influx, many homosexual bars opened their doors in white neighborhoods. The white owners, however, did not allow all segments of the homosexual population to patronize their establishments; lesbians, African Americans, and working-class queers were often excluded. This served to further divide queer populations, in which racial and gender identities as well as social status came to regulate attendance in gay bars. Black queers remained in their neighborhoods and did not enjoy the same opportunities for mobility as whites. During the 1940s, the majority of bars frequented by African American queers in Chicago were located on the South Side.

Bronzeville's working-class African American queers evolved in a variety of places. Cabarets such as the Plantation Café, the Cabin Inn, the Club Delisa, and Joe's Deluxe hosted drag shows, queer artists, queer musicians, queer comedians, and had both a queer and straight clientele. For the artists, the professional activities in this bar often represented a sizeable source of income: these establishments were financially stable. These places were deeply entrenched in Bronzeville's neighborhood culture, and were not reserved for queers, as heterosexual couples from the neighborhood mainly frequented them. There was no geographic, social, or cultural separation between queers and heterosexuals: these identities had not yet been fully formed.

Professional female impersonator Lorenzo Banyard, who used the stage name "Nancy Kelly," frequented all of these places during the 1940s. Historian Allen Drexel documented his story in 1996 in a fascinating two-hour interview. Born in New Orleans in 1917, Banyard moved to Chicago in 1924 to live with his maternal grandmother. He spent his childhood and teenage hood in the "whorehouse" owned by his aunt, while studying at Douglas, Phillips High School and DuSable, until economic recession forced him to abandon his studies. He then found a position as a dishwasher at the Wabash Street YMCA, where he would continue to work while he performed in drag shows at night.

Because female impersonators drew a large crowd, bars sought their talents. The 1410 West Roosevelt Road club was well known for paying a decent salary to its artists. Despite the bar's rather dangerous geographical location and aggressive clientele, many female impersonators worked there. One day in 1940, Banyard decided to go to the 1410 West Roosevelt Road, despite his friends' warnings. "You're crazy, you'll be

killed!" they pleaded several times. Banyard, set on earning \$10 per show, put on his makeup, high heels, and styled his hair with "Max Factor Grease Paint No. 8," a fashionable hair product. He went out in the street dressed as a woman, to go to the club.

As he could perform in at least three shows that night, Banyard knew that he would earn at least \$30. His trip to the West Side via street-car demonstrates how much Bronzeville's female impersonators were part of the neighborhood's social and cultural landscape. Wearing false eyelashes, lipstick, and high heels, Banyard recalled that South Side men approached him. An intoxicated man sat next to him in the street-car, and flirted with him. Banyard was helped by an old woman on the bus, who invited him to sit next to her, before saying that "women [in Bronzeville] were not safe" when they went out alone. Drag queens moved freely in the streets of Bronzeville, using public transport, and traveling down the neighborhood's main streets. They could often pass for "real" women thanks to their elaborate wardrobes.

In the Black queer culture of Bronzeville, queer sexual discourses focused on the female impersonator. As drag queens displayed very feminine characteristics and were attracted to men, they were considered to be women. Two other types evolved around this figure and competed with her. First, the "boys" were masculine men attracted to drag queens who preferred to have sexual relationships with them. These masculine men were considered heterosexual despite engaging in sexual relationships with drag queens and their masculinity was not seen as threatened. Second, the "QTs" were queers who were not interested in drag queens because they "wanted to have sex with normal men." In clubs and at drag balls, the QTs noticed the boys who approached drag queens. They therefore knew that these boys wanted to engage in sexual relations with queers, or QTs. This attitude differed from white discourse, which had created a heterosexual/homosexual binary system.

Despite the ongoing preoccupation with the notion of respectability, numerous Bronzeville businesses prospered thanks to queer talents. Joe's Deluxe, Miracle Records, Sunbeam Records were all businesses that allowed their own-

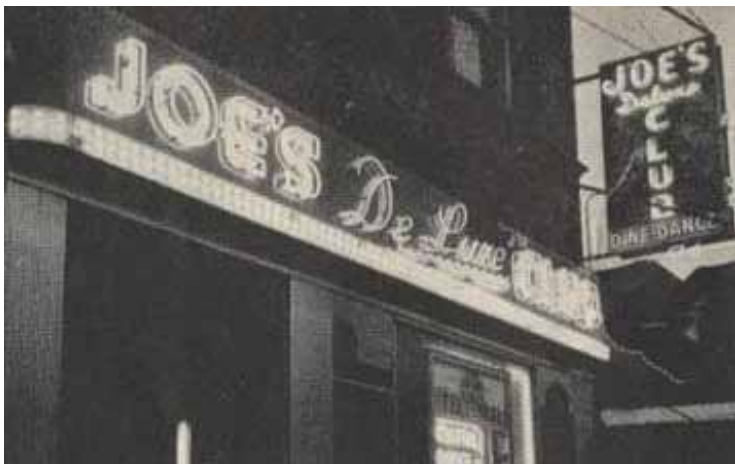


Rudy Richardson's recording of "I Need You."

ers to rise to the upper class of the neighborhood while making a significant contribution to Bronzeville's queer culture. People involved in queer-themed businesses, such as Joe Hughes, Marl Young, Petite Swanson, Rudi Richardson, Alfred Finnie and Eddie Phlique, were all highly regarded by Bronzeville's population.

Joe Hughes was part of Bronzeville's high so-

Turn to page 45



Joe's Deluxe Club.

BRONZEVILLE from page 44

ciety. He counted Eddie Anderson and Joe Louis among his friends. Hughes was elected "Mayor of Bronzeville" in 1941. Though Hughes' office was honorary, it was nonetheless representative, and highly symbolic in Bronzeville. Hughes therefore needed to be respected by his fellow citizens. However, since 1936, Hughes's only activity in the neighborhood had been in the capacity of managing a drag club named "Joe's Deluxe." Often described as a "Mecca for Female Impersonators," the club had opened in 1936. The drag shows were the main attraction at Joe's Deluxe, and were regulated by strict rules instituted by Hughes and by the city of Chicago.

The club's management did not allow the female impersonators to wear women's dresses or makeup off the premises. The female impersonators were not permitted to sit at a table without the presence of a woman. Providing her own wardrobe, each female impersonator had close to 25 ensembles in every style. Show producer Valda Gray, a very well known female impersonator, directed the drag shows for more than 16 years. Dixie Lee (Robert Beck) was a white female impersonator from the North Side. "Callidonia" was the resident comedian. "Sandra B." (Chester P. Frederick) and "Petite Swanson" (Alphonso Horsley) were the resident blues singers. "Nancy Kelly" (Lorenzo Banyard) and other female impersonators choreographed in the show.

Among the numerous postwar businesses recruiting the talents of Bronzeville's queers were a number of record labels. Miracle Records, in operation from 1946 to 1950, published a variety of records. Miracle Records' first recordings were the work of a homosexual singer named Rudi Richardson. An effeminate man with a high tenor voice, Richardson played the piano on stage as he sang. Born Rudolf Richardson Riles in Memphis in 1924, Richardson began working in Bronzeville's jazz clubs, such as the Chicken Palace, the Hurricane Lounge, Rudy's Chicken Shack and Rupneck's. In 1949, Rudi Richardson published a record under the label Rim. He continued to make frequent appearances in Chicago's clubs in the early 1950s, with a long contract at the Kitty Kat Club.

Of all the resident female impersonators at Joe's Deluxe, only "Petite Swanson" recorded a 78RPM for Sunbeam Records, taking advantage of an outstanding publicity campaign. Billboard announced that this "female impersonator" had signed a recording contract with the label on March 22, 1947. The following month, in an article published in *Blues and Rhythm*, Bo Sandell gave Swanson's real name, Alphonso Horsley.

In the 1940s, Bronzeville's most powerful man was probably Reverend Clarence Cobbs. Born in Memphis, Tenn., Cobbs moved to Chicago in 1916, where he was first a member of the Pilgrim Baptist Church. The First Church of Deliverance, his spiritualist congregation, started as a storefront on State Street. From its beginnings as a small religious organization of just thirteen members, the First Church of Deliverance boasted more than 9,000 members at the beginning of the 1940s, after constructing a huge building at 4315 S. Wabash, becoming one of the country's largest churches.

