



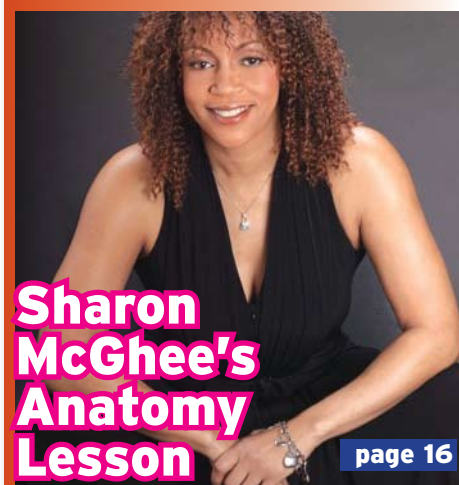
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New Hampshire: Down to the Wire

BY PATSY LYNCH

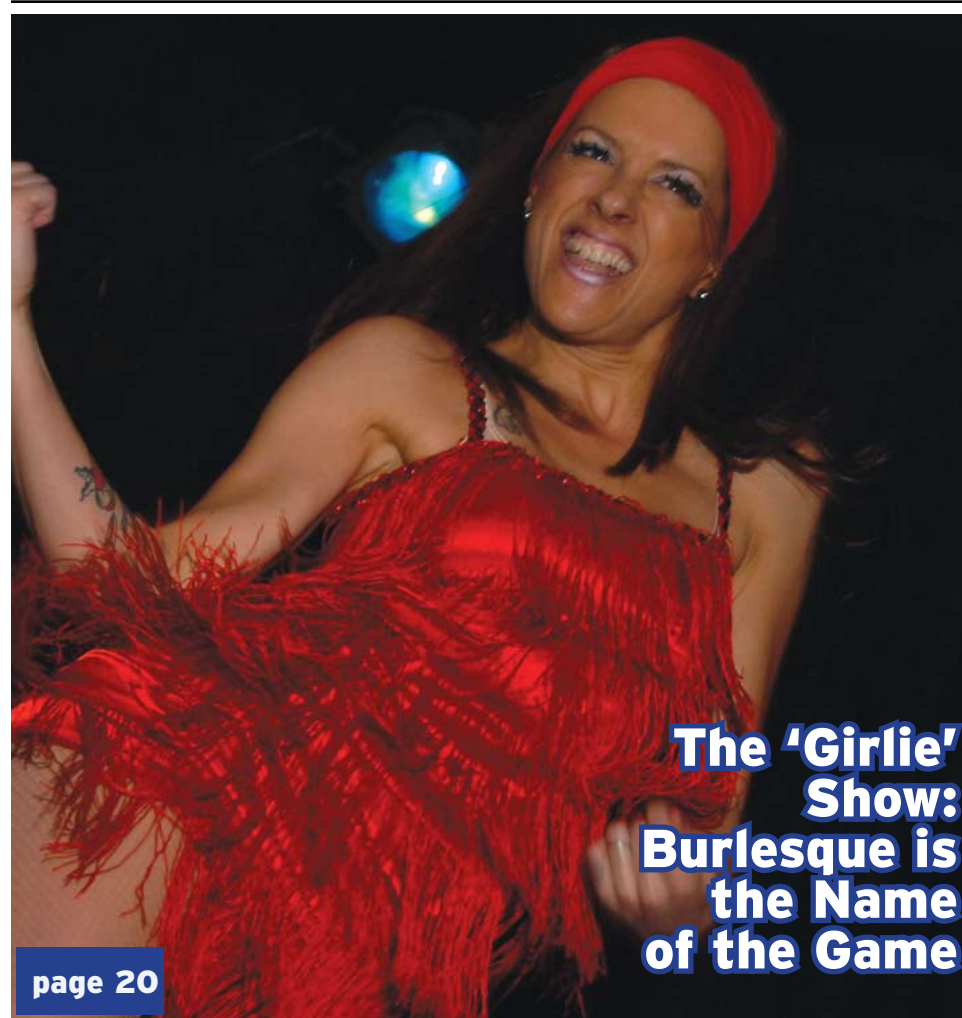
[Editor's note: The primary results were publicized after Windy City Times went to press. Be sure to visit www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com for the latest on the primary's winners and losers.]

Manchester, N.H.—As the hours wind down and the final votes are tallied, the voters in New Hampshire may well decide who will be the Democratic and Republican candidates for the 2008 presidential election. Strong showing in this primary may have a huge impact on voters in other states in what has been a long and grueling campaign. Candidates are racing across the state in a last minute effort to win over the crucial 40 percent undecided vote which will determine the eventual winners. For lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) voters, the stakes are very high. Recent gains in this conservative state may be enhanced or eliminated, depending on who wins the parties' respective nomination.

Turn to page 4



Foreground: The presidential candidates include (from left) former Sen. John Edwards, Sen. Hillary Clinton, Sen. Barack Obama, Sen. John McCain, former Gov. Mitt Romney and Gov. Mike Huckabee. Background: Scene from a McCain rally. All photos (except Huckabee's campaign picture) by Patsy Lynch



**The 'Girlie'
Show:
Burlesque is
the Name
of the Game**

page 20

SAGE: A Home for LGBT Elders

BY MORGAN MCDEVITT

[Editor's note: The names of the elders in this piece have been changed.]

Tears began to swell in the corners of Phillip's bloodshot eyes as he recalled the day his lover of 30 some years passed away.

"After my lover died, I had to get out," Phillip, 71, uttered through his thick French accent.

Phillip is one of many Chicago elders that have sought companionship in the face of isolation and depression through the help of SAGE (Services and Advocacy for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Elders), a program that provides social interaction, education and security for LGBT elders, ages 45 and older.

The SAGE program operates out of the Center on Halsted and gained its affiliation from the nationally recognized organization founded in New York. It is estimated that there are more

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PASSAGES:

Lisa Tonna, page 5

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WINDY CITY TIMES

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Ronnie Kroell (above) has model aspirations. See page 20.

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Windy City Times looks at candidates in some of the intriguing local races. First up: Cook County Board of Review candidate Jay Paul Deratany and U.S. Rep. candidate Randi Scheurer. See page 6.

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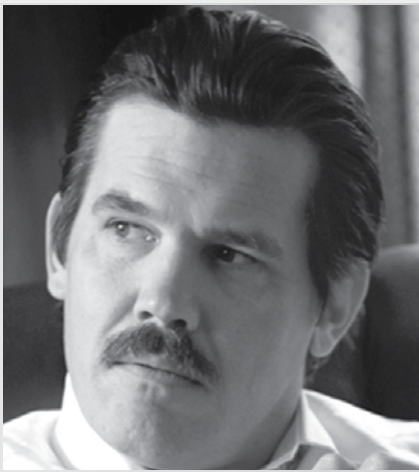
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This week's online-only features include:
-Media Watch

There are also extended online specials of:
-Deep Inside Hollywood, featuring Josh Brolin (right); and
-'Make Me a Supermodel' contestant Ronnie Kroell

Photo from Warner Independent Pictures



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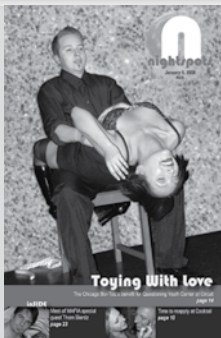
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LOVE TOYS

The Chicago Boi Toiz wowed Circuit and raised much needed funds for Questioning Youth Center.

photo by Kirk Williamson



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Ed Butler. Photo by Lisa Keen

Gay Rep in N.H. Fired Up for Obama

BY LISA KEEN

Hart's Location, N.H.—When Ed Butler recently invited several neighbors to “The Met,” he was not playing into a gay male stereotype. He was campaigning for Barack Obama.

Butler, a New Hampshire state representative, is gay. And he's one of those newcomers to politics who surfed into office on the Democratic tidal wave of November 2006. He's also a 58-year-old innkeeper in the north country of New Hampshire with his life partner. And, together, they are two of the 29 registered voters in the state's smallest town.

The Met is a coffeehouse in the center of nearby North Conway Village, where Michelle Obama, the wife of the candidate, was to appear in just a couple of days.

On Saturday, just hours after having to take his nine-year-old Bernese Mountain Dog, Abby, to the vet to have her euthanized, Butler hit the campaign trail for Obama. It was two days past the Iowa caucuses and three days before the nation's first presidential primary of 2008. Obama had won Iowa, taking 38 percent of the delegates at the caucuses. The polls were showing a close race between Obama and Hillary Clinton.

Going door to door, Butler found only one neighbor who said she was undecided. Everybody else had taken sides—for Clinton, Obama and John Edwards. A list of registered voters showed the undecided woman had registered with no party affiliation. Butler talked up all the Democrats, but emphasized Obama, then asked the woman how she thought she might vote Tuesday.

“I kinda like Rudy,” she said. “And Mitt Romney.”

This is heavily Republican territory, acknowledged Butler to a reporter as he continued down a long road.

“Can I talk to you about Obama?” he asks a man shoveling snow from a driveway where it has piled more than five feet high.

“No,” says the man, “but he's a great candidate.”

As Butler walks on, a woman at the house runs out, calling “You can talk to me!” Butler does, and she directs him across the street to another potential supporter. But at that next door, the man says he's for Clinton.

But for Butler, Obama is the right candidate. He's seen Edwards on the campaign trail and thought he was insincere and playing only to the cameras. He doesn't like Clinton, Butler said, because he doesn't like monarchies. He met Obama last May and was struck by his sense that Obama seemed trustworthy and sincere. And, as a former nurse who worked with people with AIDS in New York City in the 1980s, he thinks Obama has

a good health plan.

But gay issues were also critical. And Obama, he noted, was willing to repeal the entire Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), not just one section of it, like Clinton. Plus, said Butler, Obama has an “intimate understanding” of discrimination.

Butler acknowledged that the Obama campaign's inclusion of anti-gay gospel singer Donnie McClurkin in a concert tour in South Carolina was a “mistake,” but he felt Obama did a good job in responding and trying to help both the LGBT and the Black community work through it.

Not every gay person in New Hampshire agrees, of course. The state's Freedom to Marry group endorsed Edwards. State Rep. Jim Splaine, who led last year's successful legislative push for civil unions, is backing Clinton. In making phone calls Saturday, Butler found gay voters for each of the top three polling Democrats, plus long-shot Dennis Kucinich.

In the local sports bar/deli/market, an undecided voter said she wasn't comfortable yet with Obama's spouse Michelle. Clinton's spouse, former President Bill Clinton, and Edwards' spouse, Elizabeth Edwards, seemed like clear assets, she said.

“But ‘I'm not sure about his wife, with two little girls,” said the woman.

Butler urged the voter to attend an event with Michelle Obama Monday at The Met, adding, “Obama is somebody I can respect and trust.”

And that's why, on an icy-cold gray Saturday in New Hampshire, Butler was going door to door

to encourage voters to support Obama. At three minutes past midnight on Tuesday, when voters of Hart's Location joined voters in another small town, Dixville, as the first to finish casting their votes in the state's primary, Hart's location gave nine votes to Obama, six to John McCain, five

to Mike Huckabee, four to Ron Paul, three to Clinton, and one each to Mitt Romney and John Edwards.

“It was an exciting vote,” said Butler, “and a great outcome!”

The Iowa Caucus— with a Gay Twist

BY LISA KEEN

In Des Moines, the anti-gay editor of a college student newspaper crossed over from the Republican party to caucus for Democrat Barack Obama in Thursday night's caucuses. In Iowa City, a Democratic precinct caucus passed a resolution calling for legal recognition of same-sex marriages. And throughout the first state to vote on its 2008 presidential favorites, evangelical Christians turned out in droves to support Republican Mike Huckabee.

Obama won 38 percent of the delegates coming out of the Democratic caucuses in Iowa, followed by John Edwards with 30 percent, Hillary Clinton with 29 percent, Bill Richardson with 2 percent and others with 1 percent.

Huckabee won 34 percent of the vote in the Republican caucuses, followed by Mitt Romney with 25 percent, Fred Thompson and John McCain with 13 percent each, Ron Paul with 10 percent, Rudy Giuliani with 4 percent and others with 1 percent.

One of the most interesting stories reported the night of Jan. 3 came from the Des Moines Register, which found that former Republican—and anti-gay student newspaper editor—Jason Casini “registered as a Democrat to caucus for Barack Obama.” Casini, who is now a 40-year-old attorney, had been so anti-gay during his days editing the University of Iowa's Daily Iowan, said the Register, that protests were organized outside the newspaper's office just against him.

Casini was not the rule for Republicans. Only three percent of Democratic caucus participants identified themselves as Republicans (most of those did vote for Obama); one percent of Republican caucus-goers identified as Democratic.

CNN's exit polls showed that 56 percent of the voters who supported Huckabee in the caucuses said a candidate's religious beliefs “matter a great deal.” Schneider said the warning sign for Huckabee was that, among Republican voters who are not born again or evangelical Christians, he got only 14 percent of the vote.

Read the full article at www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com.

WIRE from cover

At a recent rally for Senator John McCain, R-Ariz., in Salem, N.H., his record on AIDS, ENDA and global warming was attacked by members of the Washington, D.C., and New York chapters of ACT-UP. These demonstrators interrupted the senator's stump speech by holding up signs and demanding answers from the senator, who tried to continue with his prepared speech. The senator attempted to silence the protestors by asking them to hold their comments until he finished his “talk. The protest continued, finally ending when angry members of the town hall audience ripped the signs from the protestors' hands and forced them out of the meeting. The AIDS activists staged a small rally outside of the meeting finally leaving after the crowd dispersed.

This was the exception rather than the norm at most of the rallies and town hall meetings. There was little visible LGBT presence at these meetings, but there has been a strong push to get the LGBT community involved. In downtown Manchester, The Element, a gay bar, attracts a mixed clientele who come for karaoke night as well as relaxation and discussing politics. Bar owner Tim Kierstead is an affable man who took an abandoned shop on the main street of New Hampshire's largest city and transformed it into an establishment that reminds one of the mythical bar “Cheers” in Boston. Kierstead stated The Element 18 months ago in the same location as an after-hours bar that operated in the early 1980s. “When I saw this place, I was overwhelmed and knew that I had to open this bar,” he said. Since its opening, the bar has enjoyed a growing clientele, gay and straight, as well as the respect of the local government. “We were one of the few bars that have an extended hour's license. I have been in this business for over 19 years and believe that it is my responsibility to make sure that my customers have a place where they can be themselves and feel safe. I have been known to pay for a taxi if one of my customers has had too much to drink.”

Kierstead is also enthusiastic about the changes he sees in New Hampshire.

“New Hampshire is becoming much more gay-friendly,” he said. “We now have a law that says that same-sex couples have the same legal rights as straight couples. Because of these changes, we are growing as a community.” As if



AIDS activists at Sen. John McCain's rally. Photo by Patsy Lynch

to make his point, he brings up a bit of gay history: “The ‘Hillary for President’ headquarters is located in what used to be The Front Runner Club, a men's bar in the late 1990s. We have a lot of staffers from her campaign come into the bar after work, not only to promote her candidacy but to have a drink, enjoy participating in karaoke night or just hang out.”

As if to make his point, several women carrying “Hillary for President” signs came into the bar to encourage the patrons to vote for her on Tuesday. Karen Wainwright, Susan Charest and her partner, Lisa Maloney, are typical of the LGBT voters who have become an important voting block. These women decided to support Senator Clinton, D-N.Y., after watching the debate Saturday evening. Wainwright was leaning toward voting for Senator Barack Obama until she heard Clinton's views on foreign and domestic policies. “After listening to the debate, I really came to believe that Hillary Clinton was the right candidate for the Democratic nomination. While I like Obama, I felt that his answers were too vague. I think that the next President needs to have more experience than Obama has.” Charest and Maloney are concerned about their rights as a same-sex couple and believe that Clinton will continue to work to protect their rights. “I agree with Karen [Wainwright]. After watching the debate, I am concerned about Obama's views. He seems like a nice man, but I don't think he has the experience that is needed for the job of president. I am also concerned about some of his comments on civil unions. My decision to vote for Hillary was spontaneous and I am going to do what I can to get my friends to vote for Hillary,” said

Charest.

This sentiment was echoed by another couple, Keith Campbell and his partner, Chassic Kuts Sahar. Together for 24 years, they are planning to legalize their union at the end of this month. They own and operate a hair salon in downtown Manchester and are quietly enthusiastic about the possibility of having a democratic president. Until recently, they were undecided about who they were going to vote for, but have made a decision and will encourage their friends to vote for Clinton.

Across town, in another gay bar, a gathering of loyal Clinton supporters gathered for a last minute rally. Actress Ellen Greene, director Bruce Cohen and Congressman Barney Frank, D-Mass., tried to rally these supporters to get out the vote for Clinton. Given the outlook, which shows Obama leading Clinton in the polls, they were still hopeful for a different outcome. If Clinton does not succeed in her bid for the Democratic, these LGBT voters will work for the Democratic nominee as long as he is willing to support the issues that are important to these voters: protection of same-sex civil unions and the eventual passage of non-discriminatory laws dealing with employment, housing, health care and other concerns where inequity exists for the LGBT community.

The projected winner of the New Hampshire primary for the Democratic nominee is Barack Obama while the favorite for the Republican nomination is Sen. John McCain.



Lisa Tonna (right) with her partner, Avis Jameson, at "Moonstones & Martinis," a benefit for her that took place this past June. Photo by Tracy Baim

PASSAGES

Lisa Tonna

Lisa Tonna, a former manager of the Center on Halsted's Anti-Violence Project and interim managing director of the Lesbian Community Care Project, passed away Jan. 8 of cancer.

Friend Nancy J. Powell e-mailed Windy City Times that "Tonna passed away peacefully at Northwestern [Memorial] Hospital [Jan. 8] at 5:11 a.m. surrounded by those who love her. There were a large group of us at the hospital until 2 a.m. and said our goodbyes, and surrounding her and Avis [Jameson, Tonna's partner] with love and support."

Powell added, "Lisa was an incredible woman that gave so much to the community and all those around her, and we'd like to find the best way to honor the woman that shed so much light on those she came in contact with."

Watch for the full story next week. Tonna's services are pending; see kalilunar.blogspot.com for updates.

Jenkins Memorial Jan. 21

A memorial will be held for Gaston Justice Jenkins—a gay veteran known to friends and family as "David"—at Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted, on Mon., Jan. 21, at 5:30 p.m.

Jenkins served 13 years on active duty as a pilot in the U.S. Navy at bases and on aircraft carriers around the world. He was among the elite pilots stationed at Guantanamo immediately after the Cuban missile crisis in 1962.

For 16 years, Jenkins was also the partner of local philanthropist Richard Turner. Turner recently told Windy City Times that Jenkins, who had Parkinson's disease, "was the kindest guy in the world. David didn't like the limitations in his life, but he never once complained."

SAGE from cover

than 40,000 LGBT elders aged 55 and older in the Chicago area alone, according to a survey taken by the Chicago Task Force on LGBT Aging published in 2003.

SAGE offers "Coffee and Conversation" every Tuesday from noon to 3:00 p.m. as an opportunity for people like Phillip to share stories with people that have gone through similar experiences.

This past Tuesday was Phillip's first time attending a SAGE event, and as hard as it might have been for him to step outside the comfort of his own home and share his pain with total strangers, it remains impossible for him and others to share their last names with publications such as this. To them, their stories are worth sharing, but their last names are not. In their minds, any association with this group has the power to undue a lifetime's worth of respect.

Part of Worthington's job at SAGE is gathering information about the elders for state and federal funding. If attendance is high, than the funding is more likely to continue or increase. One of Worthington's biggest challenges with this particular community is the lack of information they're willing to give, even when they're told it could help them. Although she doesn't ask for any personal information, many of them hesitate to give their full names and age.

"Some members are guarded and wary for good reason," said Worthington.

Each week Worthington creates a safe environment, in hopes of easing the paranoia and fear, with social time and educational speakers to inform the elders on issues that may affect them financially or emotionally.

Michael, 47, left "Coffee and Conversation" to join a small group of about 6-8 that gathered to discuss their experiences with coming out at such a late age in a new seminar called "Coming Out, Coming Home."

"I came out last January, and even though I knew I was gay for a very long time, I was denying it, even to myself," said Michael.

Jerry Smith, 64, came out in September 2006 at the age of 62. Smith admitted, first to his son-in-law, then his daughter and then to his wife of 34 years, that he was gay.

"I grew up in the '50s and '60s in a small Midwestern town in central Illinois. It simply wasn't accepted, so I denied it and convinced myself I could be a heterosexual," said Smith.

Smith is now retired from the military. He spent 20 years in the air force and admits he "would've been booted" for being open about his sexuality. A dishonorable discharge from the military would've followed him the rest of his life, making it nearly impossible to get a job and raise a family.

"There came a time when I said to myself, 'I'm tired of living a lie. I want to live out the rest of my years truthfully and without fear,'"

said Smith.

For Michael and Jerry Smith, coming out to their families was one of the hardest and most honorable things they had ever done.

Sam, 67, who requested his last name remain anonymous as well, recently attended a seminar that introduced him to the Five Wishes document. This document gave Sam the power to choose which family member he wanted to be responsible for making his healthcare decisions if he can't make them for himself. Sam asked his nephew to assume responsibility and, with the help of SAGE, Sam's future will legally be as he wishes.

"I think a lot of financial and psychological issues, including increased depression and isolation, are altered from not being able to inherit end of life care," said Worthington.

Aside from being the program director of SAGE, Worthington is also on a task force [The Chicago Task Force on LGBT Aging] that is creating training programs for staff and front-line managers of nursing homes. It was Worthington's previous work experience with long-term care for elders that sparked her interest in the LGBT elderly community.

"Over the course of my time there [long-term care facility], there were maybe 5-10 people that I knew to be gay, and there were probably more. I was looking at those people and multiplying the numbers and thinking, there's this many people here, multiplied by the number of long-term care facilities in this area, then the state. I couldn't imagine anything more alienating than not being able to be who I am at the end of my life. And that's why this is my cause," said Worthington.

The Center on Halsted located in East Lakeview is home to SAGE and a program for the LGBT youth. The Center consists of 55,000 square feet including a regulation-size basketball court, black-box theater, a community technology center, office space, and the Mayor Richard M. Daley Roof Garden. Mayor Daley was an instrumental supporter of the Center project, said Worthington.

The Center on Halsted provides a space for the elders to congregate but does not provide assisted living space. Nevertheless, it is a step in the right direction leading towards Worthington's ultimate goal of affordable housing. Worthington would like to recreate what Los Angeles has already done with Triangle Square Apartments, the nation's first affordable housing development for LGBT elders. Although it was designed with LGBT elders in mind, it is not exclusive or discriminatory against elders who are not gay.

In the meantime, she gets a lot of support from mainstream providers and local retirement facilities that want to be known as welcoming places for LGBT elders. "Many residents in the nursing homes are the same people who discriminated against LGBT elders when they were young. We have to change societies' views. This change comes from the micro level to the macro level," said Worthington. Worthington

is currently compiling resources for a directory that will allow these elders to choose a nursing home or assisted living facility that is non-discriminatory and fits their needs.

Columbia College Chicago English teacher Victoria Shannon implemented this change on the micro level by bringing Worthington to speak to her Gay and Lesbian Studies class about SAGE.

"I think it's important that young people understand that there's an entire generation of LGBT people who are now approaching a time in their lives when responsibility for their well being has to fall on the younger generation. It's payback and it's a responsibility that younger people should be honored to accept," said Shannon.

As 3:30 p.m. rolled around, "Coffee and Conversation" came to a close. The room cleared out, but two men remained, sipping their coffee, discussing a new gay theater troupe in town. Phillip was nowhere to be found. For these two men, "Coffee and Conversation" had become a part of their weekly routine. For them, being able to speak their minds freely without the threat of discrimination or harm was something they knew they could count on through SAGE. Hopefully, Phillip found that same comfort and security at his first visit. Hopefully, he'll be back next Tuesday.

Gay Seniors Rely on Friends When Sick

LGB elders have "a history of caregiving" that creates networks of people who support each other during their senior years, according to a questionnaire study of 199 LGB seniors. The news comes courtesy of a press release issued by the Rockway Institute, a national center for LGBT research and public policy.

The study found that more than two-thirds of the participants had provided care to one or more people during the previous five years. The results were published in the Journal of Gay & Lesbian Social Services.

Chicago Prime Timers: For Gay/Bi Elders

Older gay and bisexual men can also turn to the Chicago Prime Timers, a social organization that celebrated its 30th anniversary last year. According to its Web site, the goal of the group "is to provide mature gay and bisexual men, and their admirers, with opportunities to come together in a supportive atmosphere to enjoy social, educational, and recreational activities."

Social activities revolve many holidays and special events such as Academy Awards night. Membership is \$30 annually and \$50 for couples residing in the same household and receiving a single newsletter. Call 312-409-1590 or visit www.primetimersww.org.

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ELECTION '08



Jay Paul Deratany. Photo by Andrew Davis

Jay Paul Deratany: Rage Against the Machine

BY ANDREW DAVIS

Cook County Board of Review candidate Jay Paul Deratany, like many other aspiring politicians, is running on an idea of change—hoping to unseat incumbent review board commissioner Joseph Berrios. In a recent interview with Windy City Times, Deratany—who is openly gay—talked about why he felt Berrios (who Deratany says is part of Chicago's political machine) is corrupt, and discussed his own qualifications and legal battles.

Windy City Times: What exactly does a Board of Review commissioner do?

Jay Paul Deratany: A commissioner on the Board of Review has two roles, and they're both quasi-judicial. One is being the last legal hurdle, for most people, in determining their property taxes. It can also be a platform for lobbying for tax policy improvements. But in the judicial role, a taxpayer gets assessed a value and the taxpayer may say that's not fair; we make the decision if the assessment is fair, based on the evidence.

WCT: Do you feel that Berrios is doing anything right?

JPD: [Pauses.] The only thing I've seen recently—and [more] after I've challenged him—is that he's going out to the wards and lecturing people on how to fill out their tax forms. But it's too little, too late. It's inefficient—it doesn't hit all the wards and the online system is a mess. Years ago, he should've spent less time lobbying on behalf of the gambling and other industries and should have spent more time in the neighborhoods doing what's right—helping the elderly and disabled, and helping people fill out tax forms.

At worst, it's evidence of corruption. At best, it's an inherently way of acting in a quasi-judicial manner.

WCT: Why do you think you're qualified?

JPD: I have 20 years of practice as a lawyer. The position is as a judge but, when you go out in the community, you have to act as an advocate. You can help people: tell them how to get their evidence together so they can bring it before the Board of Review.

I've also served as an arbitrator, which means I've decided cases. I have adjudicated cases, both for the Circuit Court of Cook County (on cases less than \$50,000) and in private adjudications.

Also, I know I'm honest. I'm going to give best, and I'm not part of the Stroger-Berrios machine.

WCT: Could you talk a little bit more about your feelings about [Cook County Board President] Todd Stroger?

JPD: Look what Stroger has been doing—he's been an embarrassment to the job. He's taken spoils for himself while cutting the pay and benefits for LPNs and people who are taking care of our sick and elderly. The chairman of the Democratic Party in Chicago is Berrios, and he certainly had a hand in helping Stroger into power.

WCT: You mentioned Forrest Claypool. You have some heavy hitters backing you—you have Claypool, Mike Quigley and Jan Schakowsky. What do you think they see in you?

JPD: Reform, hopefully. I think there's a new movement to bring about reform. If I get elected, I'm sure I won't agree with everything any individual says, but it's about forming a new bloc of people that are committed to end corruption; end patronage; making a more transparent system that's more accessible to voters; and [creating] a more open society.

WCT: What do you know about the other two commissioners on the board?

JPD: I know Larry Rogers was recently elected, and that Brendan Houlihan was [also] recently elected. But I know very little about them, truthfully.

WCT: Do you think the possibility exists—because you know very little about them—that there will be no progress because it could be, in essence, one person against two?

JPD: No, because I have a loud mouth and a strong personality, and I will demand reform. If I see anything corrupt going on, I will stand strongly for my beliefs. Is it possible for there to be 2-1 votes? Certainly, but a divided board would not look good. But, from what I understand, we're starting to see more reform in the other two.

WCT: Do you expect being openly gay to help or hinder you in this election?

JPD: I think it's a double-edged sword. I've heard that some of my opponent's supporters have taken a picture of me with my arm around a guy—and I hug a lot of people—and have taken it around to try to embarrass me. There'll be people who have prejudice, and who won't vote for me because of my sexual orientation. I'll just have to fight the good fight.

One thing that I think is important about being an individual who is running for office who is gay is that we get the best-qualified people. Someday I'd like to break down these walls that exist based on everything from being gay to being African-American. Maybe, with more people who are gay and competent, we can have an openly gay governor or openly gay president.

WCT: A cursory search through [a Web site] revealed a couple legal malpractice cases against you. Would you care to comment on those?

JPD: In 20 years of practice, I have a 95 percent favorability rating with my clients; every once in a while, you get a disgruntled client. I know one lady who had a broken arm and I got her \$40,000, and she decided later she didn't like it so she filed a claim against me. All the claims against me have been dismissed.

WCT: You ran for judge in 2003, correct?

JPD: I started the process of running. There were four openly gay candidates, and I thought it was best if I withdrew my candidacy and supported Sherry Pethers, a lesbian, who eventually won. Given that I had a large case coming in and knowing all the work I'd have to put in, I stopped my candidacy and supported someone who I thought was well-qualified.

WCT: Ultimately, what do you want people to know about you?

JPD: That I'm running for office to bring a sense of honesty, integrity and justice to a position that has not had honesty, integrity and justice. I want people, at the end of my term, to be proud of my job and of their county government.

See www.JayPaulforCook.org.

[Editor's note: Berrios has been contacted for an interview but has not yet responded.]

Randi Scheurer: Familiarity Breeds Attempt

BY ANDREW DAVIS

Running in the Democratic primary race against suburban incumbent U.S. Rep. Melissa Bean, D-8th District, is a formidable yet familiar challenge for candidate Randi Scheurer: After all, her husband, Bill, did the same thing two years ago. Scheurer talked to Windy City Times about how she philosophically differs from her spouse and what she has to offer in this political race.

Windy City Times: Your husband ran a couple years ago. Why do you feel that you would be a more successful candidate than he would be?

Randi Scheurer: Well, he's out of that political arena. He's executive director of Beyond War Now.

WCT: I read that he was contemplating another run.

RS: We were pushing to have him at one point. He's a Moderate Party candidate. My position is better suited for the Democratic Party; I'm pro-choice and he's pro-life. It's a big contrast between us.

WCT: And the marriage is fine?

RS: We are so against the war that that's the glue that holds us together. We rise above our differences in that area, and I try to maintain a certain perspective. Also, he believes in certain aspects of stem-cell research, but as a breast-cancer survivor I'm like, "You don't want to protect me here?" That's where it gets a little dicey. [Laughs.]

WCT: Do you feel that Iraq is the most important issue the country is dealing with right now?

RS: [One] issue I'm running on is that the money and manpower that's being spent in this unwanted situation have to stop. We have a dire situation domestically. I'm talking about a live-and-die situation with health care. I'm talking about the middle class being squeezed so much that it's becoming the new poor. And then there's the job situation in my district with Melissa Bean; her position is a free-trade position. I feel that those issues have damaged domestic life.

I would say that Iraq comes at the top because war is not good in any situation.

WCT: What do you think is your biggest advantage over Melissa Bean?

RS: The 8th District is one of the highest-taxed counties in the nation. The issues that most concern the 8th are education, taxes and healthcare. I feel that I can best represent the concerns of the people, despite my strong stand on the war. I've talked with thousands of people. [Plus,] I've lived here for 30 years and I've seen a marked change in the political climate here. People do not like Melissa Bean; she has not been communicative with her community. The environment is perfect for a new representative. I call myself a "citizen representative"; I have not come out of the special-interest groups that Melissa Bean is friendly with. I'm about the working families.

WCT: Do you feel that name recognition is your biggest disadvantage in this race?

RS: Actually, I think it's my advantage. I'm counting on my name recognition in being a big factor. People responded very well to Bill, and they'll see the name again—for a third time. [Laughs.] Our name's been around for four years.

WCT: What do you think are the biggest issues affecting the gay community?

RS: I have to put discrimination at the top. I feel that there's not enough education, [which] opens minds. [Until] we talk in a positive way about communities and the humanity of our



Randi Scheurer.

community, we are not going to be able to change legislation like we want to. I want equal protection under the law; I think that's huge.

And, of course, there's healthcare. It's the same for you as it is for me. I think we need to put pressure on drug companies to be more humane. So, I think civil liberties, health care and education are the big issues.

WCT: And where do you fall regarding same-sex marriage and civil unions?

RS: This is the difference between Melissa Bean and myself. I believe that every human being is given equal protection under the Constitution. I go further than she does. Not only do I recognize [same-sex] marriage, but I recognize full benefits. No one should be denied.

WCT: Your views are in step with many in Chicago, but are you concerned that they might be too liberal for your district?

RS: My views are progressive, but I feel that things are moving here. I think if we get a grassroots momentum going here and if I get the message out... I think a lot has to do with the war; the person in the Republican Party is such a hawk. I am hopeful that my position will bring people my way.

WCT: Are you behind any particular presidential candidate?

RS: At this point, I most favor [John] Edwards. His healthcare plan—I feel pretty comfortable with it. I know he doesn't have the political experience, but I think that there is an element of humility and contriteness. From his mistakes to his wife's health to the loss of his son, I think [those experiences] change a person and how they view their politics and direction.

WCT: Is politics what you thought it would be?

RS: I have grown up around the political community; my parents were political and social activists. I have grown up understanding the unpleasant stuff—my father was interrogated during the McCarthy [era]. I've learned a lot and I've known a lot, and I've grown up with a critical eye.

You work with your values, take them with you and decide how to make them work. I march out in the streets, and I know that votes count. I just felt that this was the time.

See www.FreeTheDemocrats.com.

[Editor's note: Bean has been contacted for an interview but has not yet responded.]

WINDY CITY TIMES ELECTION GUIDE: Jan. 30



South Side March Against Hate

BY TRACY BAIM AND AMY WOOTEN

Outraged that last year's New Year's Eve shooting at a party primarily attended by Black gay men on the city's South Side remains unsolved, members of the African-American LGBT community and their allies marched against anti-gay violence.

The Dec. 31 march, taking place over a 2.8-mile stretch of 79th Street between Wabash and Jeffery, was in cold and snowy conditions. The march was organized by Critical Caucus; Chicago's Black Gay Lesbian Bi Transgendered Leadership Council; and the Coalition for Justice and Respect.

About 20 people managed the distance, receiving strong protection from Chicago police.

Prior to the march, participants received words of strong support from political allies, including Alderman Ed Smith (28th), State Rep. Karen Yarbrough and Cook County Commissioner Larry Suffredin, followed by a prayer.

"It's warm enough for all of us to stand up against any kind of injustice," Yarbrough said.

Smith expressed his anger at violence against "minorities of a minority," and said something needs to be done to "stop this madness." He vowed to stand with his community and see that justice is served.