On Nov. 25, 1939, the Chicago Defender

published an article entitled "State's Attorney Probes Scandal on Rev. Cobbs." According to the article, Reverend Clarence H. Cobbs was "facing the possibility of questioning by state's attorney's police concerning widespread rumors of a scandalous nature," which had been circulating on the South Side for several days. Though the journalist did not specify the nature of said rumors, they had "become so general that the Reverend [had] had to come to his own defense over the air on several of his Sunday night broadcasts." During these radio shows, Cobbs reiterated that he was a "full man," and asked the listeners not to believe the rumors. A few months later, when the scandal had spread further, Cobbs began a defamation lawsuit against the Defender.

Bronzevillians were aware of Reverend Cobbs' homosexuality. While African American historian Timuel Black, a lifelong resident of the neighborhood, claimed that Cobbs "didn't deny [his sexuality] and made no apologies for it," the Reverend never openly admitted his homosexuality, and during his entire life never discussed his sexual orientation. The rumors about Cobbs's homosexuality were mainly supported by the vacation trips that Cobbs would take every year with his male secretary, R. Edward Bolden, as documented by Princeton historian Wallace Best.

Cobbs's social status and the power that went along with this status earned him the respect of his fellow citizens. Certainly not everyone in Bronzeville was aware of Cobbs's homosexuality. Very few people however did discuss the matter: they accepted it without decriing it. Cobbs wished to, and indeed could, control his image, due to a complex web of power relations, combined from his religious activities, control of the media, his own publicity, and his dominant status in the neighborhood, and which resulted in respect for him.

In the 1940s, the acceptance and visibility of queers in Bronzeville was conditioned by their socioeconomic status. By the end of the decade, however, the Black middle class had begun to impose its moral values—mainly characterized by its effort to control and regulate sexual deviance such as prostitution and homosexuality.

In an article published on Jan. 13, 1949, by the Defender, the word "homosexuality" was printed for the first time in that newspaper. A report on the existence of homosexual practices within the Black community, this mention of the word "homosexuality" is but the first of many, in which the Defender, and later African American magazines such as *Jet Magazine* and *Ebony Magazine* would try to define the limits of their community's sexual practices. The creation of a specific African American discourse on homosexuality, driven by Black publications founded in Chicago, held the imposition of the heterosexuality/homosexuality binary in African American culture as a main objective.

Tristan Cabello is the Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow in African American Studies at Bowdoin College. He is currently completing his first book *Queer Bronzeville: Race, Sexuality and Urban Boundaries in Black Chicago, 1900-1985*. His exhibit "Queer Bronzeville" is available on the Website www.outhistory.org. Tristan can be reached at tcabello@bowdoin.edu.

NUNN ON ONE: MUSIC

Out gay singer leads The Magnetic Fields



BY JERRY NUNN

The Boston indie band The Magnetic Fields, led by openly gay member Stephin Merritt, has been creating innovative music for years.

Merritt is the primary vocalist, songwriter and producer. Known for switching gender roles in his lyrics, he continues this trend with the latest single, "Andrew in Drag," the leading track off the just-released 10th album, *Love at the Bottom of the Sea*.

We talked to the interesting bandleader before the start of the tour, which includes a stop in Chicago.

Windy City Times: Hello, Stephin. So you will soon be returning to Chicago.

Stephin Merritt: Yes. Last time I was there it was so incredibly foggy. It was even dangerous to cross the street.

WCT: The weather is always changing here. You were at the School of Folk Music, correct?

SM: No, we were at a strange Lincoln printer art complex. We played six stories underground in what we called "The Death Star." It was a very unusual space. The Old Town School of Folk Music was the previous tour. We played a larger venue for the 2010 tour.

WCT: Oh, it was the Harris Theatre you are talking about. I heard you have a hearing problem and when people clap in concert it is disruptive for you.

SM: Yes, loud noise is painful for me in my left ear. A lot of loud sounds are painful for me, but applause is a big one.

WCT: This is the first time you have played at The Vic?

SM: We have not played there before.

WCT: It is a busy part of our city. How many people are in the group?

SM: I am the only original member. Originally we were a duo of me and Susan Anway, who was the singer. We gradually mutated into our current totally unstable form and we will continue mutating. [Laughs] The band on this record were nine people: me and Shirley Simms plus Claudia Gonson on piano, Sam Davol on cello, John Woo on guitar, Daniel Handler on accordion, Johnny Blood on tuba and horns, Pinkie Weitzman on violins and Randy Walker on background vocal.

WCT: Wow. That is a lot of people.

SM: I recorded myself in L.A.; Sam, Claudia and Shirley in Boston; with Daniel, Johnny and Randy in San Francisco; and the rest in New York. Last time we all recorded in Boston.

WCT: "Andrew in Drag" has a very fun video.

SM: I like it, too.

WCT: Is the song about a friend of yours?

SM: No, it is just a story.

WCT: What inspired it?

SM: I don't remember writing it. Some songs take a really long time to write. Sometimes I write in bars and I am drinking at the time. If they take a really long time then I don't remember writing them.

I woke up the following morning with no car in the driveway and realized I must have taken a taxi home, which I deduced I must have written a song. I opened my notebook and there it was but I don't remember writing it. I do that about once a year I think.

WCT: What is your drink of choice?

SM: Cognac.

WCT: There is another song on the album called "I've Run Away to Join the Fairies." Where did that song come from?

SM: It is also a story. I liked the title and we wrote the song around it. We are making a T-shirt of it for the tour.

WCT: There was a documentary about you called *Strange Powers: Stephin Merritt and The Magnetic Fields*. How do you feel it turned out?

SM: It is not really about my life in any accurate way, but I hope it sells records.

WCT: It won the Outfest 2010 Grand Jury Prize for Feature Documentary, so that is good.

SM: It did? No one told me anything.

WCT: Do you want to do more soundtracks? I noticed you have several on your resume, such as *Pieces of April* and *Lemony Snicket*.

SM: Oh, yeah. I like doing soundtracks.

WCT: Are you a big musical-theater fan? I saw you did a musical version of the movie *Coraline*.



Stephin Merritt. PR photo

SM: I am or at least in theory.

WCT: Do you like old-school musicals or new-school ones?

SM: In between. I like Sondheim.

WCT: So Into the Woods?

SM: Yes. I love *Into the Woods*. I saw Merrily We Roll Along a week ago. It is a beautiful score of a terrible play.

Coraline was my fourth musical and I am working on two more. One is with Daniel Handler and it is a sex farce. One is with Neil Gaiman and it is somewhere between a horror comedy and a sex farce.

See Stephin and the gang Monday, March 26, at The Vic Theatre, 3145 N. Sheffield Ave. Visit www.jamusa.com for ticket information.

TRAVEL

Touring Toronto

BY JERRY NUNN

Toronto is the capital of Ontario, and is an Aboriginal word meaning "meeting place." Only an hour away from and founded at the same time as Chicago, this area split from the United States in 1776. Both cities were considered gateways to the west.

Being the largest city in Canada, Toronto is expansive and has a personality all on its own. While nice to visit, Toronto is not cheap to live in; in fact, it was the highest ranked this year for cost of living.

Flying there is a breeze, as Porter Airlines daily leaves Midway Airport, where the snacks and drinks are flowing on the designer jet; the unlimited free Starbucks in the private lounge on return flights were a hit. There is a short ferry ride across the pond upon arrival and then you

are on your way. Traffic can be tight though so plan on being patient. Getting around the city is very easy with railway buses, cabs and trains.

There are several Marriotts located in Toronto but the Eaton Center location offers a closed in walkway to start that shopping. Bars and attractions are nearby along with an excellent breakfast buffet to start the day off right.

The Royal Ontario Museum is currently presenting "Maya: Secrets of Their Ancient World," which shows past civilizations alongside dinosaur bones.