"We're all here because we have to understand we have to stand up and not tolerate

this inhumanity," Suffredin said, adding that until the hate and violence stops, the community and allies need to continue to march. Longtime activist Willie Barrow did not end up joining the effort, despite organizer's statements saying she would be there.

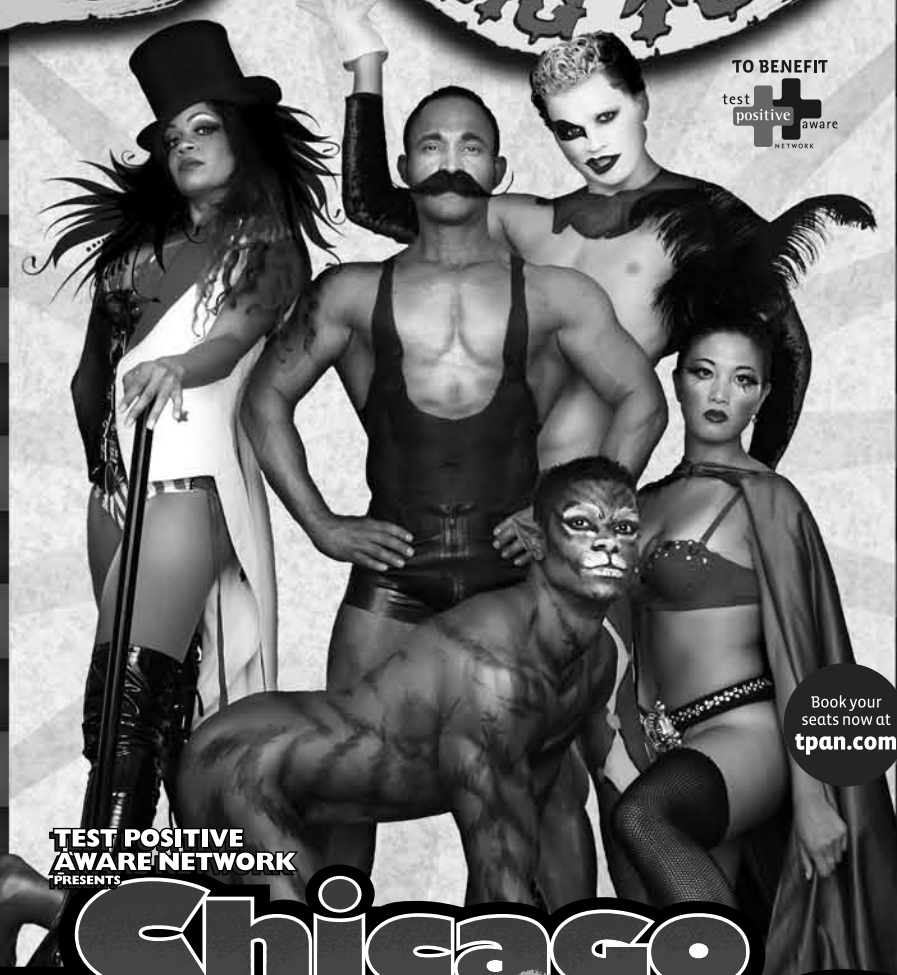
The march mostly included African Americans, plus four white supporters. Along the route, there were mostly stares, plus a few raised fists and honks from cars in support. There were a few jeers, and one obsessed fiftysomething African-American male screamed about the Bible condemning gays. However, once was not enough, as he kept moving his car along the route, getting out, hollering and pointing his finger, saying everyone in the march was going to hell. "Get out of our neighborhood!" he shouted, not acknowledging that some of the marchers were, in fact, from this area of town, and that the march was held there because of anti-gay violence committed in a gay-occupied home on Woodlawn and 79th.

The marchers shouted, "Stop the violence, stop the hate," and "What do we want? Justice! When do we want it? Now!" to patrons of beauty shops, liquor stores, Sears and small retail shops along the busy business district on New Year's Eve. The group ended its cold trek on the steps of the Winnie Mandela Alternative High School, 7847 S. Jeffery, feeling confident from the reception and emboldened by the statement they made in the community. Some had feared for their safety, and felt that completing the march was in itself a heroic act. Photos by Tracy Baim and Amy Wooten

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WORLD ROUNDUP

BY REX WOCKNER

Large anti-gay rally in Madrid

Tens of thousands of Catholics rallied in Madrid's Plaza de Colón Dec. 30 in support of the "traditional" family and against same-sex marriage and easier divorce.

Cardinal Antonio Cañizares conducted a mass at the gathering and Pope Benedict XVI addressed the ralliers via video link.

Cañizares said the liberal policies of Prime Minister José María Rodríguez Zapatero threaten the very existence of society.

The pope said the family is "based on the unbreakable union of man and woman."

Spain legalized same-sex marriage in 2005.

Organizers pegged the rally's turnout at 1.5 million.

"These atheist, irreligious governments want to make us believe that our life has no meaning," one of the organizers, Kiko Argüello, told Reuters.

Spain holds a general election March 9. In recent polling, Zapatero's Socialist party held a 2 percent lead over the conservative Popular Party.

In response to the rally, Zapatero said his policies are supported by the "vast majority" of Spaniards and that the Roman Catholic Church should stop attempting to curtail citizens' constitutional rights.

McKellen becomes Companion of Honour

Openly gay actor Sir Ian McKellen was made a member of the prestigious Order of Companions of Honour in Queen Elizabeth II's New Year honors.

The order, founded by George V, has only 65 members.

McKellen, who has been a knight since 1990, was honored "for services to Drama and to Equality," and now can place the initials "C.H." after his name.

"I am honored to join an order which includes such distinguished practitioners in the arts," McKellen, 68, said. "It is particularly pleasing that 'equality' is included in my citation."

Other members of the order include Sir John Major, Dame Judi Dench, Sir David Attenborough and Prof. Stephen Hawking.

Canadian bill would protect transgender people

Canadian Member of Parliament Bill Siksay has introduced a bill to ban inciting hatred or advocating genocide against transgender people, the Vancouver gay newspaper Xtra! West reported.

Gays have had such protections since 2004.

The bill would add "gender identity" to the list of distinguishable group traits in the Criminal Code.

The measure also gives judges leeway to impose harsher sentences for crimes motivated by "bias, prejudice or hate" based on gender identity.

Siksay, who is gay and represents a Vancouver-area district, said Canadian "transgender and transsexual people are regularly victims of abuse, harassment and physical violence."

Only one of Canada's 13 provinces and territories—the Northwest Territories—explicitly prohibits anti-trans discrimination.

Cuban lesbians marry in government agency courtyard

Two Havana lesbians were symbolically married Dec. 23 in the courtyard of the state National Center for Sex Education (CENESEX), Inter Press Service reported.

Mónica, 19, and Elizabeth, 28, tied the knot before 60 friends and supporters in the first-ever same-sex union to receive support from a government agency.

The ceremony was filmed by students from the Cuban Higher Institute of Art.

"We are trying to raise awareness of this issue based on that which makes us most human, our feelings—in this case love," the director of the film, Hanny Marín, told IPS.

CENESEX is pushing legislation to create legal same-sex civil unions, and the measure could see parliamentary action this year. The agency and the Federation of Cuban Women submitted the bill to the Political Bureau of the Communist Party Central Committee in June.

IPS said the Communist Party has instructed CENESEX to "prepare" the public for gay civil unions via a media campaign, but agency director Mariela Castro Espín, daughter of acting President Raúl Castro, has acknowledged that the bill faces "a great deal of resistance."

It would extend spousal rights in areas such as inheritance, housing and adoption.

The Roman Catholic vicar general of Havana, Monsignor Carlos Manuel de Céspedes García-

Menocal, supports "stable same-sex relationships" being "protected by civil laws," he said in the July/August 2007 issue of the archdiocese's magazine.

"Contemporary Western society is no longer the same as that which arrived at present clarifications concerning marriage," Céspedes wrote.

Although the church "is not going to renounce criteria established by revelation and set by tradition," he said, "neither can it ignore contemporary personal and family reality."

Bulgarians don't like gays

Eighty percent of Bulgarians have a negative or extremely negative attitude toward gays, according to a Skala poll published Dec. 20.

Seventy percent would prevent their child from attending a school with an openly gay teacher, half don't want to work with a known homosexual and only 17 percent said they feel they could communicate freely with a gay person.

About half also said they could not accept it if one of their children were gay.

The study found that negative attitudes are strongest toward cross-dressers and weakest toward lesbians.

Spain investigates minister's gay-cure program

The government of Spain's Galicia region is investigating Protestant minister Marcos Zapata for running a seminar called "How to Raise Heterosexual Children," Britain's Guardian newspaper reported Dec. 28.

The paper said that at one recent event, Zapata called homosexuality an illness that can be cured via family therapy, said he promotes masculinity in his own family by making his sons watch professional wrestling, and urged attendees to "hug your sons as much as you can, because if you don't, perhaps another man will."

A government spokesman suggested it is illegal to proselytize minors with "homophobic attitudes."

The head of the National Federation of Lesbians, Gays, Transsexuals and Bisexuals, Toni Poveda, said his group also will pursue legal action against Zapata.

"After so many legal victories in this country ... we have to deal with fundamentalist groups which take us back to the Franco dictatorship," Poveda told The Guardian. "We are going to try to stop this from happening. Sexual orientation is innate and there's no way to change it."

Bolivia to protect gays in constitution

Bolivia is set to become the sixth nation to ban anti-gay discrimination in its constitution.

Article 14 of the finalized text of the planned new constitution states: "The State prohibits and punishes any form of discrimination based on sex, color, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, origin, culture, nationality, citizenship, language, religious creed, ideology, political affiliation or philosophical beliefs, marital status, economic or social status, type of occupation, level of education, disability, pregnancy, or other factors that have the purpose or effect of nullifying or impairing the recognition, enjoyment or exercise, on an equal footing, of the rights of everyone."

Once ratified, the constitution will become the first in the world to protect transgender people.

The other nations that protect gays constitutionally are Canada, Ecuador, Fiji, South Africa and Switzerland. Sweden's constitution, in a section on press freedom, prohibits agitation and threats against gay people as a group.

Nepal Supreme Court mandates gay protections

Nepal's Supreme Court on Dec. 21 ordered the government to pass new laws and rewrite old ones to extend equal rights and anti-discrimination protections to gay, lesbian, bisexual, transsexual and intersex people.

The ruling came in a public-interest case filed by four gay organizations.

Current Nepalese law prohibits "unnatural" sex under penalty of up to two years in prison.

"Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transsexual and intersex are natural persons irrespective of their masculine and feminine gender and they have the right to exercise their rights and live an independent life in society," the court said.

The court also ordered the government to form a committee to study same-sex marriage in other nations with a view to changing Nepalese law in that area, as well.

—Assistance: Bill Kelley

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NATIONAL ROUNDUP

BY AMY WOOTEN

Former Republican Wisconsin Gov. **Lee Sherman Dreyfus, who signed into the law the country's first statewide gay rights law in 1982, passed away** on Jan. 9, according to the Associated Press. Dreyfus, 81, was governor from 1979 to 1983. The 1982 gay rights measure he signed banned discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in housing, public accommodations and employment.

In a victory for gay and lesbian Californians, the state's Supreme Court **rejected a challenge to basic property tax protections for domestic partners.** County assessors had petitioned for a review of an October 2007 California Court of Appeals decision that affirmed property tax protections for surviving domestic partners.

The **National Stonewall Democrats reacted to the results of the Iowa caucuses,** in which Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama and Republican hopeful Mike Huckabee came out as the leaders. "As we move through the presidential selection process, National Stonewall Democrats will continue to utilize our Pride in the Party program to aide LGBT Democrats to influence presidential campaigns while they campaign for delegate to the Democratic National Convention," the organization stated.

Roughly **30 couples took part in a group civil union ceremony at the New Hampshire State House** at midnight, Jan. 1, reported the Associated Press. Civil unions became legal in the state on Jan. 1. The mass ceremony was organized by state Rep. Gail Morrison. According to Gaywired.com, one protestor was present during the event.

An anti-gay group has delayed the Oregon Fairness Act, which was supposed to offer many of the same legal protections for same-sex couples as marriage starting Jan. 1, reported EDGE Boston. On Dec. 28, a federal judge issued a stay on the state law after the anti-gay Ariz.-based Alliance Defense Fund filed suit. Anti-gay activists had gathered signatures in an attempt to place the measure on the 2008 ballot for voters to decide, rather than lawmakers, and feel many of the signatures were improperly discarded. A hearing will take place Feb. 1.

The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) just released its **"Worst Anti-Gay Defamation of 2007" list.** The list includes unfortunate moments, including Isaiah Washington's use of the "f-word" during a Golden Globes interview, an offensive Snickers Super Bowl commercial, anti-gay comments made by former NBA player Tim Hardaway and former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Peter Pace and much more.

New Jersey legislation requiring **HIV testing for all pregnant women** was recently signed into law, according to the Washington Post. Health care workers will now be required to test all pregnant, making it a part of routine prenatal care. Women are allowed to opt-out of the HIV testing, however.

The trial of two men accused of killing gay porn producer Bryan Kocis has been put on hold after one man's public defender was removed from the case due to what the judge felt was a possible conflict of interest. Joseph Kerkes and Harlow Cuadra are accused of murdering Kocis, who owned Cobra Video, last winter. The trial was supposed to start in March, but is now indefinitely on hold, reported 365gay.com.

Lambda Sci-Fi recently announced **Gaylaxicon 2008, an annual international science fiction,**

fantasy and horror convention for LGBT people, will take place Oct. 10-13 in Washington, D.C. The guest of honor this year is author Geoff Ryman. See www.gaylaxicon2008.org for more information and to register.

By a vote of 65-10, **New Jersey legislators have passed a law that supports the state's hate-crimes and anti-bullying statutes,** 365Gay.com reported. Among other things, the law adds "gender identity expressing" to the current hate-crimes statute and requiring schools to post and distribute their own anti-bullying policies.

Gary Cloutier—who was the first gay mayor of Vallejo, Calif., for two days before losing his seat in a recount—is **suing to have the recount overturned,** according to 365Gay.com. In November, Cloutier seemingly prevailed by five votes. His opponent, Osby Davis, demanded a recount and subsequently became the city's first Black mayor.

GLBT Supporter to Retire from Congress

BY BOB ROEHR

A good friend of the GLBT community in Congress, Rep. Tom Lantos, D-Calif., has announced that he will not run for reelection. Lantos, who will turn 80 next month, made the announcement Jan. 2. The decision was prompted in part by learning that he has cancer of the esophagus.

Lantos has represented a Bay Area district south of San Francisco since 1981 and currently chairs the House Foreign Affairs Committee. He has been a champion of human rights, in part because of the events that shaped his own life.

He was born in Hungary and as a teenager became active in the anti-Nazi movement against the German invaders occupying his country. After the war he was as an anti-Communist activist. He came to the US in 1947 on an academic scholarship and eventually became a professor of economics and international affairs. Lantos proudly calls himself "an American by choice."

"It is only in the United States that a penniless survivor of the Holocaust and a fighter in the anti-Nazi underground could have received an education, raised a family, and had the privilege of serving the last three decades of his life as a Member of Congress," Lantos said in a statement released by his office. "I will never be able to express fully my profoundly felt gratitude to this great country."

The Congressman has been in the forefront of protesting mistreatment of gays and lesbians overseas. In 2001 He joined with Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., and others in writing to the government of Egypt protesting the arrest of men for alleged homosexual behavior. The arrests became known as the "Queen Boat" incident for the disco on the Nile where they took pace. He also has led bipartisan efforts on AIDS relief in Africa.

Domestically, Lantos is one of the original co-sponsors of the recently filed Domestic Partner Benefits and Obligations of 2007, which would extend benefits to partners of federal employees.

Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, R-Fla., called Lantos "a man of enormous integrity, energy and substance, whose deepest convictions were born in an epic struggle against tyranny, fascism and genocide." She is the ranking Republican on the Foreign Affairs Committee and fled Cuba with her family as a child.

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YASMIN NAIR

Queer Immigration: Change the Paradigms

The Uniting American Families Act (UAFAs) is back in the news. Currently, heterosexual married citizens and permanent residents can sponsor their non-citizen spouses for immigration. The UAFAs extends that privilege to same-sex binational couples, substituting the words "permanent partner" for "spouse" in the language of immigration law. Stories about binational couples emphasize that their relationships aren't considered as equal to those of married people.

The UAFAs looks like a progressive cause. But whom would this law affect and how? Is this really a progressive idea whose day has come? Is it tied to a progressive/left vision around immigration reform?

I've written previously about immigration (<http://tinyurl.com/2e4w4b>) and the UAFAs (<http://tinyurl.com/2a9ahj>). Gay groups like Human Rights Campaign, National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, and Immigration Equality have cynically manipulated the topic of immigration reform in order to advance the cause of "binational" couples. I have friends in binational relationships, and don't deny the real pain and anxiety they go through. The problem lies in the framing of the issue. The emphasis on documented couples as

more deserving of protection undermines progress towards immigration reform that benefits all immigrants, undocumented or not, single or otherwise.

The UAFAs is isolated from the larger immigration movement in its emphasis on the rights of American citizens/permanent residents to sponsor their documented partners. It places immigration in the realm of love and affect, separating it from the issue of exploited labor—which is at the heart of the current immigration crisis. Undocumented couples or undocumented immigrants with citizen partners will not benefit from the UAFAs.

The language of the UAFAs privileges retrograde relationships. Couples have to prove that they are "financially interdependent" and "intend a lifelong commitment." Queer feminists should be appalled at such language. But more importantly: What do we know about how such interdependence works for straight couples?