Take a walk on the high side at the CN Tower. More than 1,000 feet tall, Chef Peter George serves a cuisine that keeps diners a 360-degree view, as the restaurant slowly spins. After having the chocolate tower for dessert, head to Edge Walk, where you can be buckled in for a stroll on the outside ledge—giving "sightsee-

ing" a whole new meaning.

The St. Lawrence Market has something for everyone who loves to cook, from meat to cheeses. Indulge in breakfast with a traditional peameal Canadian bacon sandwich at the Carousel Bakery.

Many people travel to see celebrities at the Toronto International Film Festival every year and now have a new place to eat with Luma located in the TIFF Lightbox. As you walk up the steps, don't miss the encased Oscar from the director of winner *The Barbarian Invasions*. The Grace Kelly exhibit runs in the same building, displaying her rise to fame and the incredible outfits that she knew how to work.

Missing the comedy of Chicago? Take in an early show with Second City (notice the Chicago connection) presenting holiday-themed shows throughout the year.

Fighting a foot fetish? Step over to the Bata Show Museum, where founder Sonja Bata first started collecting footwear in the 1940s. Now with more than 13,000 artifacts—including shoes from Judy Garland and Barbra Streisand—this place really has sole with the biggest boot ever from Mexico.

Decorated for the holidays was the castle Casa Loma. The previous estate of Sir Henry Mill Pellatt is the home of many movie sets, including the X-Men, although Hugh Jackman was not to be found.

Every year the Historic Distillery District's Christmas Market opens with wooden booths to shop at or just stroll around with a hot chocolate in hand. Barenaked Ladies front man Steven Page sang for the shoppers while Santa took care of the kiddies for the opening ceremony. Pure Spirits nearby always has a line outside for their swordfish steak and tiger shrimp angel hair pasta.

Off the beaten path is The Spa at the Old Mill Inn, which provides a getaway for travelers far and near. An indoor chapel for weddings, a 300-seat restaurant and luxurious spa conveniently means a couple never has to leave the premises.

Step back in time with the Black Creek Pioneer Village. Flaming pudding, yarn-spinning and history are all fun to witness while visiting a village founded in the 1800s.

Speaking of blasts from the past, for fans of the Mildred Pierce movie *Mildred's Temple Kitschen* is named after the film. This establishment made headlines this year when customers were encouraged to have bathroom sex on Valentine's Day to celebrate. After your torrid toi-



lette rendezvous return to your seat for a Makers Mark apple cider drink or the delicious gnocchi poutine.

After dinner, the gay area is not too far—where there are blocks of bars to try out such as world-famous Woody's, massive in size with room after room of activity. Zipperz has a piano bar and Fly is the place to be on the weekends to dance. Pride week in June is one of the biggest LGBT festivals in the world.

Take care of your sweet tooth with a Canadian baking class by Le Dolci, where people of all ages learn to decorate cupcakes. All classes are two hours long, and can celebrate any special day or holiday.

Head to more shopping in the historic Yorkville area, where upscale chains such as Roots and Club Monaco are all the rage. The Guild Shop featured local artists and was very reasonable with prices.

Sassafras is a nice place for a lunch break right in the middle of this square, and has a bar area to rest your feet.

Located inside an upscale mall, La Societe—with Parisian cuisine and a stained-glass ceiling—is a must-try.

After all this shopping, dining and sightseeing, it is only a quick trip back to Chicago. For a nearby sister city that is among the world's top tourist destinations, there is no excuse not to experience Canada and Toronto for yourself.

For more information on many of the places mentioned above, visit www.seetorontonow.com.



Sights in Toronto. Photos by Jerry Nunn

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WEEKLY DINING GUIDE IN WINDY CITY TIMES

SAVOR

Fulton's on the River

BY ANDREW DAVIS

Kevin Schulz, the executive chef at Fulton's on the River for about a year, told me that this is his first restaurant in this position. (He has worked at places such as Tramonto's Steak & Seafood in Wheeling and Zealous in Chicago.) How fortunate this restaurant's diners are.

Of course, with the restaurant being on the river, the views are spectacular—more so during the summer, when patrons can sit outside. However, the interior was pretty warm and inviting, with the hospitality of the staff a high note. (I noticed that this was true regarding the other diners there—even those who weren't wearing the dressiest of clothes.)

Dinner started with oyster on the half shell, topped with steak tartar and caviar. I'm, admittedly, not the biggest fan of oysters (thanks in part to memories of my father downing them with Tabasco), but this preparation won me over. The restaurant paired the shellfish with Gruet sparkling wine, which has a flavor that worked perfectly with the food.

Fulton's also has an interesting concept: meat flights. Much like you have flights of tequila, this restaurant has three-cut offerings that will definitely appeal to the carnivore in you. On the night my dining companion and I were there, the flight included four-ounce offerings included grilled veal ribeye, braised beef shortrib and sauteed Wagyu flat iron steak. My favorite had to be the flavorful shortrib, which is braised in a stock of mushrooms, tarragon, veal stock and red wine—making it extremely tender as well. Knowing that diet and environment can affect how meat tastes, Schulz has learned how to se-

lect the correct cuts. The sides—orange squash puree, spinach croquettes, roasted mushrooms and shoestring potatoes—again, paired well with the meat dishes; this is especially true of the potatoes, which definitely enhanced the Wagyu. (Note: The flights change periodically, so what you get may not be the same as the items described here.)

However, it was the dessert that provided the biggest punch—at least for my dining companion. The banana cream pie (complete with a crust made of crushed Nutter Butters) liter-



Meat flight at Fulton's on the River. Photo by Ed Negron

ally brought a tear to his eye, and had him contemplating the purchase of an entire pie in the future. I had to concur about that dessert, although I didn't fare as well with the key lime pie (possibly because I took it home and had it later).

Overall, though, I highly recommend Fulton's for that special occasion. (The cavernous rooms can accommodate hundreds of people for receptions, etc.) You won't be disappointed.

Fulton's on the River is at 315 N. LaSalle St.; see www.fultonsontheriver.com.

Riva Crab House

BY JOE FRANCO

Recently, I was diagnosed by my gastroenterologist with a severe wheat allergy. You might be saying to yourself, "What the heck is a gluten-intolerant pompous windbag doing reviewing restaurants?" Please, Windy City Times is all about the gays. When is the last time you saw one of us pick up a bread basket? But I digress. Riva Crabhouse was a surprise. I heard, "Navy Pier" and "seafood" and thought, "Dear God in heaven. Will there be a live band with kettle drums and a make-your-own ceviche station replete with commemorative bowls?"

Riva, I must say, shocked me. It's none of those things. J. Crew himself looks like he lives here. Paneling, prints of waterways and tasteful nautical motifs abound, but do not overwhelm. This is not your strip-mall seafood restaurant. Luigi Garcia and his team of chefs should be quite proud of their operation and their food since both were outstanding.

Riva offers a would-be diner two options as an appetizer. You can either order an actual appetizer or perhaps order a selection from the array of small plates. The tuna sashimi was a bit strong on the tuna, overwhelming the wonderful seaweed salad with ginger dressing it's paired with. The bison skewers were tender and perfectly cooked but, again, underseasoned. However, the duck confit-stuffed peppers were a triumph. You might expect something overpowering and audacious but this dish was both shockingly subtle and also perfectly seasoned.



Riva Crab House executive chef Luigi Garcia. PR photo

Some of you who have read my other reviews know that I am a stickler for soups. Frankly, a foul soup can ruin the rest of the meal—but there's no such item here. Make sure you get the lobster bisque. Garcia has stayed true to what lobster bisque is supposed to be: a creamy soup boldly flavored with fresh lobster and a hint of butter and salt. The crab cakes, alas, I could not eat but my faithful dining companion, who is a native of the Chesapeake Bay area, said they were the best crab cakes he's had in Chicago. For those of you not lucky enough to have tried Maryland blue crab cake whilst in season, this is high commendation indeed.

My entrée was surely one of the best prepared meat dishes I have ever had. Lobster can be a real bitch to prepare. However, my fresh Australian lobster was tender, juicy and absolutely brimming with flavor. That was paired with a rare sirloin steak that came with a knife but did

not require one to slice through was the perfect compliment. I am often leery of "surf and turf" dishes. Fish and mammal? Why not make kale milkshake? But Garcia again offered two uniquely prepared meats each flavored to compliment the other. So rather than being red tide meets mad cow, it was certainly a rare treat for me.

Our service and servers were exceptionally attentive. My wheat allergy was absolutely no problem and our server, Michelle, was able to point out every single friendly dish on the menu in minutes. She really was the Annie Sullivan to my Helen Keller. If you want to enjoy the views, the food and the service at Riva but avoid the crowds, I suggest going after the theater rush leaves to see A Midsummer Night's Dream at the Chicago Shakespeare Theatre next door. Riva is seafood done the way God intended—it's fresh, flavorful and fabulous.

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Notice is hereby given, pursuant to "An Act in relation to the use of an Assumed Business Name in the conduct or transaction of Business in the State," as amended, that a certification was filed by the undersigned with the County Clerk of Cook County. File No. D12129379 on March 6, 2012, Under the Assumed Name of "Sunset Beach Spa" with the business located at 5615 W. 79th St., Burbank, IL 60459. The true name(s) and residence address of the owner(s) are: Edyta Krol, 7318 S. Octavia, Bridgeview, IL 60455. (3/28/12-3)

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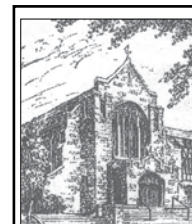
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NEED LEGAL HELP? Pride Law, Andersonville's legal aid clinic for the LGBT community can help. Clinic hours every Wednesday, 5-8:00 p.m. by appointment only. **Call 1-866-703-5509 or send us an email at prideslaw@tsamislaw.com.**

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Celebrations

Share your special moments with the community in Windy City Times' new announcement section!



CIVIL UNION: Stephen Farrell/ Joe Canup

Stephen Farrell and Joe Canup had a civil-union ceremony March 12 at the Cook County Building in Skokie. Stephen works for the U.S. Department of Labor and Joe is a gallery assistant at The Leigh Gallery in Lakeview. They have been together for 7 years.
 Photo courtesy of Canup

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BOOKS

Boxer Madeline Guzman: Taking on challenges in and out of the ring

BY JULIA BORCHERTS

Imagine yourself stepping into a boxing ring at the historic Chicago Golden Gloves, a tradition since its inception in Chicago back in 1923. Spotlights blaze overhead as the roar of thousands of people echoes above the ring announcer's, "Ladies and Gentlemen! In the 132-pound female open division..." The adrenaline coursing through your veins gnaws at your stomach and sparks your nerves as you look across to the opposite corner and see your opponent hop from one foot to the other as she thumps her gloves together and tries to stare you down.

Your coach adjusts your gloves and gives you some last minute advice which you try to commit to memory as you feel your feet start to move in a light bounce that keeps your nerves from shredding. You shake your shoulders to loosen the tension and glance around the ring as the referee hands each of the ringside judges their scorecards and the timekeeper gets ready to hit the bell.

Your coach and the other seconds climb back through the ropes as you take a deep breath and for just a moment, you're alone in your corner and your heart is pounding so hard that you can feel it in your ears.

You could win. You could lose. Either way, at the end of three rounds, you'll likely walk out of that ring with bruises. If something goes horribly wrong, you could die.

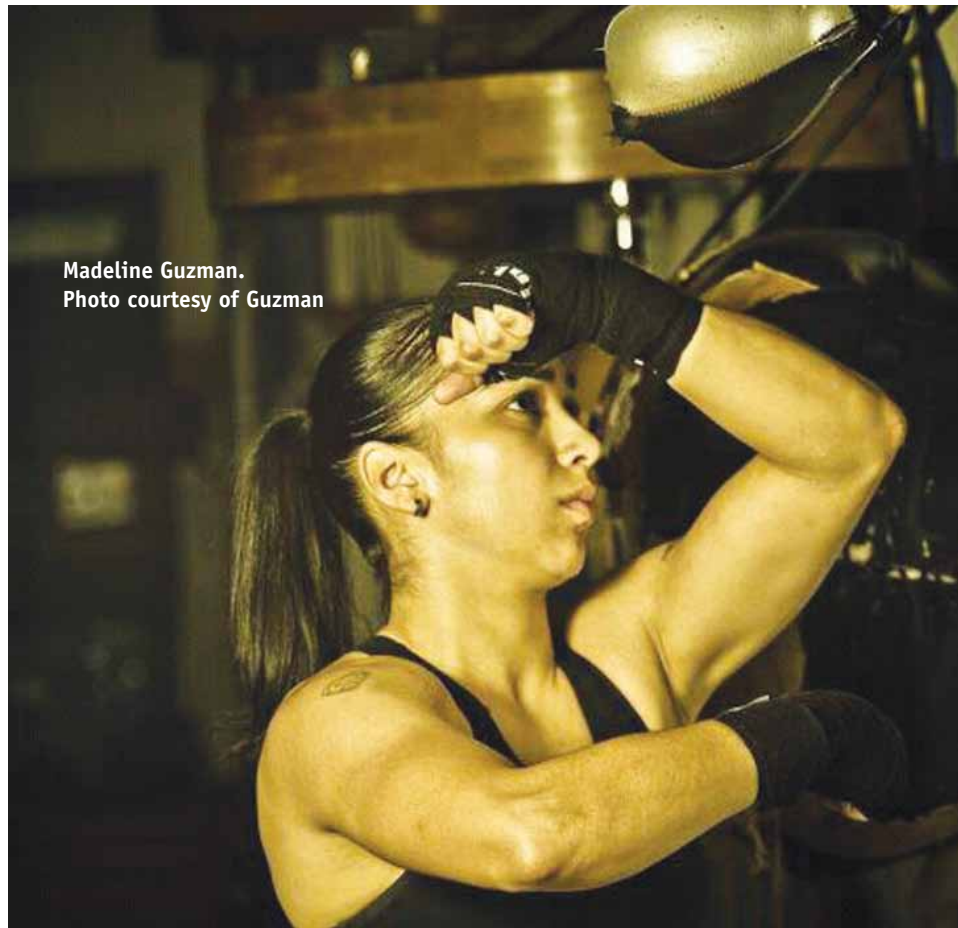
The only way to keep injury at bay is to maintain your focus on your opponent for every second you're in that ring—on her hands, her feet, her rhythm, her jabs, her positioning, her punches and counter-punches. She's experienced, too, and the stakes are high so you know she's also bringing her A game. And she'll be looking for any opportunity to surprise you, to knock you down, to knock you out.

Imagine yourself taking a deep breath as the referee instructs you to move into the center of the ring to face your opponent.

Now imagine yourself facing this test without the benefit of peripheral vision.

That's one of the challenges facing lesbian boxer Madeline Guzman, 25, who competes March 21 in the top-level Open Division of the Chicago Golden Gloves despite having been diagnosed at age 18 with RP, also known as retinal pigmentosa.

"It's a disease which causes your retina to deteriorate over the course of the years till you actually are completely blind," she said. "My grandmother has RP—when they found out, I was about 7 or 8 but they didn't know then that it was hereditary. Then, my brother was di-



Madeline Guzman.
Photo courtesy of Guzman

agnosed with it when he was 18. And then I started noticing that I had some vision changes when I played sports in high school. I went to get checked and it turns out that I had it also."

The disease, which is incurable, has symptoms including tunnel vision and night blindness. "Having RP is kind of like looking through a straw," Guzman said. "So you can see exactly what you're looking at but everything around is kind of just a big blur.

"I can't drive at night," she continued. "When I'm walking around anywhere, I shouldn't walk around by myself—I'm always kind of hanging onto my girlfriend. It looks like I'm clumsy but I just really can't see and I run into a lot of things, I've had a lot of accidents."

While others might have shied away from pugilism—a dangerous sport even if your vision is perfect—Guzman saw the challenge as an opportunity. "The reason I took up boxing," she said, "is because I feel like that's the one place where I can feel like I'm just on everyone else's level and I don't have to feel 'handicapped,' so to speak."