Consider the case of Aalimah (not her real name). She's here on an H-4 (Dependent Visa) because she came here with her husband, who has an H1-B (Guest Worker Visa). The visa allows him to apply for permanent resident status for both of them. Her problem? She's a lesbian trapped in her marriage. She's been suicidal and depressed over her invisibility as a lesbian but can't get out of an intolerable situation. She can't find support within her South Asian community; she doesn't have the support of her family; and she's not economically independent. Remember that bit about financial interdependence? If you're on your spouse's H1-B, you can't get a social security number and you can't apply for jobs. Aalimah's best option is to be admitted to a University and start the long and slow process of establishing her professional credentials. But she'd need her husband's financial support.

And she's one of the lucky ones. In 2004, The Hindu, a leading Indian newspaper, reported on

the physical and economic exploitation of women on H-4 visas (<http://tinyurl.com/2ayzpb>). We might be tempted to dismiss such stories as indicative of bad cultural practices. But do we really imagine that queer US citizens or permanent residents are above the coercion and exploitation of their partners? Do we really think that this system, which gives such power to one person over another, is a good thing?

So why do we cling to these antiquated notions of family, love, and financial interdependence? Instead of asking why queer couples don't have the same privileges as married people, we ought to ask: Why do married people deserve those privileges over unmarried people in the first place? Why not advocate for a system that doesn't demand dependency but lets people enter and stay, or leave, on their own merits?

If we queers are really concerned about immigration, we need to stand with Immigration Rights activists and consider reform for the long term and for all. This means being critical of the rhetoric of "family reunification," which privileges family and erases issues of labor. Consider The Chicago Reporter story about workers who're denied legally mandated medical coverage by bosses who exploit their fears of deportation (<http://tinyurl.com/2hxben>). Consider Aalimah, who has the kind of visa status we'd want for queer immigrants. Consider asking your favorite gay advocacy group: How will you advocate for change even if and after the UAFAs gets passed? We need to work on reform that matters to all of us, not just because it validates gay bodies and relationships. Our interest should lie in dismantling the *status quo*, changing the paradigms and asking for a more complex but more just world.

Yasmin Nair can be reached at welshzen@yahoo.com. She also blogs at www.bilerico.com.



MARK ISHAUG

Guest Editorial: Who Will Be the AIDS President?

And they're off. With Iowa victories under their belts, political sensations Barack Obama and Mike Huckabee have the winds at their backs as they campaign on messages of change and conciliation. But whether Obama becomes the Hope President or Huckabee the Faith President, the question many health care-minded voters are asking is: Who will be the AIDS president?

Sure, it's not as sexy as branding yourself the Education President or the Environmental President, but a chief executive who supports science-based approaches to halt the spread of HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, might just be hailed as the savior of a generation.

That's because twenty six years into the epidemic of our lifetime, the United States still has no comprehensive strategy to prevent HIV transmission, increase access to HIV care, and reduce racial disparities in the epidemic.

Nevermind that the U.S. requires nations that apply for billions of dollars in federal aid under the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief to develop such plans. Or that since its discovery more than a quarter century ago, HIV/AIDS has infected at least 1.5 million Americans and killed more than 538,000—nearly three times the population of Des Moines, Iowa.

It is estimated that one quarter of Americans who are HIV-positive do not know it. Many are diagnosed too late to benefit from early medical care and half of those who are eligible for antiretroviral treatment—the life-extending "drug cocktails"—do not receive this treatment, according to the Open Society Institute.

So where do the White House hopefuls stand on HIV/AIDS?

AIDSVote.org offers insight. The nonpartisan voter and candidate education project features a poll conducted by three leading AIDS organizations—Housing Works, Gay Men's Health Crisis and the AIDS Foundation of Chicago—of the presidential hopefuls on pressing AIDS-related issues.

Of the 16 major party candidates in contention back in November—eight Democrats and eight Republicans—only six responded to the poll. Not one reply came from a Republican.

The three leading Democratic candidates—Illinois Sen. Barack Obama, former Sen. John Edwards and Sen. Hillary Clinton—support ending the ban on federal funding for needle exchange, a scientifically proven intervention to reduce the spread of HIV without increasing drug use.

All three have also pledged to craft a national AIDS strategy with explicit benchmarks if elected, as well as committing at least \$50 billion by 2013 for the global fight against HIV/AIDS.

Of the leading Republicans, Huckabee, a Baptist minister, is the only one who has committed to developing a national AIDS strategy. His pledge, however, came in a Dec. 8 statement in which he sought to clarify remarks he made in 1992 that people living with HIV should be quarantined, according to a separate analysis of the presidential candidates by The Black AIDS Institute.

Whoever moves into 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue in 2009 should strive to be something the world has yet to see: the U.S. president who tackled both domestic and global AIDS.

Mark Ishaug is the president/CEO of the AIDS Foundation of Chicago.

Time to get active

To the editor:

The results and turnout of the Iowa caucus shows great promise for the Democratic Party in '08, and if you think the rights and hopes of the LGBT community lies with the Democratic Party, this is our year to be more active than ever. We must be active on every front possible. We must register voters, support candidates with our dollars, volunteer

on campaigns and provide our voice and energy to victory in the fall. No matter how the momentum swings now, it will be a battle this November. If we choose not to participate and we do not fully have our seat at the table next year, our community has no one to blame but themselves.

Tom Chaderjian
 Chicago

LETTER

Make your thoughts known!

Send your letters to Editor@
 WindyCityMediaGroup.com or
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Letters may be edited for length or clarity.

TRANSNATION The Trans Year to Come

BY JACOB ANDERSON-MINSHALL

With presidential elections looming, 2008 promises to be a politically contentious year. At least this summer's Olympic Games promise to distract us from American politics, and there's some hope—via trans cyclist Kirsten Worley (nominated as one of the most influential women in Canadian sports in 2007)—of having an openly trans contender. To get through the rest of the year, there's plenty of trans-themed material coming your way in 2008.

Books

When it comes to academic works, Haworth Press may cement its position as the leading publisher of nonfiction addressing trans subjects. Several of their new books address medical professionals, like *Principles of Transgender Medicine and Surgery and Guidelines for Transgender Care*; the latter written and edited in part by trans activist/health educator Joshua M. Goldberg. For a psychological and sociological perspective Haworth, offers *Head Over Heels: Wives Who Stay With Cross-Dressers and Transsexuals and Male Bodies, Women's Souls: Personal Narratives of Thailand's Transgender Youth*.

Duke University Press addresses a similar audience with *Imagining Transgender: An Ethnography of a Category*, which documents the rise and development of 'transgender' as a category of collective identity and political activism. The *Lives of Transgender People*, a collaboration between genderqueer college administrator Brett-Genny Beemyn and feminist scholar Sue Rankin will be published by Columbia University Press later this year.

Trans People in Love, edited by partners Tracie O'Keefe and Katrina Fox, offers personal essays by notable trans folk (including yours truly). Other trans authors are releasing memoirs, including *Kate Bornstein Is A Queer And Pleasant Danger*; *Two Lies and a Truth*, Scott Turner Schofield's collection of autobiographical plays and former Sandy, Utah city councilman K J Jackson Prince's *Forbidden Identity*, which details Prince's return to a male identity—at the request of his son—after four years living as Jennifer Jackson.

Janice Josephine Carney will release *Mantra's From the Great Void*—a collection of her "Perspectives from a Trans Woman" column along with new poems. Look for trans photographer Del LaGrace Volcano and Ulrika Dahl's *Femmes of Power: Exploding Queer Femininities*. Homofactus Press, the growing trans publishing house will release *Kicked Out!* a collection of essays by current and former youth ejected from their homes for being trans or queer.

Films

Transparent filmmaker Jules Rosskam's new feature film, *Remember: Repair: Retell* premieres this summer and he's also working on a documentary with *Boy I Am* director Sam Feder, which examines feminism through the eyes of trans women. Meanwhile, Feder is completing *Funny, You Don't Look Like a Jew*, an experimental documentary examining the implications of assumptions about people's appearances.

Roskam and Feder are also collaborating with trans band Actor Slash Model to create a new bi-monthly queer film/video screening series in Chicago. "Threat Level: An Evening of Queer Shorts" is recruiting submissions from around the globe. One of the first to screen was Actor Slash Model's documentary-in-progress about trans musicians, which features Lipstick Conspiracy, Katastrophe and Anderson Toone.

This year may also spark an explosion of adult videos featuring trans men. In January 2007, the original FTM porn star, Buck Angel won Transsexual Performer of the Year at the Adult Video News Awards, the first female-to-male performer to do so. He's nominated for a second award this year, and he believes the industry is ready for some other trans guys. Angel will be moving behind the camera, directing and producing adult films and ushering other trans guys into



Alexandra Billings.

adult entertainment.

Meanwhile, Trannywood Pictures, the guys behind *Cubbyholes: Trans Men in Action* hope for greater distribution of the film while releasing their second, *Couch Surfers*, and developing sexual educational resources, including the instructional *First Timers Guide to Playing with Trans Guys*. Look for *Couch Surfers 2* this summer. And finally, after some delays, trans filmmaker Luke Woodward's queer bicycle porn, *Tour de Pants*, will debut in 2008.

Television

Making history, two shows focusing on trans women are coming soon to the small screen near you. Debuting on Logo next month, *Transamerican Love Story*, is a one-hour reality dating show starring transgender activist, actress and author Calpernia Addams and featuring her best friend, fellow trans activist Andrea James. FX okayed 4 oz., a drama by Nip/Tuck creator Ryan Murphy about the metamorphosis of a male-bodied individual who realizes she's transsexual. No word yet on actors involved, but Brad Pitt is reportedly attached—as an executive producer.

Meanwhile trans actress Candis Cayne will continue her role on ABC's *Dirty Sexy Money* and has a guest spot on Logo's new series *Sordid Lives* playing a trans therapist. Real life trans doctor Marci Bowers has a busy year, appearing on MSNBC's special *Girls will be Boys, 20/20* with Barbara Walters and the BBC docu-series *Sex Change Hospital* (airing on WE beginning in January). A proposed follow-up series has reportedly sparked interest from Bravo, TLC and A&E.

The online world

Speaking of digital projects, Nancy Nangeroni and Gordene MacKenzie, the trans women behind and co-hosts of the now-defunct *GenderTalk Radio* are developing a video follow-up, *GenderVision* (gendervision.org).

Early in 2008, trans photographer Kael Block will launch a new website for his *XX Boys* project—photographs of trans men from around the globe that honor their sex appeal. The new site will feature Block's photos, invite other FTM artists to showcase their work and display trailers of trans films and music videos by trans musicians.

Last but not least, you can now find the transgender comic *Between the Lines* online at BetweenTheLines.sosd.org.

Trans author Jacob Anderson-Minshall has an essay in the forthcoming anthology *Men Speak Out: Views on Gender, Sex and Power*. He apologizes in advance for failing to mention the work of other notable trans folk. If you or someone you know deserves attention for their work, please contact jake@quirkyguys.com.

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Read the entire article at www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com.

QUOTELINES

BY REX WOCKNER

"[T]HE BAR IS SET A LITTLE HIGHER NOW. If someone has photos or voice mail or a love letter, that is different. After eight of them, I don't know what else you need." — *Dan Popkey, the Idaho Statesman reporter who has aggressively pursued the story of U.S. Sen. Larry Craig's alleged numerous gay sexcapades, to Editor & Publisher, Dec. 3. The Statesman now has published the stories of eight men—four of them named—who claim they had sex with Craig or experienced sexual come-ons from him.*

"IT IS DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND THE PUBLIC POLICY TOWARDS AIDS. It is the first time in the history of civilization in which the carriers of a genuine plague have not been isolated from the general population, and in which this deadly disease for which there is no cure is being treated as a civil rights issue instead of the true health crisis it represents." — *Republican presidential candidate Mike Huckabee to the Associated Press in 1992, as reported by the AP on Dec. 8.*

"SURE, THEY CAN DO WHATEVER THEY WANT AND THEY CAN CALL IT WHATEVER THEY WANT,

just so they don't expect to impose their relationship on somebody else. They can't make me, personally, accept what they do, but they can—gay couples can do whatever they want. As a matter of fact, I'd like to see all governments out of the marriage question. I don't think it's a state function. I think it's a religious function. And there was a time when only churches dealt with, you know, marriage, and they determined what it was. But a hundred years or so ago for health reasons—they claim that the state would protect us if we knew more about our spouses and we did health testing—and you had to get a license to get married and I don't agree with that." — *Republican presidential candidate Ron Paul to ABC News, Dec. 7.*

Coming out, coming out, coming out. That's the only thing I've ever done, really.

—Openly gay actor Sir Ian McKellen.



Wockner News photo by John Pandal

"I DON'T KNOW WHETHER PEOPLE ARE BORN THAT WAY. People who are gay say that they're born that way. But one thing I know, that the behavior one practices is a choice. We may have certain tendencies, but how we behave and how we carry out our behavior [is the issue]." — *Presidential candidate Mike Huckabee on NBC-TV's Meet the Press, Dec. 30.*

"I WAS ALWAYS A GIRL THAT DATED GUYS AND THEN I shot Two Girls in Love and was dating a guy and then I had a relationship with a woman. I thought, I can't say I'm straight anymore, that would just be a lie. I looked for other relationships with women and they didn't happen. I don't know if that's because I'm shyer with women. And then ultimately I met my husband and got married. I wish I had met more women. I guess people can define my sexuality however they see fit, but I mostly just don't define it." — Actress Laurel Holloman, Tina on Showtime's *The L Word*, to the national lesbian magazine *Curve*, January/February issue.

"I ACTUALLY QUIT MY JOB to do the show because they wouldn't let me take a leave. I honestly don't know what to do now. I don't know. We'll see." — *Gay Mormon Todd Herzog, winner of this season's Survivor, to AfterElton.com, Dec. 17.*

"WHO IS THE MOST ANNOYING CELEBRITY?" Rosie O'Donnell - 44%. Paris Hilton - 24%. Ann Coulter - 16%. Heather Mills McCartney - 12%. Perez Hilton - 4%." — *From the results of Parade magazine's 2007 Year-End Pop Culture Poll, which quizzed 2,000 readers of the magazine's Web site.*

"COMING OUT, COMING OUT, COMING OUT. THAT'S THE ONLY THING I've ever done, really. That's what it can say on the gravestone. That will be the obituary." — *Actor Sir Ian McKellen to the BBC, Dec. 29.*

—Assistance: Bill Kelley

Nov. 26 blog post.



The all-male ballet troupe Les Ballets Trockadero will perform Jan. 17. See page 13.

TV

Model service.
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Body language.
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Leave it to diva.
Page 17.



Clive Barker: Raising Hell

BY ANDREW DAVIS

On the weekend of Jan. 11, Chicago will be all things Clive when legendary (and openly gay) horrormeister Clive Barker comes into town to promote three different forms of media: his paintings, the movie *Hellraiser* (Has it been 20 years already?), and his latest book, *Mister B. Gone*, which is centered around a demon named Jakob Botch. A game Barker talked with *Windy City Times* about all three as well as everything (and everyone else) from his childhood to Sir Ian McKellen.

Windy City Times: I don't think a lot of people know about your artwork. However, they say, "He's a great writer," and they know of your films.

Clive Barker: I think you're absolutely right, Andrew. For a lot of people, it will be the first time people see my [paintings]. The reproductions in the book are fine, but they are reproductions. The bulk of the pictures I'm showing in Chicago are 60" x 48", so we're talking about pretty large pictures. There will also be smaller pictures, so people will be able to come in with \$200 and be able to leave with a picture. We want to make the gallery experience a fun one.

WCT: If you had to put your art in a particular genre, what would it be?

CB: I would say "expressionist." It's very colorful and it lends itself to fantasy. It's fantastic. If I was really pressed, I'd [categorize] it as surrealism, but [painter] André Breton wouldn't have me anywhere near the surrealists [*laughs*] because I do think the pictures through and a true surrealist doesn't plan his [works].

I'm also showing a few pictures from [my] *Abarat* books [a five-part series]. With *Abarat*, I paint the books and then finding the stories in the paintings—a very different way of writing a narrative. I'm putting all of these together in

what looks to be a five-book series; I'm currently writing book three. There will be paintings from books that are not out yet—and I'll be selling these as well.

WCT: Your background is steeped in horror and fantasy, and some people would wrongly assume that you had it rough growing up. However, you had a pretty normal childhood.

CB: Completely normal. I really don't get this theory [that I had to have a twisted childhood]. I think the strange thing is that if you get a bunch of horror writers together in a room, they are, by and large, a gentle group of people. I think the fact that my works have an element of the supernatural and the fantastic is cathartic for me, purging some of the dark elements. That is one of the misconceptions that people have: They feel that [horror writers] are a bunch of twisted people who watched their favorite dog run over by a truck or that I was left in a well by my father. I live in a normal postwar (born in 1952) [place] in Liverpool.

WCT: I was surprised—maybe even a little horrified—to discover that it's been 20 years since *Hellraiser* first was in movie theaters.

CB: Trust me: It horrifies *me*.

Here's a footnote: Recently, a young woman told me that she loved [Barker's 1992 book] *The Thief of Always*. She said, "I loved it," and I smiled—then she said, "I read it in elementary school." Boy, was the smile wiped off my face.

WCT: And they're remaking [*Hellraiser*].

CB: Yes. It's being written and directed by two Frenchmen [Alexandre Bustillo and Julien Maury]. They actually made a very good movie called *À l'intérieur*, which premiered at the Toronto Film Festival. [Producer] Bob Weinstein hooked them up with me. They're going to remake [*Hellraiser*]—and radically re-design it.