"There have been some significant changes but it's all about adapting," she said. "And be-

cause my central vision is so good, I guess you could say I'm more aware than any other boxer of where stuff is coming from. And I kind of see it before it's coming, so to speak, so I learned to adapt. Plus, it's in a confined space so I see perfectly fine when I'm in the ring."

Guzman, who was born and raised in Perth Amboy, N.J., first stepped into the ring as a competitor during a Florida amateur exhibition show.

"I was very scared," she said. "I was the 17th bout, so I waited a really long time and my nerves definitely got the best of me. Once I was in the fight, I guess I was out of shape and I was really tired. I told myself that I never, ever wanted to feel that tired ever again. And after that, I started doing a ton of roadwork."

The roadwork—which outside of boxing circles is known as plain old distance running—paid off and Guzman won a Diamond Gloves championship. When the New Jersey Golden Gloves tournament came around, no other female boxers had registered in her weight class, so the organizers flew in Jennifer Fenn, the daughter of Ann Wolfe—regarded by many as the best fighter in the history of women's boxing—for an exhibition match with Guzman.

"I lost," said Guzman, "but she's like number one in the nation, so it was awesome."

In February, 2011, Guzman moved to Chicago to be with her long-distance girlfriend, Marisol Garcia, who manages a Sally's Beauty Supply store. Guzman went to work as a customer service representative at Cleverbridge E-Commerce and began researching and scouting boxing gyms. After visits to several, she discovered Bridgeport's Chicago Boxing Club and its head trainer, Sam Colonna, whose many high-profile trainees have included former world champions David Diaz and Andrew Golota.

"It was love at first sight," Guzman said. "When you're looking for a coach that you're going to work with every day, it's kind of like a marriage. You have to make sure that you have great communication and that you work well together. And also that your trainer gives you back everything that you're putting in. With Sam, he's there every day and every chance that he gets, he's fixing something, correcting something and just praising you or giving constructive criticism."

And while she loves what she calls "the family environment" at Chicago Boxing Club, she does occasionally get hit on by clueless men despite the fact that Marisol often accompanies her to the gym to cheer her on during training.

"It definitely happens," she admitted, laughing. "Sometimes I'll be jumping rope with some

Turn to page 54



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Wed., March 14

Chicago Flower and Garden Show This isn't your grandmother's flower show. While it's still all about the plants, there's much more to do, see, learn and experience than ever before. With the theme, "Hort Couture," more than 25 featured display gardens take their cues on style and beauty from the incredible designs, colors, textures and fabrics found in high-fashion couture garments. Through March 18. 10am-8pm, 312-595-5400, Navy Pier, 600 E Grand Ave., www.chicagoflower.com

Building Effective Adult Allies For Youth Adult ally, youth workers, speaker Khadine Bennett, staff attorney and legislative counsel ACLU of Illinois in an informational session (bring a bagged lunch) on the Parental Notification Act in Illinois and how you can be an effective adult ally for young people experiencing barriers due to Parental Notification. RSVP Tiffany Pryor @ ICAH or 312-427-4460, ext 236. 12pm-1:30pm, ICAH, 226 S. Wabash Ave., Suite 900

Sara Paretsky, 30th anniversary of V.I. Warshawski series Paretsky discusses her work and its significance to Chicago, including her new book Breakdown, with the Chicago Tribune's Rick Kogan. Also joining us are special guest actors from Steppenwolf Theatre Company who will give a brief reading of Paretsky's work. Cindy Pritzker Auditorium; 6pm, Harold Washington Library Center, 400 S. State St., www.chicagopubliclibrary.org

The Orion Ensemble, Celebrating Women Composers In honor of Women's History Month in March, The Orion Ensemble will be "Celebrating Women Composers" of

BORRIS DAY Sunday, March 18

Local fashion designer **Borris Powell** will unveil a new men's collection, among other things, at his show at the River East Art Center, 435 E. Illinois St.

Photo by Borris Powell

three centuries, four countries and four distinct styles: Chicago-based composer Stacy Garrop's Silver Dagger for Violin, Cello and Piano (2009); Louise Farrenc's Trio in E-flat Major for Clarinet, Cello and Piano, Op. 44; British composer Phyllis Tate's (1911-85) Air and Variations for Clarinet, Violin and Piano (1957); and Piano Trio in D Minor, Op. 11 by German composer Fanny Mendelssohn (1805-1847), brother of Felix. 7:30pm, 630-628-9591, Roosevelt University's Ganz Memorial Hall, 430 S. Michigan Ave., www.orionensemble.org

Baton Show Lounge 43rd Anniversary The Top of The Nation Revue at 8:30pm, 10:30pm, 12:30pm. Through March 18. Baton Show Lounge, 436 N. Clark St., www.thebatonshowlounge.com

Thursday, March 15

Defending Women's Rights: In the Courtroom, the Capitol and Beyond Honoring 2012 Impact Awards honorees, including a posthumous award honoring Christina Santiago, Puerto Rican, lesbian and femi-



nist activist. Tickets on sale now. 6 pm reception, 7 pm awards ceremony; 6pm, Spertus Institute, Venue SIX10, 610 S. Michigan Ave., www.cfw.org/impact

CD4-The Dating Game/Poz Box Poz Box is like mailbox where you send messages, flirts, or a simple hello to other HIV Positive or Positive-friendly people. Free food and \$2 domestic and \$3 import beers. 7pm-10pm, Jackhammer, 6406 N Clark Street, Chicago, www.jackhammer-chicago.com

In the Heart of America Stage play speaks directly to the diverse Chicago community with imagination and clarity. Thru April 1, 2012. Saturdays at 7:30 pm and Sundays at 2:30 pm. 7:30pm, Greenhouse Theater Center, 2257 N. Lincoln Ave., Chicago, www.theatreseven.org

Amy & Freddy NEW CD Release Party Chicago adored cabaret duo Amy & Freddy release first album in seven years "We Get Along" at Mayne Stage. General Admission is \$23.00. www.amyfreddy.com 18+ with ID; 8pm-11pm, Mayne Stage, 1328 W. Morse Ave., www.amyfreddy.com

Frat Night Kilt Party! This St Patrick's week Frat Night is going to be big! Last year, Scarlet's St Patrick's Frat Night was the party of the street and Scarlet plans to make it even better! 9pm, Scarlet Bar, 3320 N. Halsted St., www.scarletbarchicago.com

Friday, March 16

Lesbian and Gay Bar Association of Chicago Proceeds, including those generated from sponsorship, ad purchases, and silent auction sales, will benefit the LAGBAC Foundation, non-profit sister organization providing scholarships for law students to work on LGBT issues during the summer. Tickets \$50-\$200 online. 5:30pm-9pm, Palmer House Hotel, 17 E. Monroe St., www.lagbac.org

Powder Room: EQIL Ladies' Night Third Friday of each month, meet some new friends and enjoy creative cocktails, and the raffle of a champagne party for 20! RSVP to info@eqil.org. 8pm-10pm, Parlour on Clark, 6341 N Clark, Chicago, www.eqil.org

VH1's Love & Hip Hop Reality TV Star Erica Mena URBANO at Circuit Presents Reality TV Star Erica Mena from VH1's Love & Hip Hop. 11pm, 773-325-2233, Circuit, 3641 N Halsted, www.urbanochicago.com

Saturday, March 17

This Will Have Been: Art, Love, & Politics in the 1980s The years shaped by two phenomena that frame the 1980s: feminism and the AIDS crisis. Within these larger outlines, the exhibition finds desire - rather than cynicism or irony - to be the

real tenor of the decade. Through June 3, 2012. 12pm, Museum of Contemporary Art, 220 E. Chicago Ave., www.mcachicago.org/media

Sappho's Salon Emerging Writers Showcase Featuring Liz Baudler, M. Shelly Conner, Ames Hawkins, and Allison Wolcott. \$7-\$10 sliding admission includes food and wine as part of this popular salon night for lesbians and their friends. 7:30pm, Women & Children First, 5233 N. Clark St., Chicago, www.womenandchildrenfirst.com

Mr. Club Krave Benefit Show & St. Patts Party Join Mr. Club Krave, Myke Kagan as he raises money for the 2012 Mr. Club Krave Contest. With special guest Miss Club Krave, Angelique Munro and a cast of fabulous entertainers. 50/50 split the pot raffle, St. Patrick's Day celebration, drink special and hot music. \$4 cover after 9 pm, receive a drink ticket worth \$4 towards your 1st drink. 8pm, Club Krave, 13126 S Western Ave, Blue Island, www.clubkrave.com

Ashley Morgan Serves You Drag-tini Want theatrics? Want some Drag? Want some intoxicating entertainment? Then come to The Call in Andersonville, Saturday March 17. 9:30pm, 773-334-2525, The Call (Chicago), 1547 W. Bryn Mawr Ave.

Sunday, March 18

Urban Village Church: Andersonville service Andersonville is a neighborhood full of passion, art, diversity, and eclectic energy, all which makes Urban Village Church thrilled to be joining the community! 10:30am-11:45am, 1602 W. Ainslie (at Ashland), www.newchicagochurch.com

Urban Village Church Spiritual worship is about coming together as community to make space for God to move in us. 10:15am-11:30am, Urban Village Church, Spertus Institute, 610 S. Michigan Ave., www.urbanvillagechurch.org

Dignity Chicago Progressive, inclusive and welcoming Catholic Community. Mass each Sunday evening. dignitychicago@gmail.com; 5pm, 3338 N. Broadway, www.dignity-chicago.org

Friends, Fashion and Philanthropy spring preview Driving Fashion Forward, an evening of cocktails from Knightsbridge, light bites from Carlos' new restaurant Ni-eto's, and a preview of North Shore Spring fashions from the finest boutiques in the North Shore. All proceeds from the raffle will go to A Safe Place to benefit victims of domestic violence. 5pm-7:30pm, Autohaus on Edens, 1600 Frontage Rd., Northbrook, www.autohausonedens.com

Without a Shadow of a Doubt Borris Powell Fall/Winter Collection shows read-to-wear clothing, trademark carryall handbags, scarves and a new men's collection. VIP, 5:30 pm, \$110. General 6:30 pm, \$40. 6:30pm, River East Art Center, 435 E. Illinois St., www.vidy.com/borrispowell

Taverna 750 First Call Brunch Come sample the amazing food and drink of Taverna 750. Spruce up your Sunday as Taverna 750 unveils its tasty creations and wonderful libations. \$20 packages to meet your Sunday Brunch goals! 11am-2pm, Taverna 750, 750 W. Cornelia Ave.

Monday, March 19

Show Biz Kids From Hell: 20 Years of Trailer Park Cabaret Wild Chicago's Emmy-award winning Dick O'Day and Singer Spotlight showcase creator Becca Kaufman celebrate 20 years together onstage creating "the best of the worst" and "the worst of the best" in musical cabaret. Tickets \$20, \$15 students/seniors; 7:30pm, 847-251-7424, Wilmette Theatre, 1122 Central Ave., Wilmette, www.wilmettetheatre.com

Live Band Karaoke with Amy Armstrong Every Monday night at 10PM in the Front Bar, hosted by the one and only Amy Armstrong; 10pm, Roscoe's, 3356 N Halsted St., www.roscoes.com



IT'S AN HONOR

Thursday, March 15

Christina Santiago will be among the Chicago Foundation for Women's Impact Award honorees.

Photo by Adam Bouska

Tuesday, March 20

Judy A. Saslow Gallery presents: Timeless Renowned outsider and contemporary art collector, Judy Saslow, will be presenting Timeless, a new exhibit featuring a collection of pieces exploring woodland spirits, ancient spiritual art and transforming the old into new; 11am-6pm, 312-943-0530, Judy A. Saslow Gallery 300 W. Superior St., www.jsaslowgallery.com

Election Day Show up! 12pm, Your voting area

Gay-Themed German Films of the Silent Era Screenings at Gerber/Hart Library and Archives, 7pm-9:30pm, 773-271-2148, Gerber/Hart Library and Archives 1127 West Granville Ave., www.orchadash.org/

Wed., March 21

Cinema Q II presents: I Killed My Mother, Critically hailed dramedy of a gay 16-year-old enfant terrible and the daily battles with his single mother. Queer Film Society, the Center on Halsted, Chicago Filmmakers (the presenting organization of Reeling: The Chicago Lesbian & Gay International Film Festival) and The Legacy Project present the second annual free LGBT film series. Q&A follows. 6:30pm, Chicago Cultural Center, 78 E Washington, Chicago, www.explorechicago.org/city/en/things_to_do/event_landing/special_events/dca_t

Asians and Friends Chicago Dining Club New Irish Pub in Andersonville. RSVP by phone by Monday, March 19. 7pm, 312-409-1573, Lady Gregory's, 5254 N. Clark St., www.ladygregorys.com

Thursday, March 22

Pillars of Justice Awards Appleseed and Chicago Appleseed will host a cocktail reception and brief program highlighting the efforts and achievements of those working to improve the quality of justice in the legal system. Contact Lisa Stoller at 312-988-6599 or lstoller@chicagocouncil.org; 6pm-9pm, Paris Club, 59 W. Hubbard St., www.chicagocouncil.org

Chicago Chefs Spring Into Action The Chicago Metropolitan Battered Women's Network host Alpana Singh, master sommelier and host of the show Check Please, will be mistress of ceremonies. \$125. 6pm-9pm, Renaissance Blackstone Hotel, 636 S. Michigan, www.batteredwomensnetwork.org/chicagochefs.php

Ballet Hispanico The program features the Chicago premiere of African-American choreographer Ronald K. Brown's Espiritu Vivo. Tickets \$26-\$30. 8pm, 312-369-8330, The Dance Center of Columbia College Chicago, 1306 S. Michigan Ave., www.colum.edu/dancecenter



SARA SMILE

Saturday, March 14

Writer Sara Paretsky will talk about her iconic detective character V.I. Warshawski at the Harold Washington Library Center. 400 S. State St.

Photo by Kat Fitzgerald

BILLY MASTERS

"Who does it hurt if someone thinks I'm gay? I'll be long dead and there will still be people who say I was gay. I don't give a sh*t."—George Clooney tells "The Advocate" what he thinks about all those gay rumors. PHEW.

The first time Kathleen Turner called me, it was from Tinerhir, just outside of Marrakech. Alas, I was not home, and if there's anything the international operator hates, it's getting an answering machine. When I tried to call her back, the Moroccan operator told me the phone number was "1." I asked, "It's just a one-digit number?" She said, "No, it's the number 1—because there's only one phone there!" Needless to say, we didn't connect. We first met on New Year's Eve 1986 at the Long Wharf Theatre in New Haven, where Turner was headlining an adaptation of Camille. She said a quick hello while racing for a helicopter Bruce Springsteen had sent for her to attend his New Year's Eve party. Since then, we've had many hurried encounters—none of which ever ended with my snagging a snap-



Rosie's headed to the Big Apple.

shot with one of my favorite living actresses. I've never had this problem with Sally Kirkland!

I recently did a special article about Matthew Lombardo's play, High, which is in the midst of a national tour headed by Turner. I was able to talk to Matthew in person, and co-star Evan Jonigkeit was easy to call. But Kathleen was doing another play in Los Angeles while I was in Florida. Given our personal schedules and the time difference, scheduling our chat was difficult. When I was walking out the door to catch a plane, the phone rang. Something told me not to let this go to voicemail. It was Kathleen. You can read the article on BillyMasters.com.

Of course, the big event in South Florida was the Winter Party, which is the annual fundraiser for the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. While the weather could have been better, the myriad of events themselves couldn't. It's quite astonishing that this organization manages to seamlessly run such a wide variety of functions—from chic cocktail gatherings, to hedonistic dance parties, and everything in between. Tens of thousands of people fly from around the world to partake ... and raise money for a good cause. Check out TheTaskForce.org for more info.