WCT: And you're OK with that?

CB: I am, Andrew. I look at it this way: The film that Clive made is the film that Clive made. I made it my way, and it wouldn't make sense to try to remake it. So what they've done is take the basic elements and reconfigured it in a way



Clive Barker.

that makes a lot of sense—and they have a lot more money. I had \$900,000 and 23 days to film it, and was paid the morbid sum of \$21,000 to write and direct it.

Horror has changed three or four times in the past 20 years. [Special effects] have become more sophisticated, and now we have "horror porn," as it is called.

WCT: Like *Hostel*.

CB: Yes, the *Hostel* films and the *Saw* movies—pictures that take from their subjects' suffering. I lose interest in those movies pretty quickly. I don't have a moral objection to them; I just get bored by them.

WCT: Something else that surprised me was that you were an executive producer in the movie *Gods and Monsters*, about the life of

Frankenstein director James Whale. How did you get involved in that movie?

CB: I got involved very early. [Director] Bill Condon and I got to know each other because I wanted him on [*Candyman: Farewell to the Flesh*]; I fought like hell to get him. He got the back end of the critics' enthusiasm from the first movie. Bill and I would talk about our passion for James Whale, who was gay. Both Whale and I come from the same portion of northern England, and the third person in this equation, [Gods star] Sir Ian McKellen, comes from there—so when Bill suggested McKellen, it seemed to have a glorious inevitability about it. I could not imagine anyone else in the role—the high camp which he plays with this gloriously beautiful young man [Brendan Fraser]. The fact is [Whale] knows he never is going to sleep with this man; he just wants to look at him.

Initially, Ian rejected the movie; he said it was too negative. (He's very political, as am I.) I figured if I could just get him at my house, which [legendary actor] Ronald Colman lived in, and Elizabeth Taylor's house was just down the road. Ian loved the gossip [element] that surrounded the [neighborhood]. ... Ian was amazingly empathic in that movie. It was my story, Whale's story and Ian's story—when he saw that synchronicity, that connectedness, [McKellen] said, "I'll do it."

There's this book called *The Monster in the Closet*, which analyzes—with wit and insight—why gay men are particularly good at this kind of fiction. I think it was to do with the monster being the outsider, and we have a sympathetic grasp of what it feels like to be that outsider. We go to these movies for the monster. We don't go to see Van Helsing; we go to see *Dracula*. I know [writer] Anne Rice isn't gay, but if she were a man she surely would be—and I don't think she'd argue that point.

We know what it's like to be at a party, but not be able to express our true feelings. ... I think

Turn to page 17



Les Ballets Trockadero's *The Dying Swan*. Photo by Sascha Vaughn

Dancin' Feats

BY ERIC EATHERLY

The graceful elegance of *Swan Lake*. The Russian discipline of *Paquita*. The beauty of men in drag *en pointe*? Oh yes, we're starting the new year off with a bang.

Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo returns to Chicago's Harris Theater for one spectacular performance Jan. 17. The Harris Theater, 205 E. Randolph, partners with The AIDS Foundation of Chicago to present Les Ballets Trockadero, with 100 percent of the net proceeds from this show benefiting The AIDS Foundation.

The Trocks (as they are affectionately called by their fans) are an all-male professional ballet ensemble that tours the world with their unique parody of ballet and modern classics. The Trocks began in the mid-1970s in a late-late show in New York City's off-off-Broadway lofts. In the era immediately following Stonewall, when New York was experiencing a gay renaissance in its artistic and social scenes, the grounds were fertile for the Trocks' combination of wit, style and honed technique to grow and flourish. The group started as a few ballet enthusiasts presenting a playful view on ballet classics, but after some critical praise got the attention of national and international eyes, they quickly grew to a professional company that has since performed in over 500 cities across the world, touching almost every continent.

Of course, in the early days of the Trocks, they ran into some resistance from conservative Christian right-wingers (who hasn't?) for their sanctioned cross-dressing, but since then they have been embraced by artistic communities and praised for their pluck and pageantry. As Tory Dobrin, artistic director of Les Ballets Trockadero, puts it, "It's hard to find fault with a good show, one that's fun and has lasted a long time." And that is exactly the Trocks' mission, to present dance in a fun, entertaining way that makes the ballet aesthetic accessible to a wider audience. The Trocks know that their audiences have a very specific expectation of their shows, and they don't hesitate to deliver. "We don't lose sight of what we're about," Dobrin explains. "We're a ballet company of men, and audiences are coming to have a good time. ... We're not creating museum pieces." That, in combination with a high quality production, has certainly been a key to their incredible success in a relatively short amount of time.

Being a ballet company composed entirely of men certainly presents its own set of challenges. For one, when the Trocks were starting out there were not many male dancers dancing *en pointe*, something usually reserved for females. Toe-shoe sizes big enough for a man's feet had to be specially ordered. But nothing about the male body is inherently opposed to *pointe* work. Though women can bring more finesse to *pointe* because they are lighter, men bring more power. So the Trocks made a career out of proving men can dance *pointe* as well as women and today men all over the world are studying *pointe* and choreographers are creating roles for men *en pointe*.

Did the Trocks incorporation of male *pointe* work influence the aesthetics of the greater ballet community? It's hard to say for sure, but it certainly seems like it helped.

The Trocks bring an insightful knowledge of dance as well as an absurd sensibility to their parodies. They extract the comedy from otherwise serious ballets by exaggerating the flaws and foibles of the characters and over-emphasizing the drama. For their Chicago engagement, Les Ballets Trockadero will present three works: *Les Lac des Cygnes* (*Swan Lake*, Act II), with music by Tchaikovsky; *Go For Barocco*, with music by Bach; and *Paquita*, with music by Ludwig Munkis. For a performance that is smart, creative, and above all funny and entertaining, this show is definitely not to be missed. 312-334-7777; \$40-\$75.

Also coming up:
Hubbard Street Dance Chicago (HSDC) and The Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO) celebrate their fifth season of collaboration with a special one-night-only performance on Jan. 11 at Symphony Center, 220 S. Michigan. The program features the return of the very first collaboration between HSDC and CSO, counter/part (sic), choreographed by artistic director Jim Vincent to movements from Bach's Brandenburg concertos. The program also previews The

Constant Shift of Pulse, choreographed by HSDC guest artist Doug Varone and set to music by John Adams, which will have its official premiere in HSDC's 2008 spring series in late March. 312-294-3000; \$17-\$110.

Deeply Rooted Dance Theatre joins the **Chicago Sinfonietta** to celebrate the life and message of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in a performance that combines dance, gospel music and orchestral pieces, both traditional and modern. This annual tribute will take place at Lund Auditorium at Dominican University, 7900 W. Division, River Forest, Jan. 20, and at Chicago's Symphony Center, 220 S. Michigan, on the official holiday, Jan. 21. Deeply Rooted will debut a new choreographic work set to Samuel Barber's Adagio for Strings. 312-236-3681; \$26-\$40.

Lastly, the **Chinese New Year Spectacular** returns to Chicago for the third consecutive year with performances at the Arie Crown Theatre at McCormick Place, 2301 S. Lake Shore, Jan. 25-26. Described as the largest celebration of Chinese culture in the world, the Chinese New Year Spectacular uses an international cast of more than 70 dancers, vocalists and musicians; an elaborate musical score; dazzling projections; and stunning costumes to transport audiences back almost 1,500 years to the height of China's Tang Dynasty. 312-559-1212; \$28-\$128.

CRITICS' PICS

bare: A Pop Opera, Bailiwick Repertory, through Jan. 27. The plotting may be cliché and the pop score lacks breakout hits, but bare still smartly deals with issues teenagers face in a touching and affecting way. Bailiwick's cast is tops in talent in director David Zak's strong production. SCM

Good Boys and True, Steppenwolf, through Feb. 10. Roberto Aguirre-Sacasa's world premiere drama looks behind the social and sexual facades at a privileged Catholic prep school. It's cagey, catchy and well-acted, although not as fleshed out as it might be. JA

Marrying Terry, Nightingale Group at Victory Gardens Greenhouse, through Jan. 27. Gregg Opelka's first non-musical needs trimming, but its New Year's Eve setting at the sumptuous Drake Hotel makes for warm, old-fashioned, gender-confused romance. MSB

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge and Morgan

ROBERT FALLS BRINGS HIS HERALDED BROADWAY HIT TO CHICAGO.

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John Kelly Connolly in *White People*. Photo courtesy of The Gift Theatre

THEATER REVIEW *White People*

Playwright: J. T. Rogers

At: The Gift Theatre, 4802 N. Milwaukee

Phone: 773-283-7071; \$20-\$25

Runs through: March 1

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

White People doesn't reveal anything I don't already know. Every sentient American surely has examined many times the latent and/or blatant racism that affects our thoughts and actions almost daily. Still, this powerfully written and forcefully acted play is a bracing and disturbing refresher course on the fragile equilibrium of civil life and the thin fabric of social order.

White People offers three intertwined monologues in which a New York college professor, a lawyer from modest roots, and a poor Southerner—all white but from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds—gradually reveal their prejudices, both subtle and unsubtle, and their efforts (or

lack thereof) to confront their prejudices. The monologues climax in acts of emotional or physical violence across racial lines, white against Black as well as Black against white.

What's apparent is that no one ever is prepared to deal with violence, no matter one's social background, education or prejudices, nor whether one is victim or perpetrator. Perpetrators of racial violence are fueled by anger and rage, while such acts unleash anger and rage among victims as well as fear.

Fundamentally, racism is a symptom, not the disease. Racism is an expression of anger, rage and blind hatred rather than the source of them. The liberal professor comes closest to explaining it in response to a racial attack made on him and his pregnant wife by three youths: "They didn't want what I owned, they wanted what I have." They didn't want a watch or wallet, but the implicit status and opportunity attached to white skin. At the same time, the North Carolina mom with a high school education and a retarded child lashes out not only at African-American but also at Asians and Latinos, people lacking her All-American heritage who have leap-frogged over her in education and economic achievement.

This pungent and pithy play also has a great deal to say about the nature of language, words, history and the inability of people to communicate directly and effectively with each other across lines of economic class and race or even parent to child. They are bewildered by cultural changes seemingly effected without anyone's permission.

It's almost a separate theme and subtext of the play, except that it's a root cause of frustration and anger: the sense that no one is listening to us or understanding. All three characters spill private thoughts directly to the audience and then immediately add, "But that's not what I said."

Seen at a preview, *White People* already was ready to rock, with strongly voiced yet nuanced performances by Paul D'Addario (the professor), John Kelly Connolly (the attorney) and Anna

Carini, under the thoughtful direction of Michael Patrick Thornton. The Gift Theatre has brought another provocative winner to its Jefferson Park storefront.

THEATER REVIEW *A View from the Bridge*

Playwright: Arthur Miller

At: The GreyZelda Theatre

Group at Stage Left,

3408 N. Sheffield

Phone: 773-427-1935; \$20

Runs through: Feb. 2

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

Arthur Miller's play lends itself to a variety of interpretations: it can be viewed as *drama verité*, painting a picture of community life amid the Italian population of Red Hook, on the southwestern coast of Brooklyn. Or as a fable of dreams deferred, elders sacrificing so their young may flourish. One can find Freudian overtones in its exploration of blue-collar paternal affection subverted by incestuous impulses stemming from suppressed envy. (Don't we, today, still see parents resentful of the privileges they shower upon their children?) And how could the plight of "submarines"—illegal immigrants—seeking economic opportunities in America *not* resonate with audiences in 2008?

It should come as no surprise that this GreyZelda Theatre Group production does not fit easily into preconceived categories. Where some directors would instruct their actors to delve the possibility of sexual ambiguities in Eddie Carbone's possessive attitude toward his maturing niece

and her effeminate (by 1956 standards, remember) suitor, Chris Riter never permits his subtext to wallow in sweaty speculation. Likewise, speeches that would, under other guidance, be delivered with operatic majesty are kept well within the vernacular idiom of their milieu.

Indeed, if this rendition of the familiar classroom classic has any prototype, it would be an early television play: the live-action scenes are almost wholly restricted to the Carbone family parlor, with only a suggestion of hall stairway and front stoop, all other exterior scenes being shown in video clips, courtesy of filmmaker Ed French. (David Lykins' attorney Alfieri never addresses us except before the camera.) Far from diminishing the story's impact, however, this multimedia approach further intensifies our acquaintance and, thus, our understanding of the social environment that turns fundamentally good men to violence and vengeance.

Opening on a frigid night only three days into the new year, the GreyZelda ensemble couldn't help but fall a bit short of its ambitious goals, emotions kindling too slowly before igniting. But Stage Left's intimate quarters permit the cinematic ambience of the prerecorded sequences to be carried over to the on-site performances—in particular, techniques associated with close-up shots that allow us to see thoughts cross characters' minds unspoken. Ironically, it is just this cozy brand of realism (as contrasted with the glib repartee of extensively-drilled players confident of their next words) that invokes empathy without our being aware of its influence, so that when the inevitable strikes—and we, literally, see it coming—we experience the catharsis due all unnecessary destruction in an imperfect world.

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SPOTLIGHT

Saint Joan



George Bernard Shaw's *St. Joan*, written in 1923, is regarded as one of the prolific playwright's finest works. His unique take on Joan of Arc offers both wit and genuine emotional impact rare for Shaw. He strips away the religiosity and miracles surrounding the Maid of Orleans to craft a political morality tale in which good people do wicked things in a world ready neither for saints nor for the anti-authoritarian purity of Joan. This *St. Joan* is the work of the world-famous Shaw Festival of Niagara-on-the-Lake, Canada, here for two weeks only as guests of Chicago Shakespeare Theater at Navy Pier. Through Jan. 20; 312-595-5600; \$54-\$70. Photo by David Cooper

Giordano Dance Benefit Jan. 26

Giordano Jazz Dance Chicago (GJDC) holds its sixth annual *dance with us* Benefit Sat., Jan. 26, 6 p.m.-12 a.m., at the University Club of Chicago, 76 W. Monroe. Guests have the opportunity to dance with the professional company members.

Guests will be greeted by GJDC men clad in tuxedos and GJDC women in exclusive one-of-a-kind gowns. During cocktails, guests will take part in the dance ticket frenzy to reserve their dance of choice with their favorite GJDC dancer. Dinner will take place at Cathedral Hall, overlooking Millennium Park. After dinner, guests can dance with their selected dancers.

Benefit tickets begin at \$300. Tables are \$3,000-\$10,000. For tickets or more info, call 847-866-6779 or visit www.giordanojazzdance.com.

'Broadway' Run to End Jan. 27

The popular musical comedy revue *Forbidden Broadway: Special Victims Unit* will complete its 11-month run at the Royal George Cabaret Theatre, 1641 N. Halsted, on Sun., Jan. 27.

Tickets are \$45-\$55. They can be purchased at the Royal George Theatre box office in person or by phone at 312-988-9000; or through Ticketmaster at 312-902-1500, Ticketmaster.com and all Ticketmaster ticket centers.

THEATER REVIEW

The Goodbye Girl

By: Neil Simon; music by Marvin Hamlisch; lyrics by David Zippel
 At: Drury Lane Oakbrook,
 100 Drury Lane, Oakbrook Terrace
 Phone: 630-530-0111; \$22-\$41.50
 Runs through: March 2

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

There's no hiding the fact that *The Goodbye Girl* is a second-tier musical. But the talented folks of Drury Lane Oakbrook still run with the show and succeed at offering up a strong and enjoyable production that elevates the so-so material.

The *Goodbye Girl*'s pedigree is certainly impeccable. Neil Simon adapted his own 1977 Academy Award-nominated screenplay for the stage, plus there's a score by Tony Award-winners Marvin Hamlisch (*A Chorus Line*) and David Zippel (*City of Angels*). Then consider that the show's original stars were Bernadette Peters and Martin Short in the roles originated onscreen by Marsha Mason and Richard Dreyfuss (who won an Academy Award for his efforts).

It all looks good on paper, but *The Goodbye Girl* was plagued by tryout trouble at Chicago's Shubert Theatre and opened on Broadway in 1993 to mixed-to-negative reviews.

Part of the problem was the domestic comedy of *The Goodbye Girl* didn't really cry out for musicalization. It's the tale of a Chicago actor named Elliott who sublets a New York apartment that still contains a jilted ex-dancer named Paula and her 12-year-old daughter, Lucy.

Zippel's lyrics tried too hard to be clever while Hamlisch's just-okay songs feel like interruptions to Simon's romantic variation on his comedy *The Odd Couple*. Some critics harped on the political correctness in the adaptation, but I'm all for it so we don't have to laugh at Elliott's playing Richard III as gay.

Despite the unfavorable odds, Drury Lane and director Gary Griffin (*The Color Purple*) make *The Goodbye Girl* an attractive proposition as a 1980s period piece showing that even a gritty New York can be an attractive backdrop for romance.

The casting is excellent, with great character work by Cherisse Scott as the sassy landlord Mrs. Crosby and Neil Friedman in the dual verido roles of the Hungarian avant-garde director and an obnoxious health guru. Theresa Moen nicely underplays tween daughter Lucy.

As Paula, Susan Moniz gets the desperation just right of having to start again as a dancer while coping with her latest break-up and a wacky new roommate.

Bernie Yvon makes for a handsome leading man as Elliott, which is odd because the script's few jabs at Martin Short's unconventional appearance are still here. Still, Moniz's Paula matches wonderfully with Yvon's comical Elliott (even on opening night, when he clearly sounded like he was battling a bad cold).

Brian Sidney Bembridge's rotating set is clever and period-perfect, while Ben Johnson's musical direction of the band (hovering over the 86th Street Subway stop) keeps things brassy and bright.