As unbelievable as it sounds, Kirk Cameron was in the news. Is it 1989 all over again? Should I take out my acid-washed jeans? Cutie Kirk (not looking any worse for wear) was telling Piers Morgan that he is against gay marriage

because he believes homosexuality is "detrimental and ultimately destructive to so many of the foundations of civilization." I took no offense to this—I know he's a devout Christian. (He's actually a minister, which kinda makes him even hotter.) I don't agree with most of his points. I don't think marriage was "defined by God." I think it was defined by a bunch of guys who wrote a book—and then cut out quite a bit. Regardless, Kirk is entitled to his opinion—just like I'm entitled to not mention whatever project he was promoting.

Yet much of the free world has come down on poor Kirk as if he shot someone on live TV. He issued a statement saying, "I spoke as honestly as I could, but some people believe my responses were not loving towards those in the gay community. That is not true. I can assuredly say that it's my life's mission to love all people." I'd like him to start that love with me ... but that's neither hither nor yon. Kirk doesn't sound particularly vitriolic or hateful to me. He just believes what he believes. That said, I wouldn't want to be his gay son ... unless it was one of those DILF kinda situations (which would be difficult given how close we are in age).

In a move that has surprised no one, "Logo has just stopped being our gay television network. This begs the question, was it ever? I mean, if a tree falls on the set of a Logo show that no one's watching, does it really matter? Apparently, that tree has fallen, and taken with it all of the gay programming. On the positive side, there's no more A-List: Fill In The City. On the negative side, the network has retained the service of RuPaul's Drag U.—for now.

In other queer TV news, didya know that Rosie O'Donnell has a daily talk show? You didn't? It's on OWN—the Oprah Winfrey Network. Never heard of it? It's somewhere in the 400s on my cable provider. Since day one, Rosie's show has constantly been in flux. First it was set in Oprah's old 260-seat studio with a live band, a large audience, games and big celebrity guests. Then she moved to a smaller 70-seat studio with no band, no games and lesser guests. A week later, Rosie was alone with a guest in Oprah's closet! People keep sending out press releases saying everything's fine, that each change is more in line with what Rosie always envisioned the show to be and that Oprah is ecstatic that no one's watching. Meanwhile, Gayle quit—which can't be a good sign.

Then Rosie put her Chicago home on the market. But that didn't mean a thing. No. Her people said that neither Rosie nor the show was leaving Chicago. Then why was she selling? Simple. The network's "corporate-supplied apartment had proved sufficient." Uh-huh. Days later, word leaked that the show was ... gasp, leaving Chicago! Seems that it's been difficult to get good guests to fly out to Chicago to be on a show that no one is watching. Allegedly, the show will resurface from NYC—perhaps from Rosie's OWN home in Nyack. Who knows?

When Rosie's downsizing, it's definitely time to end yet another column. I'm still thinking about Kirk Cameron. He says that marriage was defined in the Garden of Eden between Adam and Eve. Did they actually get married? If so, who performed the ceremony? The snake? And where exactly do talking snakes fit into Cameron's view of reality? These are the deep philosophical questions I ponder alongside photos and videos of various bodily parts on www.BillyMasters.com—the truly ecumenical site! If you've got any other religious questions you want my assistance on, drop a note to Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before any reptiles start talking to me! So, until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible.

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Report: NFL figure used anti-gay slurs extensively

BY ROSS FORMAN

The New Orleans Saints' bounty scandal, which has rocked the National Football League (NFL) in recent days, apparently also has an anti-gay side.

Former Saints defensive coordinator Gregg Williams is revealed to have "used gay slurs with the best of them," according to a player quoted by Washington Post columnist Mike Wise.

Williams was the defensive coordinator for the Washington Redskins 2004-2007, when Wise covered the team.

Wise wrote on Twitter in an exchange with fellow Post writer Dan Steinberg: "Gregg Williams = great coach. But you miss bad on 'great human being' when you pay for body counts and use ugly gay slurs to motivate."

Examples of Williams' use of gay slurs were used twice in Wise's stories that he submitted to his editors; however, they were edited out for "taste reasons," it has been reported, because "some things don't make it into the family newspaper. You know that."

Still, here is one example Wise offered on Twitter of Williams' use of a gay slur:

"When guy misses a run-read and GW's response is, 'You dumb, stupid [MF], you went in the wrong hole. You went in the wrong, [expletive] hole. We're not running an AIDS convention here.'"

There were other Williams' anecdotes that Wise says were "worse," though he said he could not even use on Twitter. The Twitter exchange

was first reported by the Washington City Paper.

"For all of the positive baby steps that professional sports are making right now, this just confirms how much work is left to go," said openly gay Chicago resident Brian Walker, a former college football player. "Getting rid of prejudice, ignorance, and in this case, stupidity, is going to be a long-term and ongoing process for the NFL, NBA, MLB, etc."

Williams is now with the St. Louis Rams as the team's defensive coordinator. Williams is entering his 23rd season as an NFL coach in 2012, including three as a head coach of the Buffalo Bills.

The Rams' head coach is Jeff Fisher, who played for the Chicago Bears 1981-85 and then was the Bears' defensive assistant coach in 1985. Fisher was the Tennessee Titans' head coach from 1994-2010.

"As an active member of the LGBT sporting community, to hear of these actions, it truly saddens me that people still live in their world and feel they can say anything with no repercussions," said Jack Neilsen of Chicago. "This is a perfect example of why LGBT sporting communities were formed, and need to maintain themselves as a safe haven for our LGBT athletes."

"An individual who identifies with the LGBT community, or is infected with HIV, should have the opportunity to play sports without being discriminated against. I look to the day when our community [is] allowed to participate in every major sporting event without fear."

Cyd Zeigler, the co-founder of Outsports.

com, added, "What's unfortunate about a guy like Gregg Williams is that his hateful attitude has spread throughout the team. You don't pay people to hurt other people without having a lot of hate in your heart, and that hate apparently translates into homophobia on a regular basis. You find the same thing from Jonathan Vilma, who has displayed a knack for being a homophobic jerk in the last few months, and who personally put up a \$10,000 bounty on Brett Favre's head. These are disgusting people, and their vile nature comes through in their desire to hurt

people physically and mentally. The NFL would do well to suspend them both for an entire season."

Wise is writing a profile for the Post about Dave Kopay, who came out in 1975, according to Outsports.com. Kopay was the first of three former NFL players to have come out.

The NFL added the words "sexual orientation" to its anti-discrimination policy in 2011, a change to the league's collective-bargaining agreement.

BOXER from page 51

random guy jumping rope next to me, trying to talk to me, and I just think he's trying to be friendly. And then later, Coach will be like, 'Hey, he was trying to take you out and I had to tell him, 'You're not her type.'"

In December, Guzman flew to Puerto Rico to compete in that country's national tournament for a spot on the Olympic team.

"I went against the Pan American gold medalist—who actually beat out the Argentinean, Mexican and USA girls in the Pan Ams," Guzman said. "It was all or nothing, one of those 'make it or break it' moments. I had to drop weight; it was very stressful."

"And then I got in the ring," she continued. "I fought a great fight, although I lost, but it was one of the best moments of my boxing career. And also the scariest ever."

However, even that was less frightening than when she came out at 14 in Perth Amboy, a small town where she felt that people weren't likely to be open to others being gay. She had been bullied as a kid for being a tomboy but found the courage to stand up for herself in middle school when her self-esteem improved through playing team sports.

Around that time, she also worked up the courage to come out by testing the news on people whose opinions she didn't care too much about. Then, little by little, she began sharing with people who mattered more to her.

"I used to work at an ice cream shop. I was behind the window when my parents came to pick me up," Guzman said. "We were closing and I just closed the shade and blurted it out! And then I was like, 'Oh my God, I have to go home now and deal with this.'"

"I hid behind a lot of things," she continued with a laugh, referring to the automatic reflex that caused her to yank the shade down during her revelation.

However, despite the otherwise loving relationship she shared with her parents, their reaction was not what she'd hoped for.