So even with its structural flaws, *The Goodbye Girl* is still worth saying hello to—especially in Drury Lane's solid production. High art it ain't, but *The Goodbye Girl* can still be a fun-time girl.

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One for the (Pocket)Books

BY ANDREW DAVIS

As part of its 2008 Traffic Series, Steppenwolf Theatre Company, 1650 N. Halsted, will present The PocketBook Monologues on Jan. 14 at 7 p.m. PocketBook—like its inspiration, Eve Ensler's The Vagina Monologues—offers several female speakers talking about women's issues; however, this time the perspectives are from women of color about issues affecting women of color. Windy City Times talked with PocketBooks author and star Sharon McGhee—and the WVON radio personality proved to be as spicy as her show's topics.

Windy City Times: Maybe it's because I'm gay, but I did not know that "pocketbook" is slang for...

Sharon McGhee: "Pocketbook" is the term that older African-American women used to use when they would refer to this hairy mound that separates their [thighs]. They would say, "Ooh, girl, you better keep your pocketbook closed," which is what we call abstinence. And they would also say, "Ooh, you need to keep your pocketbook clean," which is called safer sex. "And don't let folks ramble about in your pocketbook." So when I thought about this PocketBook journey about eight years ago, that was the term that stuck in my head: the pocketbook. It's so cute! [Laughs]

The PocketBook journey for me started about seven years ago at WVON. It was my job to re-



Sharon McGhee.

port the latest numbers from the CDC [Centers for Disease Control] and it was telling me something that frightened me about the new cases of HIV/AIDS for heterosexual women of color. I'm thinking, "What the fuck is going on here? We have to do something about this."

Then, one night I was getting ready to go out and I heard Mary Hart of Entertainment Tonight talk about The Vagina Monologues. I'm like, "Oh, are vaginas talking? Because, if they are talking, I wanna hear what they have to say." And I couldn't get any of my colleagues to go with me when it came to the Apollo Theatre on the North Side, and I thought it was wonderful—but it was missing my story. Everything Eve Ensler

did about women of color was angry; it was the Angry Black Pussy. I was like, "What? My vagina ain't mad. She's happy." The other thing dealt with a girl who was being violated. Now, we have to own that but that's not our complete story.

So I remember sitting there, and it was like an epiphany. It was like Sojourner Truth looking down and asking me, "Aren't you a woman, too?" I was looking down between my thighs and said, "You can't talk to other women about that." I refused. But I've realized that this project is so much bigger than me. I am the PocketBook lady. It is my mission and my goal as a hook to get women to talk about sexuality and responsibility, and we're getting so many responses from girls. Schools are now asking us to bring this in. Now, the PocketBook ladies have incorporated girls, and we affectionately call them our "coin purses." So, when we're at Steppenwolf, we're going to have our coin purse along with [performers] Ora Jones, La Donna Tittle, Deborah Crable and, of course, yours truly.

WCT: Are you targeting Black women specifically?

SM: We are targeting women of color. The PocketBook Monologues has the Black female perspective front and center, although we're getting a few Latinas who want to come in. The urgency faces women of color. I follow the news and, watching a [presidential] debate a while back, I remember Senator Clinton saying, "If HIV/AIDS were affecting white women like it affected..." Did you see the applause? Every woman stood up, including [How Stella Got Her Groove Back writer] Terry McMillan—who has her own "pocketbook" story to tell...

There are things since this journey started that tell me I'm on the right track. And another thing happened when [reporter/moderator] Gwen Ifill hosted the vice-presidential debate. Remember when she turned to [then-candidates Dick Cheney and John Edwards] and asked, "What are you going to do about this AIDS crisis affecting African-American women?" They looked at each other like, "I didn't know there was a crisis. Did you know there was a crisis?" I said, "Oh, Lord!"

We can't sugarcoat this anymore. What we've decided to do is talk about everything from menstruation to menopause, and everything in between. And when the ladies leave, we give them a couple of things: a cardboard purse with a condom and a lottery ticket—because I believe there are some things you can take a chance on and some things you cannot. We have to be more creative—most people don't want to talk about HIV/AIDS and most people don't even know their own status.

WCT: I imagine that men on the down low are another topic you all discuss.

SM: Terry McMillan [who divorced her husband, Jonathan Plummer, after finding out he is gay] is featured in our monologue. I interviewed a young lady who [said], "Terry McMillan needs to come to our club." I said, "Excuse me?" [She said,] "Did you think this was something new?" Every woman has a story to tell, but women of color want to be discreet and anonymous, but this lady told me her monologue and said, "Terry McMillan can come and join us. She's not the only one."

I have to tell you about this young lady I used to work with; she was really cool. A co-worker was getting married, and I wondered [what stripper] was going to be there—Big Chocolate? Thunderball? And I heard this young lady say, "I'd rather go to the fiancé's party." I [later] asked her about that and said, "C'mon, Sharon. You know I'm gay." I said, "No. The fact that you're married and have a kid kinda threw me off." So I told her what I was working on and she said, "I can help you with your project. Sunday, why don't you meet me and some of my crew..."

You have to hear the rest of the monologue on stage.

Tickets are \$35. See www.steppenwolf.org or call 312-335-1650.

Deep Inside Hollywood

BY ROMEO SAN VICENTE

Franco and Brolin Got Milk

The long road to a film version of the life and death of Harvey Milk has been given another vote of confidence with the addition of three new cast members. Joining Sean Penn, who plays the title character in Gus Van Sant's Milk, will be Josh Brolin (No Country for Old Men), James Franco (Spider-Man 3), and Emile Hirsh (Into the Wild). Although Matt Damon was once in talks for the role of Dan White, Milk's assassin, Brolin will play the role instead, while Hirsh is on board to portray Cleve Jones, the man who eventually founded the Names Project AIDS quilt. Meanwhile, Franco is in negotiations for the role of Milk's partner, Scott Smith. The competing Milk biopic from director Bryan Singer that was rumored to have interest from Steve Carell appears to have been shelved, but Van Sant's version is still on track to shoot this year for a scheduled 2009 release.

Another Family Outing for Cher

If this one sounds familiar, it's because it is. Chastity Bono and her mother, Cher, had, once upon a time, been on track to host a series on gay cable channel Logo dealing with the coming-out stories of a variety of public people. The series never materialized, but the concept remained one apparently close to the women's hearts. Now they're pitching a reality show to networks in which the two would actively assist everyday people who wish to come out to their families. The fledgling project has no official title yet (one rumored is—*quelle surprise*—Coming Out with Cher and Chas), but it seems like the real question is which experience will shock a family more: the coming-out of a family member they all suspected was gay anyway, or having Cher walk into the room when it happens.

The Evulution of an Indie Star

Romeo likes to keep tabs on the careers of mostly unsung queer character actors. Guillermo Diaz, for example, isn't a household name, but the gay actor has a face that attentive audiences recognize by now, having worked consistently for nearly 15 years in queer-related projects like Stonewall (and most famously, as Parker Posey's rowdy straight DJ pal in Party Girl), as well as on TV in series like Weeds and Chappelle's Show. Now it appears he'll be going zombie for the film Evulution. Also starring James Duval (of Gregg Araki's The Doom Generation), the sci-fi thriller concerns a microscopic alien life form that has the power to raise the dead. When the military gets hold of the alien and uses it to resurrect dead soldiers, it turns the once-fallen recruits against each other in battle. In other words, it's going to be a gore-fest, and Romeo can't wait.

Romeo San Vicente prefers the "Soul Train" to other forms of transportation. He can be reached care of this publication or at DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com. Read the entire column online at www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com.

Call for Lesbian Fantasy Submissions

SPUTNIK57 Books is asking for original stories containing lesbian main characters for its new lesbian fantasy anthology, Mystics, Magicians, and Mesmerists.

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Diva, Film Notes

BY RICHARD KNIGHT, JR.

Twenty five years after its U.S. premiere, **Diva**—the film that took America arthouses by storm in 1982 and ushered in an aptly named brand of new wave French cinema termed *cinéma du look*—is back with a new 35mm print and new subtitles. Director Jean Jacques-Beineix's pop-art pastiche is a glittering mix of artifice and genuine cool, with its intricate yet effortless thriller plot populated by some of the screen's most individual and eccentric characters; its combination of playful sexiness and frank desire; and its eye-popping electric visuals with one memorable set piece after another. It is all set to the amazing music score of Vladimir Cosma, which spans new wave to Satie to the aria from

La Wally sung by the stunning African-American beauty Wilhelmina Wiggins Fernandez at the outset of the movie who plays the title role.

As Beineix's film opens, Jules (Frédéric Andrieu), the cute 18-year-old postman who zips around Paris on his moped, sits entranced listening to his diva, opera star Cynthia Hawkins (Wiggins Fernandez) as she performs a recital. Hawkins has a peculiar tic: she refuses to make recordings, insisting on the purity of the interaction between performer and audience. But Jules sneaks in expensive tape equipment and illicitly records the concert for himself. It's this tape and another—one made by a prostitute naming names in a call girl/drug ring and hidden in Jules' mailbag before she's murdered—that will set the plot in motion. Rogue cops and murderous thugs want the cassette made by the prostitute, and a duo of ruthless Taiwanese businessmen want Jules' tape so they can release it to the public.

As the plot plays out, Jules meets his diva and a host of other eccentrics. Among them: Alba, the pre-pubescent Vietnamese lollipop with her plastic clothes and clunky platforms who roller-skates around the blue loft of her rich savior, the chain-smoking Gorodish—who works at gigantic jigsaw puzzles of ocean waves; dons a mask and snorkel to dice onions; and reeks of sophisticated cool. It is Gorodish and Alba who will help out their new friend Jules when he finally catches on that he's in over his head. True to the rest of Beineix's film, the resolution is thrilling, funny and charming.

Diva is a perfect mash-up of old and new (literally in its music, blending classical and new wave with perfect assurance), and it is visually delightful and inventive. I fell so hard for its

stylishness and sensuality that I took it in at least four more times after first seeing it and the soundtrack—especially the iconic Sentimental Walk—has been in rotation on the CD player off and on ever since.

Why do I love Diva so much? Why have I popped it into my DVD player time and again (and here's hoping this new print will lead to a better looking DVD)? Because it takes me back to the height of my own love affair with all things cool at the outset of the artsy '80s? Because, even though it doesn't contain a single gay character, one can feel them right there just out of frame? Yes to both, but mostly it's because it's beautiful to look at and is entertaining as hell. Hardly an artifact, Diva remains fixed in a perfect universe of cool—a moment of utter hipness and sophistication that has never lost its flavor. Opens Friday and plays exclusively at the Music Box Theatre. www.musicboxtheatre.com

Film Notes:

The Music Box is also hosting a two-night mid-night screening (Jan. 11-12) of the 1987 horror film *Hellraiser*. Gay horror writer, artist and film director Clive Barker will introduce the movie on Jan. 12 at midnight. Barker (see WCT interview this issue), who's in town for an exhibit of his paintings at the Schopf Gallery, will also sign copies of his new book, *Mister B. Gone*. *Hellraiser*, based on Barker's novel *The Hellbound Heart*, is the film that first brought his iconic characters—the diabolical, crafty Pinhead and his demonic minions—mainstream attention. The film focuses on Frank (Sean Chapman), a hunky thrill seeker who meets his match when he gets a hold of the deadly puzzle box that releases Pinhead

and his followers, ready to play the S&M torture "games" they've devised. Meanwhile, Julia (Clare Higgins), Frank's sister-in-law who had been carrying on with the stud before the box got him, wants more love action—so badly she's willing to murder a series of unsuspecting afternoon pick-ups to reconstitute Frank's body. Higgins (who can be seen in a supporting part in *The Golden Compass*) is an especially thrilling female villain in this witty but gory movie and would be even more memorable in the film's first sequel.

There's more horror, albeit of a more psychological variety, when Turner Classic Movies presents Val Lewton: *The Man in the Shadows*, an excellent new documentary about producer Val Lewton presented and narrated by Martin Scorsese. Lewton made a series of unforgettable creepy films for RKO in the early 1940s that depended on imagination, atmospheric lightning, sets and expert acting to frighten audiences. The documentary, which will debut Jan. 14, gives Lewton—who died at 46 and obsessed over every detail of his intricate, tightly edited and paced movies—the credit for the lasting legacy of his classics, including *Cat People*, *I Walked with a Zombie* and *The Seventh Victim*. Several of his films—which will be shown on TCM in conjunction with the documentary—feature "coded" lesbian characters.

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

CLIVE from page 12

we need to be more sympathetic. To be gay in the heart of America is no easier than it ever was. The war [for gay rights] isn't over. You look at the caucuses, and you [see] what Romney calls "normal" marriage, which I guess means that mine is abnormal. Pardon my language, but fuck him.

WCT: Let's move on to your latest book, *Mister B. Gone*. Usually, a writer puts a bit of himself or herself in his or her book. What does this book say about you?

CB: I put everything about me in this book. I won some battles [regarding the book], but lost some others. The American publishers did a marvelous job of presenting the book as it genuinely aged, with the water-stained pages. I wanted to take my name off the front, but of course they would never go for it.

The idea is that this book precedes the Gutenberg Bible, for reasons the narrative [makes clear]. *Mister B. Gone* is a character called Jakabok Botch, who opens by saying, "Burn this book." He says, "I am a devil in charge of this book and you can choose to burn it; or you can choose to read it, and live with the consequences." I thought it was a neat, fun thing to do.

WCT: And, of course, that will draw the reader in.

CB: Well, yes. That scene offered me a platform to talk about story—about why we're attracted to story and why it holds us the way it does. It also let me talk about good and bad, and why we're attracted to the bad. It also allowed me to write in the first person, which I do very [rarely]. I've written one short story and one novel, *Galilee*, in the first person because you need the voice in your head; I wouldn't know how to fake it. It just so happens that Jakabok Botch was clear in my head; I could talk to you in Botch all night and I would know his point of view all the time.

WCT: How do you feel your works have evolved over the years?

CB: I don't know that they have, Andrew. I think they may simply have changed. Very early in my career, I worked with Michael Christopher Figg, who is the producer of *Hellraiser*. Chris was



Top: The Clive Barker painting "Liar." Bottom: Poster from the original *Hellraiser* film

a devastatingly good-looking Oxford man who had worked with David Lean, the man behind *Nostromo*, his last unfiled masterpiece. [Editor's note: *Lean was planning an epic production of Joseph Conrad's Nostromo when he died from cancer. It was even made into a BBC miniseries.*] Chris knew me in my early 30s, when he knew I'd be juggling careers throughout my life.

Chris had a brief but pertinent story for me. Lean was with Noel Coward; he made a war movie, [In Which We Serve], that I think was partly directed by Lean. Lean reportedly said to Coward, "Master"—and everyone called Coward [that]—"how are you able to do these many things?" [Coward] said, "I find that people are constantly refreshed by doing something different, so my advice is to always pop out of another hole." I've taken that to heart, always popping out of another hole. I don't really add to my polish so much as move laterally to the [point] where I feel I can grow. ... It's fun for me to make things

fresh for myself and to never go back over old ground.

Clive Barker will be at Packer Schopf Gallery, 942 W. Lake, on Fri., Jan. 11, (5-9 p.m. for his art exhibition) and Sun., Jan. 13, (1-3

p.m. for sign *Mister B. Gone*); and will be at the Music Box Theatre, 3733 N. Southport, on Sat., Jan. 12 (at midnight) to introduce *Hellraiser*. See www.packergallery.com and www.musicboxtheatre.com for more.



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Todd Herzog: 22, Gay—and a Millionaire

BY ROSS FORMAN

He's planning to buy a small, black, fast sports-car with a great sound system. And he's also going to go on some vacations, likely to Europe and Egypt.

Todd Herzog certainly now has the money to do just about anything he wants.

An openly gay Mormon from Utah, the 22-year-old Herzog on Dec. 16 won the 15th edition of Survivor and the \$1 million top prize, becoming the youngest winner in the show's history. He edged Courtney Yates, a 26-year-old waitress from New York; and Amanda Kimmel, a 23-year-old hiking guide and former beauty queen from Los Angeles.

"This is unreal, unbelievable to me. I'm so excited I can't even tell you," Herzog said 48 hours after joining the exclusive millionaire's club. "It really has not hit me yet, [mostly because] I've been too busy, sitting in hotel rooms talking [to media] on the phone.

"I can't wait to get outside and feel like ... a millionaire."

Herzog attended Pleasant Grove High School in Utah, and then two years at Utah Valley State College. He was a flight attendant for SkyWest Airlines, but has since quit that job. He also previously worked as a manager at a movie theater and at a major theme park. Herzog has previously lived in Seattle, Orlando and Denver.

"I think I was able to win it because I really have a passion for the game," he said. "I think I was able to show that, I went out there with one goal and that was to make it until the end. And I found the right people to help me get there. I made some great choices in my alliances and just slid my way to the top."

The diminutive Herzog certainly was not the strongest participant in China and probably not the smartest either. But he certainly was, for all 39 days, the most strategic.

Herzog said he was most nervous the time at tribal council when James could have pulled the immunity idol, but didn't. "Other than that, I felt pretty confident throughout the game," he said.

The show was filmed last summer and he returned home in early August, not knowing the



Above: Todd Herzog. Below: With fellow contestants Courtney Yates (right) and Amanda Kimmel after finding out he won. Photos courtesy of CBS

finale results for more than four months, which, he said, "felt like 14 years; I was dying [to know]."

Herzog said he's uncertain of his immediate future, be it returning to school or the airline, or just taking some time off. He has no desire to work in the Hollywood industry.

"I'm a people person. I love adventure; I love to travel; I love to build things and create things," said Herzog, whose hobbies include traveling, shopping and drinking coffee. He also enjoys surfing, biking and boating.

Herzog is the second openly gay winner on Survivor. Richard Hatch was the show's first.

"I want people to realize that it's OK to be who you are and I really hope I can help kids, especially young ones who are struggling with [their sexuality.] I want them to know that, yes, they are normal people, with a reason and that people will love them no matter what, and that you can do whatever you put your mind to," Herzog said. "This was my goal, my dream."

Herzog was raised Mormon, in a very strict, conservative town. Coming out, he said, "was extremely hard; I was scared."

And coming out, well, didn't exactly happen as he wanted.

At 19, Herzog had a best friend for eight years. Herzog was committed to never act on his feelings but, instead, the friend acted and the two kissed.

The friend then wrote Herzog a letter, stating his love for him. Herzog accidentally left the letter in his kitchen and his mom found the letter.

"I lost some friends [when I came out] and my mom went through a really hard stage, but I found out really quick who loved me for who I am and who didn't," he said.

Herzog said he is now dating "a nice kid from Utah who's a good guy and just makes me smile." The two have been dating for "quite a while," he added.

"If I can make a difference in anybody's life, I want to do it. In anyone's life," he said.

Herzog has attended Pride parades in the past and, yes, he "absolutely" would be willing to be a parade's grand marshal.

He said being out on the show was not something he worried about before the show started, or during taping. "I just figured that, if anyone had a problem with [my sexuality], I would vote them off. A lot of America does not tolerate people who are prejudice, including prejudice to gay people," he said. "I'm proud of who I am."

Herzog said he definitely would participate in another round of Survivor, but would not comment whether or not he will participate this February in the next round of Survivor, set to begin airing in February. It will pit Survivor fans against former Survivor contestants, including one from Survivor: China.

Getting To Know: Todd Herzog

Birthday: Jan. 29, 1985

It's a fact: Is allergic to cats, rabbits and shrimp.

Family: Has one brother (Tyler) and three sisters (Brandy, Kimmi and Tori).

Best friend on Survivor: Courtney.

Best part of Survivor: China: "I loved the fact that I got to see a beautiful culture, an amazing country and experience it with people who I will never forget."

Worst part of Survivor: China: The boredom. "You're outside 24/7 in the mud with absolutely nothing to do except talk to people. So, yeah, there were times when I lost my mind."

Herzog's perfect hair: "I guess I was lucky [during the show.] My hair was so dirty, with so much nasty crap in it ... it just stayed up and looked like it does every day. That was funny." (Herzog admitted he once tried to look at his hair in the reflection of the water, but it did not work, he said.)

On Jeff Probst: "Awesome."

On Mark Burnett: "Amazing, a total hero."

On China: "A crazy country with a great culture."

On Jean-Robert: "A tool."

On James: "A machine."

On Courtney: "Baby doll."

On himself: "Crazy kid with a big sense of adventure."



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'Wire' Tapping

BY LAWRENCE FERBER

With its fifth season, HBO's *The Wire* reaches the end of its line. The gritty cop/crime/politics series brought two groundbreaking gay characters to the TV landscape—cop Shakima "Kima" Greggs (slam poet-turned-actress Sonja Sohn) and noble thief Omar Little (Michael K. Williams)—and both return for *The Wire*'s final, and quite absorbing, 10-episode bow.

Set in Baltimore, *The Wire* is an ensemble drama that follows a handful of interweaving characters and storylines. Premiering Sun., Jan. 6, season five began as new Mayor Tommy Carcetti (Aidan Gillen, of the UK's *Queer as Folk*) is struggling with a tight budget that restricts him from keeping his promise to lower crime. The police force is feeling the strangle—overtime hasn't been paid in weeks, benefits are taken away and important investigations are being axed. The city's drug dealers have their own politics and turf to negotiate, with ruthless young Marlo (Jamie Hector) determined to get what he wants by whatever means necessary—which typically entails murder. Cutbacks and compromises rage at even the local newspaper, *The Baltimore Sun*, forcing city editor, Gus (Clark Johnson), to butt heads with both reporters and corporate heads alike.

Season four was amongst the series' best, with particularly violent, turbulent storylines involving the mayoral race, crooked politics, a drug dealer's reign and a clique of West Baltimore teenagers. Opening with less gory glory, the first episodes of Season Five are nonetheless just as engrossing and rife with drama, as Greggs and her partners' investigation—that involves some 20+ dead bodies found in a house which they suspect is Marlo's doing—is closed. Without revealing too much here, Greggs' partners go to some shocking lengths to make sure all their efforts and progress are not lost. The all new



Michael K. Williams in *The Wire*.

characters and storyline set at *The Baltimore Sun* is a welcome addition, lending a little media behind-the-scenes dirt that reveals just how much news can be manipulated and seasoned—if not entirely cooked up from scratch - so it goes down tastier.

All four previous seasons are available on DVD (season four was released Dec. 4), and three two-minute online "prequels"—one is devoted to a young Omar—can be watched online at Amazon.com.

Both Omar and Kima have been integral to the series' success and critical applause (mainstream and otherwise), and certainly rank amongst the most fresh, non-stereotypical LGBT characters ever depicted in U.S. television, cable or otherwise. GLAAD has nominated the show twice in its "Outstanding Drama Series" category, and both Sohn and Williams have received Image Award nominations for their acting. And national and local newspapers from USA Today to TIME to the Baltimore City Paper have attempted to

draw more viewers to *The Wire* by including it on best show lists.

Sohn's Kima has seen some powerful twists, turns and spotlight moments during the series' run: in season two, during an undercover drug buy, she was shot, much to the horror of girlfriend Cheryl (Melanie Nicholls-King). Following this close call, Kima took a desk job and the pair later decided to have a baby. But Kima's boredom with her new position—and passion for and devotion to her undercover work, and the risks it entails—ended the relationship. Now she and partners James McNulty (Dominic West) have their eyes and wiretaps, focused squarely on Marlo, despite budget cuts and their superiors' commands.

Omar has seen his share of rocky developments and big radar blip highlights as well. Season one saw his boyfriend, Brandon (Michael Kevin Darnall), tortured and murdered by rivals (who met with an ugly comeuppance). Season two featured a much-ballyhooed sex scene between Omar and his new boyfriend, Dante (Ernest Waddell), and by season four Omar was robbing with a little help from his newest lover, Renaldo (Ramon Rodriguez), and landed in jail for a stint. Based upon the first couple of episodes, it's uncertain what will come of him in season five, and whether a big score from last season will come back to haunt him ... or worse.

Thanks to its complex, real-world inclusion of LGBT characters into the fabric of law and the streets alike, it will be a sad day in March when *The Wire* unspools the last of its episodes. And judging from the first episodes, this wire is live with as much electricity as ever.

DVD REVIEW

Glue

BY STEVE WARREN

We can dress it up in high-falutin' criticspeak, but the real reason to see *Glue* is to spend nearly two hours ogling Nahuel Pérez Biscayart, a pretty boy who goes shirtless through much of a hot Patagonian summer. He plays Lucas, a typically confused 16-year-old whose goal in life is "to get laid this summer." He thinks it will involve a girl but he's not particular.

Lucas hangs with his best friend, macho Nacho (Nahuel Viale), and their galpal Andrea (Inés Efron). She's skeptical of gender roles and wants to be more like a man. They plan a weekend at the apartment of Lucas' estranged dad but Andrea drops out, leaving the boys alone. They start sniffing glue and you know what that leads to: getting sticky. Later, the three have a totally bisexual makeout session, leaving the happy ending to your imagination.

Producer-director Alexis Dos Santos has a writing credit too, but he only outlined the plot and let the actors improvise. Some filming is done in grainy, home-movie style to enhance the sense of voyeurism.

Lucas also spends time with his dysfunctional family, some of it even quality time, as when Dad takes him and his sister for a ride in a small plane. Mostly it's just the parents arguing and making up again. Their mother is introduced attacking a woman she accuses of fucking her husband, and a catfight ensues. It's not as sexy as the wrestling and roughhousing between Lucas and Nacho.

If you thought *Seinfeld* was about nothing, *Glue* is about less than nothing; but it's pleasant to watch, especially if you like looking at a tousle-haired, green-eyed, pouty-lipped boy who can pass for 16.



Ronnie Kroell.

Ronnie Kroell: Model Behavior

BY JERRY NUNN

"Watch what happens" when Bravo introduces 24 new aspiring models on a new reality show. Make Me a Supermodel is hosted by Niki Taylor and Tyson Beckford, with the winner taking home a cool \$100,000.

Ronnie Kroell, who is a full-time student at the University of Illinois at Chicago along with being a part-time model and actor, plans to take home the top prize.

Windy City Times: So, what do you think that it takes to be a supermodel and why are you the man for the job?

Ronnie Kroell: Anyone can be a 'model', but to be a "supermodel" is truly an honor. It takes a strong sense of self, a desire to be successful and the courage to make it happen. When you hold a title such as "supermodel," it means something. It means that your hard work, time and energy are being not only recognized, but looked up to.

I view being a supermodel as an opportunity

not only for personal success, but a greater opportunity to share that success with others and to make a genuine difference in the community. It is important to not only be a supermodel on the catwalk, but to be a super role model. I have wanted this title for over 10 years now and believe I have what it takes, but I will let America be the judge of that. I am honored to have gotten this far in the competition and look forward to this exciting adventure!!

WCT: How did you get involved in the show?

RK: Well, I have to send a shout out to the people at Craigslist.org. I oftentimes find modeling and acting work on Craigslist, but one day several months ago now I saw the audition notice for MMASM. I decided to go check it out and my good friend German Rubio encouraged me to just be myself and have fun with the audition; well, I had a great time, met some amazing folks, and the rest is left unwritten...

WCT: Do you plan on staying in Chicago?

RK: I have learned many lessons in my short 24 years of life and one of the biggest lessons has been not to carve plans into stone. There was a time when I thought that I would never leave Chicago, but I can't say that that holds true today. Chicago will always be home to me because it is where I was born and my family and friends are here, but if work called me away I would probably answer. One thing is for sure though: I will be on the plane back to Chi-town to look after 4+1 Productions on a regular basis as I have poured my heart out into this organization as have many others.

WCT: How would winning change your life?

RK: To me, winning this show would not only be a personal victory, but one that I would share with all those who have supported my dreams from the very beginning.

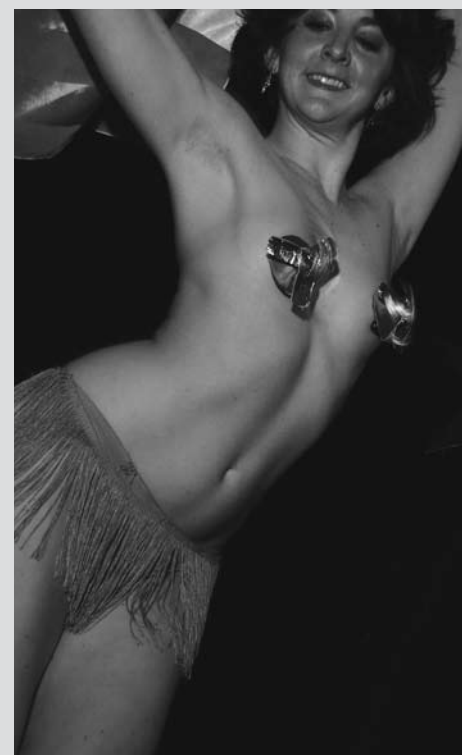
Read much more about Ronnie—and find out if he's single—at www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com.

For more info, go to www.BravoTV.com.



'Word' Up

The Human Rights Campaign and Showtime presented the fifth-season premiere of The L Word at The Vic Theatre, 3145 N. Sheffield, on Sun., Jan. 6. All party guests received an advance copy of The L Word's second episode of the fifth season—and there were drawings for various prizes, including posters and other giveaways. Photos by Kat Fitzgerald; see more at www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com and www.MysticImagesPhotography.com



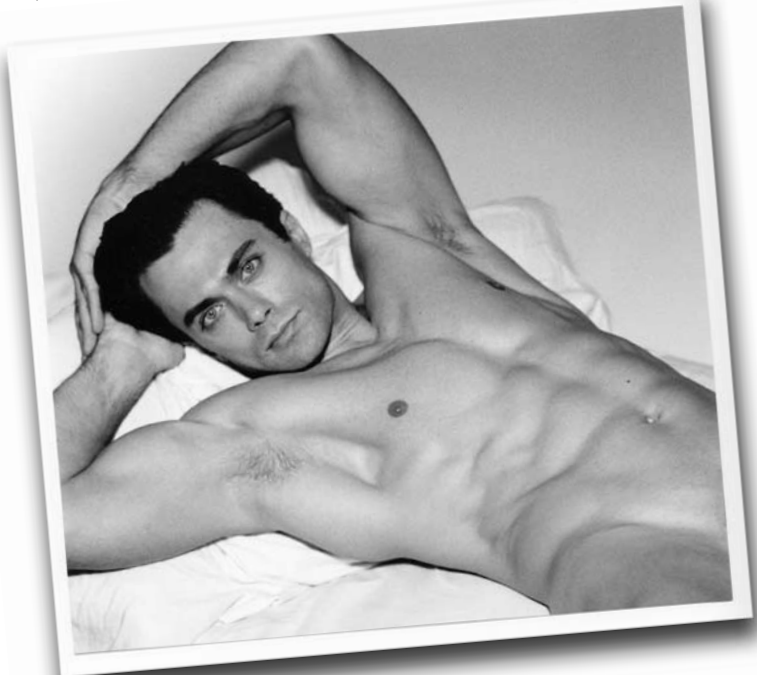
Girlie-Q: Skin Game

Patrons were definitely entertained Sat., Jan. 5 at Empty Bottle, 1035 N. Western, as the Girlie-Q burlesque show took place. Among the performers at the event, which was hosted by Tamale, were Cherish the Burlesque Goddess, Miss Bea Haven and Red Hot Annie. The Stewed Tomatoes and Krystee Wylder provided live music, and there was a post-show dance party. Photos by Kat Fitzgerald; see more at www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com and www.MysticImagesPhotography.com

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WHAT TO DO?

Wednesday, Jan. 9

About Face Theatre Chicago premiere of *The Little Dog Laughed*, about the fast-paced world of celebrity. Runs through Feb 17. Hoover/Leppen Theatre at Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted St., 866-811-4111, www.aboutface theatre.com

Center on Halsted Know the Tax Basics. Presented by Citibank and part of the Women and Money Series. 6-8 p.m., \$5 donation, 3656 N. Halsted, www.centeronhalsted.org

Mark Pera for Congress LGBT fundraiser. 5:30-7:30 p.m., \$50 individual ticket, Mix, 2843 N. Clark St., RSVP at 708-579-2834 or online at actblue.com/page/themix

Women and Children First Cris Mazza, Water Baby; Achy Obejas, This is What Happened in Our Other Life; Richard Fox, Swagger and Remorse. 7 p.m., 5233 N. Clark St., 773-769-9299, www.womenandchildrenfirst.com

Thursday, Jan. 10

Club Krave Latin Night Thursdays. 9 p.m.-2 a.m., no cover, 13126 S. Western Ave., Blue Island

New Town Writers Workshop. Second and fourth Thursdays. 7:30 p.m., Gerber/Hart Library, 1127 W. Granville Ave., 773-381-8030, www.newtown-writers.org

Friday, Jan. 11

Hydrate TPAN party, 8-11 p.m., followed by DJ Greg Drescher, 3458 N. Halsted St., www.hydratechicago.com

Man's Country Alex, Paris, Cezar and Chris, 5017 N. Clark St.

Packer Schopf Gallery Opening reception of Clive Barker: Apocalypses: Paintings and Works on Paper. Shows through Feb. 16. 5-9 p.m., 942 W. Lake St., www.packergallery.com

Spin \$200 shower contest with Frida Lay, 800 W. Belmont Ave., 773-327-7711, spin-nightclub.com

Saturday, Jan. 12

Affinity Community Services 8th Annual Burning Bowl. "Embracing Transformation as Opportunity." Featuring Drum Divas, Aquamoon and guest speaker Rev. Phyllis Pennese of Pillar of Love Fellowship Church. Please bring a dessert to share. 2 p.m., 5650 S. Woodlawn, Garden Level, www.affinity95.org

Chicago Women's Health Center and Center on Halsted's LGBTQ New Parent Peer Support Group for new parents with children up to age 5. 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m., donation requested, 3656 N. Halsted St., www.centeronhalsted.org

Chi-Town Squares Free introductory square dance. No partner or experience necessary. 1-3 p.m., Ebenezer Lutheran Church, 1650 W. Foster Ave., 773-561-5691 or www.iagsdc.org/chitownsquares

Eagle Buzz Kutt Crazy free haircuts by Alan, 5015 N. Clark St.

Hydrate DJ Tracy Young, 3458 N. Halsted St., www.hydratechicago.com

Man's Country Kurtis, Nate, Christian and Georgio, 5017 N. Clark St.