"It was all bad," she said. "My parents threw the Bible at me and did the whole Adam and Eve thing. They were just really not supportive. They cried and told me I had to go to church and stuff like that. It hurt a lot."

But in the 11 years since, they've become more compassionate and less openly judgmental.

"It's gotten a lot better," she said. "They don't support the gay thing; they're not okay with the girlfriend thing. But they do like my girlfriend and they're respectful and they kind of just treat it as a 'she's just a really good friend' kind of thing. We're not respected as a couple but they do respect it as just a private thing, I guess."

Part of Guzman's ability to accept this compromise is that she truly does admire her parents, a metal refinery worker and a home-maker who still live in New Jersey.

"As much as they might be judgmental," she said, "my father's a big role model and he'll give you the shirt off his back. He's someone I really look up to. And my mom, she just wants to nurture and make sure that everything's okay."

One compromise that has been more dif-



Guzman and her family. Photo from Guzman

ficult for Guzman, however, is the marketing of female boxers.

"It's pretty difficult because as sad as it is, everyone for some reason considers women boxers as some sort of sex symbol," she said. "And that's not what it is. We're athletes. And we should be respected as such."

"I've definitely encountered some people in my career that are like, 'If you're going to go to a weigh-in, wear this or don't dress boyish or don't let them know that you have a girlfriend,'" she continued. "I just feel that's some miscommunication with the boxing world. It's like they want the men to think that you're sexy—and that's why they should want to watch you. What I want is for everybody to watch me because I'm good—not because I'm hot or whatever they think the case is."

"It's about selling the fantasy," Guzman said. "I hate it."

Still, she feels that the benefits of boxing outweigh such drawbacks.

"I feel like boxing saved my life," she said. "I was a troubled kid, I was going down the wrong path. I was getting into trouble a lot, getting into street fights. I was just a big disaster. It helped me find a focus and get rid of a lot of anger issues that I had. It's just really made me who I am today. And I definitely hope that everybody comes out to see me fight, for sure."

So what can you expect to see when she competes in the Golden Gloves?

"Some real boxing, not pitter-patter, which I guess is what's expected from women's boxing," she said. "And a lot of action."

Her secret weapons?

"First off, I'm a southpaw," Guzman said. "And I have great footwork, so it's kind of hard for people to get me. Plus, I have Sam in my corner, so that's definitely a plus."

See Madeline Guzman compete in the 132-pound Female Open division at the 2012 Chicago Golden Gloves semifinals Wed., March 21 at Gordon Tech High School, 3633 N. California Ave. The first bout begins at 7 p.m. Tickets cost \$15 and are available at the door or at www.chicagogoldengloves.com.

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Q. I want to add my partner's name to my house. We are madly in love and I know this is forever. Are there problems with adding her name to the title of the house.

A. Many LGBT couples want to jointly own real estate. In some cases, one partner already owns a house and wants to add their partner's name. Oftentimes, clients do not always understand the potential ramifications of their actions until afterwards.

The benefit of joint tenancy ownership is that when one owner dies, title to the property transfers automatically to the surviving owner. As opposed to tenancy in common where if one owner dies their interest goes to their family or passes under the terms of their will. The couple is better protected because the property passes to the surviving owner outside of probate. Joint tenancy helps protect the couple's primary asset even if the decedent's family challenges the will. It is also a cheaper alternative than creating a trust to own the property.

It is a common misconception, however, that joint tenancy is always the best answer for LGBT couples. Adding a partner's name to the title, however, renders it subject to that person's creditors. The property will also be considered an asset for other purposes, such as qualifying for Medicaid or other public benefits.

The "due on sale" clause in a mortgage can be triggered if the parties do not refinance or obtain the lender's consent to the transfer.

Since both parties own the property, both must agree on its sale. Jointly owning real estate is another excellent reason for the couple to discuss and execute a written domestic partnership agreement. If one partner owns the property and decides to add the other partner's name, the owner must understand that he or she is giving up exclusive rights to the property and control over it.

Adding the name of another to a property's title can be considered a gift under the I.R.C. gift tax section. Proving the contribution of each party to the property's purchase works to rebut this presumption.

Each person is entitled to a set limit lifetime exemption for gifts. Any amount over the annual allowance is subtracted from the lifetime exemption amount. The giftor may be required to file a gift tax return with the I.R.S.

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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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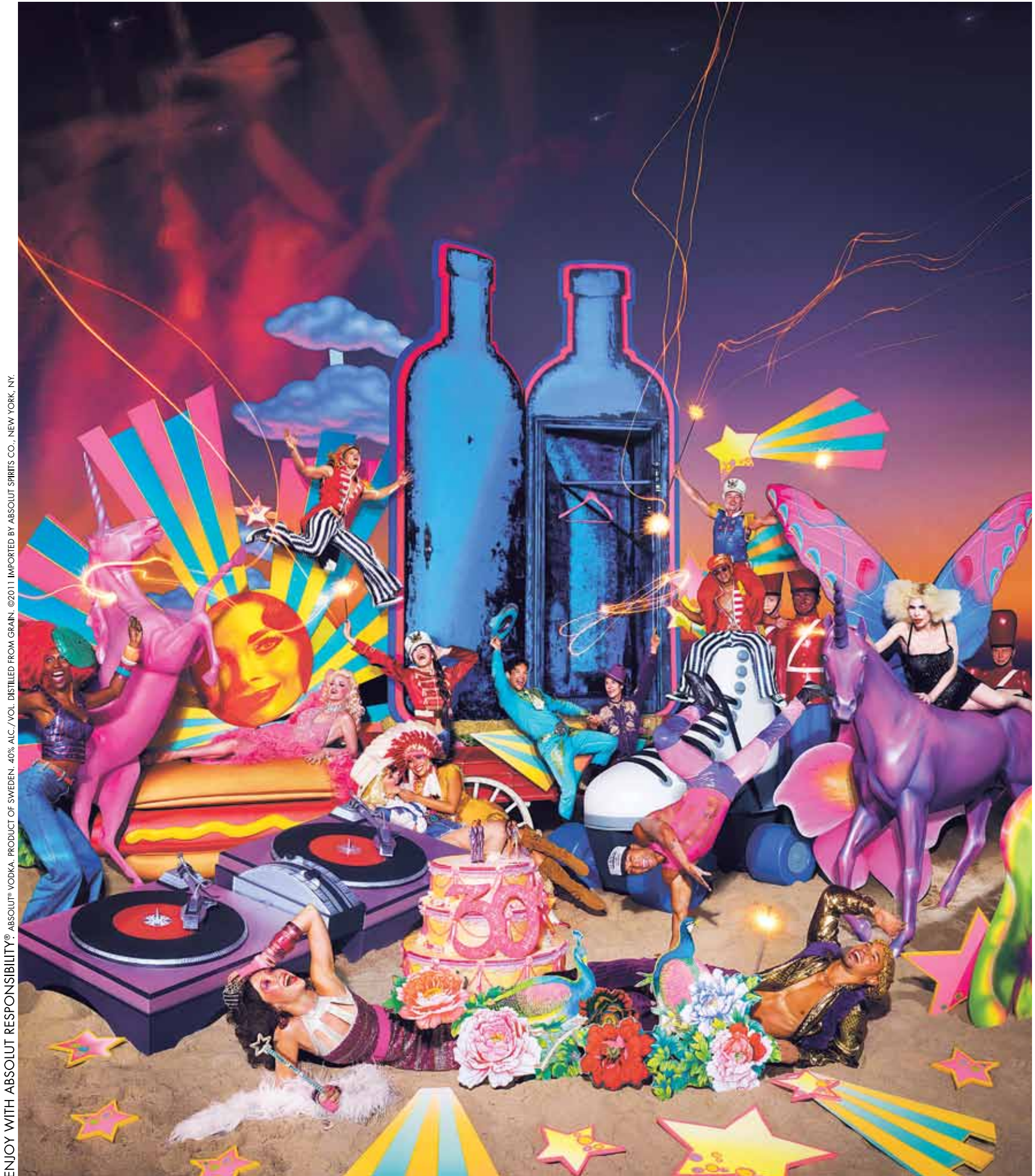
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