Music Box Theatre Clive Barker will introduce his film, *Hellraiser*. Midnight, 3373 N. Southport Ave., www.musicboxtheatre.com

Spin Fish Tank... Got Girls?, to benefit Chicago Women's Health Center, \$5 cover, 10 p.m., 800 W. Belmont Ave., 773-327-7711, spin-nightclub.com

Windy City Gay Naturists Potluck and movie. Bring dish to share. RSVP to wcn60660@aol.com or 312-494-2654

Sunday, Jan. 13

achurch4me Service. 11 a.m., Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted, info@achurch4me.org

Archdiocesan Gay and Lesbian Outreach Chicago Sunday Mass. 7 p.m., 700 W. Belmont, ww.aglochicago.org, aglochicago@sbcglobal.net, 773-525-3872

Chicago Prime Timers Open social. 6 p.m., Ann Sather's Restaurant, 909 W. Belmont, \$20 for members, \$25 for non-members, www.primetimersww.org/chicago

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

Packer Schopf Gallery Book signing of Clive Barker's new book, *Mister B. Gone*. 1-3 p.m., 942 W. Lake St., www.packergallery.com

Monday, Jan. 14

Center on Halsted Housing Rehabilitation/Real Estate as an Investment. 6-8 p.m., \$5 donation, 3656 N. Halsted St., www.centeronhalsted.org

Rainbow Hospice Monthly LGBTQ Grief Group. 7-8:30 p.m., \$5, Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted St.

Steppenwolf The Pocketbook Monologues, a collection of stories from women of color performed in the style of Eve Ensler's *The Vagina Monologues*. 7 p.m., \$35, Steppenwolf's Downstairs Theatre, 1650 N. Halsted, 312-335-1650, www.steppenwolf.org

WTTW Special cocktail reception highlighting excerpts from its new documentary project, *Out & Proud* in Chicago. 5:30 p.m., Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted St., www.wttw.com/outandproud

Tuesday, Jan. 15

Center on Halsted Immigrant Support Group/Grupo de Apoyo para Inmigrantes. Tuesdays through Jan. 29 6:30-8 p.m., free, pre-registration required, call 773-472-6469, ext. 158

Episcopal Church of the Advent Commemorating the life and ministry of Martin Luther King, Jr. 7 p.m., 2900 W. Logan Blvd.

PFLAG/Palatine Monthly meeting. 7-9 p.m., Countryside Unitarian Universalist Church, 1025 N. Smith, Palatine, 847-358-3994, www.pflag-palatine.org

Wednesday, Jan. 16

Chicago Commission on Human Relations' Advisory Council on LGBT Issues Meeting. 6:30 p.m., City Hall, Room 201A, 121 N. LaSalle St.

Howard Brown Legal presentations for LGBT community: *Gay and Gray: Buying Your First Home*. 6:30 p.m., 4025 N. Sheridan Rd., RSVP at rsvp@howardbrown.org or call Hope at 773-388-8906, www.howardbrown.org

POW-WOW Sixth Annual Kings of Poetry: In Honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Features Talaam Acey, Triple Black, avery r young and Kevin Coval. 6-9 p.m., \$10, Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted St.

Windy City Gay Naturists Annual Underwear Party. 7:30 p.m., Touche, 6412 N. Clark St., \$20, bring towel, gym bag and ID, RSVP to wcn60660@aol.com or 312-494-2654

Windy City Performing Arts "Making Music from the Ground Up!" musician-ship classes. Also Jan. 23 and 30. 6:30-7:15 p.m., Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted, free and open to public, call 773-404-9242 for more info

Thursday, Jan. 17

Affinity Drumming Circle. Every third Thursday. 7-9 p.m., 5650 South Woodlawn Avenue, Garden Level, www.affinity95.org

AIDS Foundation of Chicago Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo exclusive one-night engagement. All proceeds benefit AFC. 7:30 p.m., \$40-\$75, Harris Theater, call 312-334-0935 for more info, www.aidschicago.org

Season of Concern People's Theater of Chicago's production of *Flowers Out of Season* (Edward Crosby), a special benefit performance for SOC. \$25, EP Theater, 1820 S. Halsted St., www.peoples theaterchicago.org or 773-371-1868

Sat., Jan. 12

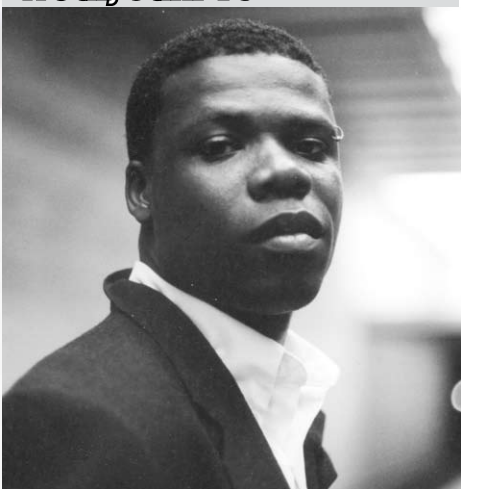


DRUM BELLES

Drum Divas will entertain at Affinity Community Services' 8th Annual Burning Bowl at 5650 S. Woodlawn.

Photo by Amy Wooten

Wed., Jan. 16



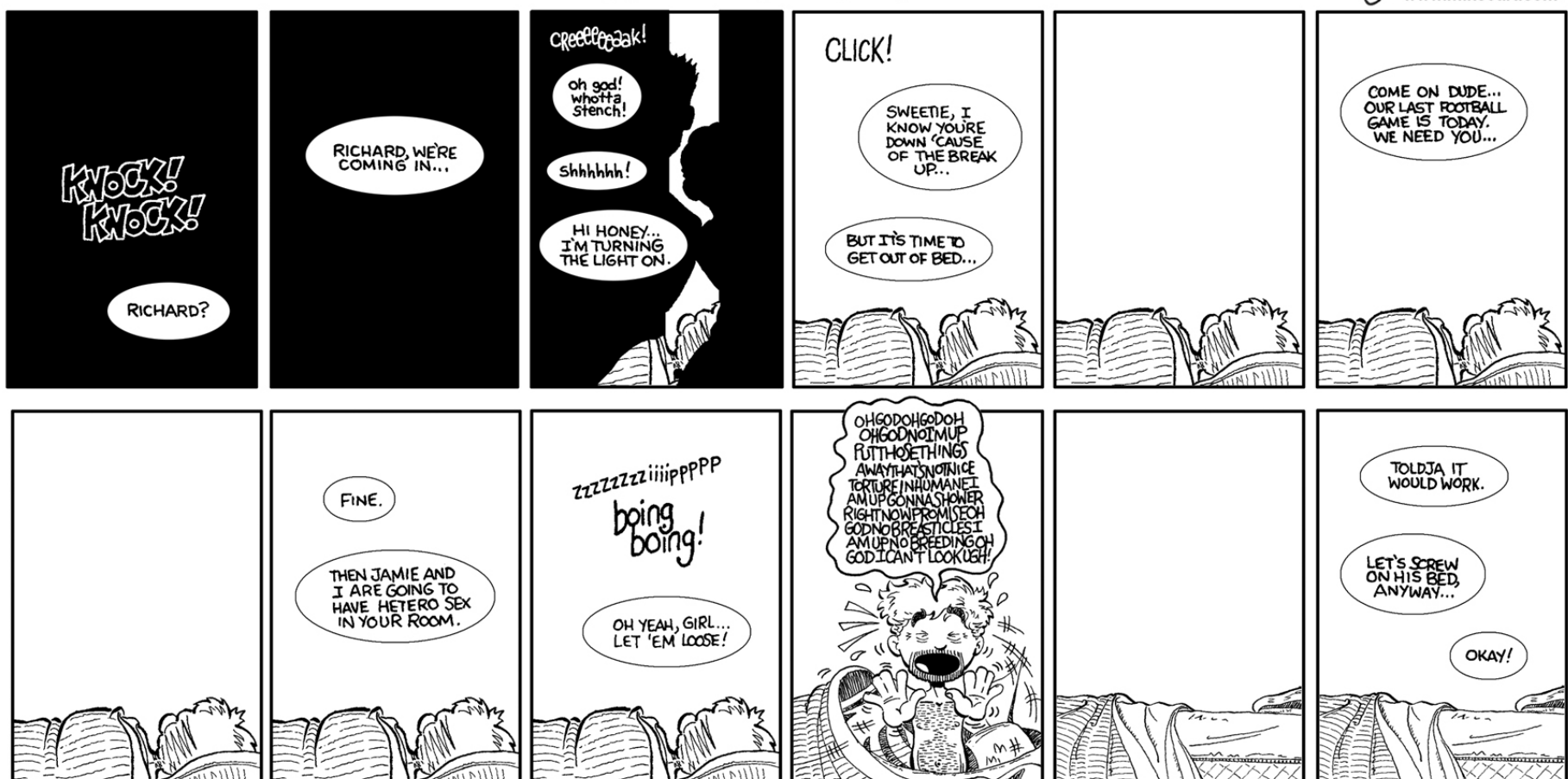
YOUNG, GIFTED & BLACK

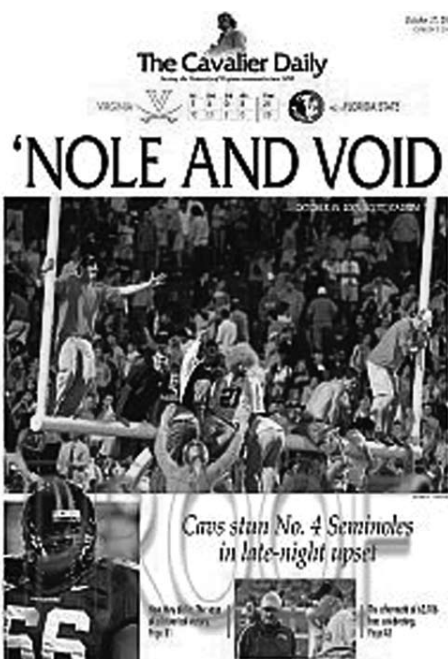
The Sixth Annual Kings of Poetry, featuring performers such as avery r. young, will take place at Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted.

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U.Va.'s student paper, The Cavalier Daily, ran an anti-gay op-ed piece.

The OutField

BY DAN WOOG

U.Va.: Way Not Gay!

"We come from old Virginia
Where all is bright and gay.
Let's all join hands and give a yell
For dear old UVA!"

As a college fight song, that's not exactly "Hail to the Victors." It's even less impressive because it's sung to the tune of "Auld Lang Syne." But "The Good Ol' Song" is a tradition at University of Virginia football games. And therein lies a tale.

For years and years—OK, 15 or 20—Cavalier fans have gleefully shouted "Not gay!" after the second line of the song. Beset by a deep-rooted fear that singing the word "gay" means they are actually homosexual, U.Va. students and alumni have seized the opportunity to assure fellow fans and television audiences that they are as straight as the university's founder, the slave-screwing advocate of free speech, Thomas Jefferson.

Not everyone in Charlottesville is down with the cheer, of course. This fall, a lead editorial in the student newspaper, The Daily Cavalier, began: "A missed field goal wasn't the only nauseating thing at last Saturday's football game. Every time the crowd erupted with another jovial rendition of the Good Ol' Song, a few fans invariably shouted 'Not gay!' to announce their bigotry with pride and purpose. This gross display of backward, vulgar immaturity should stop."

The editorial explained that the chant reinforced a perception of the University of Virginia as an "unfriendly place for certain minorities." Besides being offensive, it was "not exactly a glowing advertisement for the supposed 'Public Ivy.'"

Three weeks later, at a home game against Wake Forest University, a group of U.Va. students distributed stickers inscribed "Where all is bright and gay." An accompanying letter explained that the "Not gay!" cheer "lends community support to harassment, violence, and bigotry," and may exacerbate feelings of discomfort in an already marginalized group.

Wyatt Fore, co-chair of the Minority Rights Coalition, noticed a "remarkable drop" in the number of "Not gay!" participants at the Wake Forest game. "If you see people wearing these stickers, you realize, well, there are lots of people around me who don't say it," he noted. "It makes you think and have that conversation with yourself—'Why do I say it?'"

But every action has an equal and opposite reaction, and a dissenting view soon appeared in The Cavalier Daily. First-year student Alex Cortes' op-ed piece, titled "Not gay and proud of it," stated: "Some call it a drunken joke while

others refer to its adherents as homophobes. Unfortunately, in doing so, this University has completely disregarded the religiously and politically-minded like myself who say the chant out of disgust for the gay lifestyle and support for our natural heterosexuality given to us by God."

Weaving Jesus, the apostle Paul and Iranian president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad into his argument, Cortes concluded: "During the second half of the football season I have felt uncomfortable saying the 'not gay' chant, not because of the content, but because of the stares and criticisms I receive after doing so. Despite this discomfort, I will continue to press on as one of the last beacons of strength and morality. That may sound too pompous for the rather insignificant matter at hand, but courage on any level is hard to find these days. Political correctness, a weakening morality and lack of courage are suffocating our once-great nation. You have an opportunity to stop the suffocation. Promote the 'not gay' chant."

Cortes' stand as a self-proclaimed beacon of strength and morality did not go over particularly well with many folks. When InsideHigherEd.com posted a story about the controversy, reactions filled the "Comments" page.

One reader wrote: "I wonder if Mr. Alex Cortes would have a problem if the verse ended with '... where all is bright and brown.' How would he feel if the majority were shouting 'I'M NOT BROWN!' If he heard that shouted in his ear, then maybe he would understand how gay people feel about his unprovoked animosity. If he has a problem with gays, that's fine. But if no one is in his face about his personal qualities not shared by the majority of Americans, then he should just show a little more wisdom and keep his piehole shut!"

Personally, I'm not sure where I stand. I am as offended as anyone by the common linkage of "gay" with "stupid." At the same time, I firmly believe in the First Amendment, and will defend to the death the right of drunken college students and alumni to look like idiots by opening their pieholes at football games.

Meanwhile, lost in all the hubbub is the very next line of "The Good Ol' Song," which no one complains about: "Let's all join hands and give a yell for dear old UVA."

"Let's all join hands"?! Is there anything gayer than that?!

Dan Woog is a journalist, educator, soccer coach, gay activist, and author of the "Jocks" series of books on gay male athletes. Visit his website at www.danwoog.com. He can be reached care of this publication or at OutField@qsyndicate.com.



Greg Richardson. Photo provided by Richardson.

Tampa Auctioneer Named Hottest Jock

BY ROSS FORMAN

Greg Richardson received a promotional email from Gay.com last September, asking if he'd be interested in participating in a contest seeking the Hottest Jock. So he sent in a photo and a paragraph about himself.

"I didn't think anything of the contest after that," he said.

Until about a month later, that is, when he received an email from a friend in San Francisco, who had seen Richardson's picture on the contest.

And throughout the fall, Richardson kept advancing in the website's search. He was named among five finalists in early-December.

Richardson, an auctioneer from Tampa, Fla., was named the Hottest Jock on Dec. 20, though he has yet to learn his prize.

"I never thought I'd win, not in a million years. I never thought I'd make it through the first round, let alone win it," he said.

Richardson, who swam in high school and was a member of the University of Kentucky's weightlifting team, was among about 1,000 worldwide contestants.

"It's definitely a huge ego trip which, according to my boyfriend, is something I don't need," he said, laughing. "When I look in the mirror, I don't necessarily see what other people see. I don't look in the mirror and say, 'Oh yeah, I'd sleep with that guy.'"

The athletic Richardson also enjoys horseback riding, boating, water skiing and scuba diving. But talking fast is his forte, and he's usually wearing a cowboy hat while working.

His auctions range from estates to real estate, livestock to cars. "It's kind of morbid, but, my busiest time is when someone dies and I have to do an estate auction," he said.

GETTING TO KNOW ... Greg Richardson

Age: 33

Height: 5' 8"

Weight: 160

Hometown: Tampa, Fla.

Originally from: Providence, R.I.

High School: New Smyrna Beach (Fla.), Class of 1992

College: University of Kentucky; did not graduate. Was on the weightlifting team for a year.

Status: Dating Michael Triola

Job: Auctioneer

Favorite sport: Football (watching) and golf (playing)

Favorite team: Tampa Bay Buccaneers

Favorite athlete: Mike Alstott

Enjoys: bicycling, running, racquetball.

Gay Games: Has never participated, "and I kind of regret that I haven't because it sounds like it a lot of fun."

2010 Gay Games in Cologne, Germany: "I'd be open to participating."

Hamill in Cancer Treatment

Figure-skating icon Dorothy Hamill, 51, is being treated for breast cancer at Baltimore's Johns Hopkins' Kimmel Cancer Center, according to The Baltimore Sun.

Hamill, who was born in Chicago, left the national touring company of Broadway on Ice and—according to her longtime friend Dean

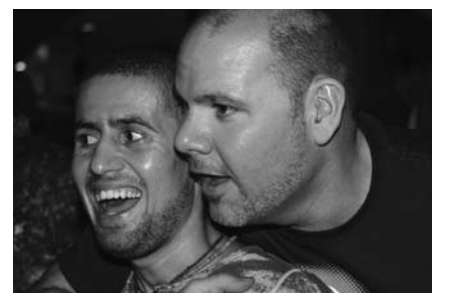
Moye, a production manager for Cirque du Soleil—she decided to publicize her treatment so she could be honest about the reason for her departure.

Hamill, who influenced many girls in the 1970s with her "wedge" haircut, is a three-time U.S. champion who also won the 1976 world championships and captured the gold in the Winter Olympics that same year.



CMSA Marks a Milestone

The Chicago Metropolitan Sports Association (CMSA), the nation's largest LGBT sports organization, held its 30th anniversary party Sun., Jan. 6, at the Hard Rock Café, 63 W. Ontario. Guests were treated to food, music and entertainment. Photos by Chuck Kramer



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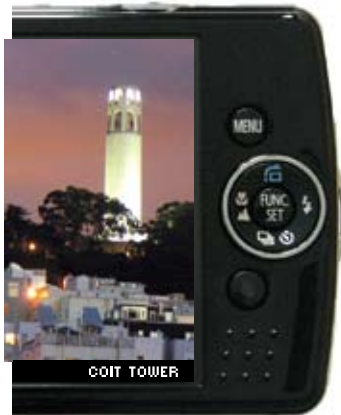
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