



**Soldier Comes Out**

page 4



**Candidates Face Off**

page 6



**Jack Mackenroth: Life Off the 'Runway'**

page 20



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## WINTER THEATER PREVIEW

From left: Songs for a New World; Blooming Flowers in Weeds; Coffee Girl; The Day on Which a Man Dies; and The Little Dog Laughed. Background: The Chicago Sinfonietta with Deeply Rooted Dance Theater in a tribute to Martin Luther King, Jr.

## Bailiwick's Fight to Stay Alive

BY ANDREW DAVIS

Given the steady streams of plaudits (including over 150 Jeff Committee citations, recommendations and nominations), hit productions (such as Jeffrey, Jerry Springer: The Opera and the Barenaked Lads series) and seemingly successful fundraisers associated with Bailiwick Repertory since its 1982 inception, one would expect the company to be extremely financially successful.

However, one would be wrong, according to Bailiwick's founder and artistic director, David Zak.

Zak said that the financial problems have snowballed in "the past 12 months." He said that the perception was that things were going smoothly all along. "Our sense was that everyone thought we were fine. [Even] the foundation community thought we were fine."

Part of the problem, Zak told Windy City Times, is the burgeoning Broadway in Chicago series that takes place downtown. "We sent a fundraising letter to our people that talked about the change in the marketplace," he said. "It's great that people are going to Altar Boyz, Jersey Boys and all these other 'Boys' that are down there, but it's expensive. If people spend \$80 for Wicked or \$100 for Jersey Boys, [the effect] is what a lot of the smaller theaters are feeling. People will see the big stuff like Jerry Springer, but we've done workshops and smaller gay and



David Zak. Photo by Tracy Baim

lesbian plays, and we've found that audiences aren't coming for those—and that's true across the country."

Zak also said that technology is responsible for the financial hit Bailiwick has taken. "It's a cultural change," he said. "People have their TiVos and Netflix, so they have their never-ending supply at home of gay and lesbian television programming. In the old days, our subscribers would announce a new show and people would trot out to see [it], and then with Broadway, everything assimilated; I mean, Hairspray is about as gay as it gets. So it's an interesting cultural change, where young people don't seem to be going to gay theaters; young people don't seem

Turn to page 10

## Bathhouse Debates in NYC; Is Chicago Next?

BY AMY WOOTEN

While New York City's health department debates whether or not it will regulate the city's bathhouses and sex clubs, local health officials do not think Chicago will return to the great bathhouse debates of the past.

"We've been in this epidemic for 25 years now, and the epidemic has clearly evolved over time, and I think our responses have evolved over time, also," said Chris Brown, assistant commissioner of the STD/HIV/AIDS division of the Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH). "We've learned a lot from history, and in Chicago, we're putting a lot of energy into working with our partners to do what we can to reduce the transmission of HIV and the transmission of sexually transmitted diseases that are associated with the bathhouses."

"I don't see the '80s repeating themselves," Brown continued. "I think we've evolved."

Gay City News reported that a leaked memo from New York City's health department indicates health officials are reconsidering the city's policies regarding bathhouses and sex clubs. More recent reports indicate that the area's health officials, due to increasing new HIV infections and syphilis rates, are considering shutting down such venues.

"We've been funding a lot of prevention efforts in the LGBT community for a long time

Turn to page 4

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# WINDY CITY TIMES

## index

### NEWS

Soldier comes out	4
Bathroom debate	4
Gay man missing	4
Memories of Lisa Tonna	5
Madeleine Albright in Chicago	5
Candidates square off	6
National roundup	7
Local news	7
Clinton, McCain win in N.H.	7
Views: Baim, Monroe	8
World news	9
Quotelines	9



The Little Dog Laughed (above) is just one of many productions profiled in this week's winter theater special. See page 12.

Photo by Michael Brosilow

### WINTER THEATER GUIDE

Bailiwick's fight	10
7 to Applaud	12
6 to Shout 'Out'	12
6 to Sing	13

### ENTERTAINMENT

Pop Making Sense	16
Deep Inside Hollywood	16
Knight at the Movies	17
Jack Mackenroth talks	20

### OUTLINES

Real estate ads	18
Classifieds	19
Political event pics	19
Calendar, Dykes	21
Sports and fitness	22
-Ping-Pong player Wolfgang Busch; motivational trainer Marty Tuley	



Does WCT movie critic Richard Knight, Jr., give 27 Dresses (above) a dressing down? See page 17.

Photo by Barry Wetcher

www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com

This week's online-only features include:  
 -Media Watch  
 -A feature on committeemen, including a talk with Alderman Tom Tunney

Also, check out extended online features of:  
 -political candidates  
 -an interview with personal trainer Marty Tuley (right)



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### GIVING GOOD FACE

Sal-E and JoJo Baby are featured in Renard Colbert's new photography exhibition "Getting Into Face," at Gallery 203.  
 photo by colbertimages.com



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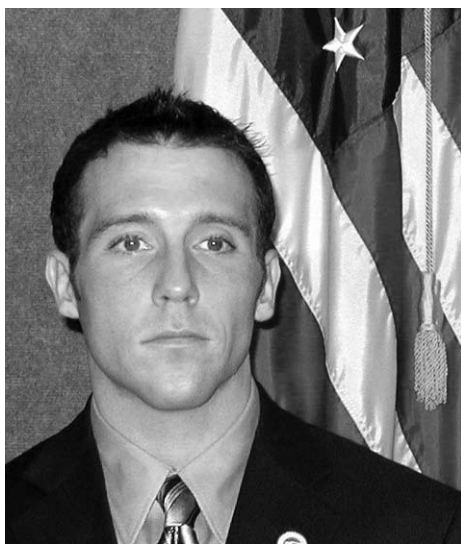
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Sgt. Darren Manzella. Photo by Bob Roehr

## Manzella Demonstrates Futility of DADT

BY BOB ROEHR

The arbitrary and absurd nature of the antigay military policy known as "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" is exemplified by Sgt. Darren Manzella. Even after he told his Army commanders, and the nation as a whole in a Dec. 16 interview on the CBS News program 60 Minutes, that he is openly gay, he continues to serve in the military.

Manzella enlisted in the Army after graduating from college in 2002, in part because of the financial incentives that helped with his education loans. His work though college as a psychiatric counselor made him a perfect fit to become a medic. After additional training in treating battlefield wounds, he was assigned to the 1st Cavalry Division at Ft. Hood, the sprawling base in Texas.

The unit deployed to Iraq in 2004, where he participated in more than a hundred combat patrols, performing a variety of medical services for US and Iraq military personnel and civilians, Manzella said at a January 8 news conference at the National Press Club. He received glowing performance reviews and advanced steadily in grade.

He reenlisted for another six years, in February 2005, while he was still in Iraq. When asked why he said, "I not only loved my job, I was good at my job. To know that people are still alive because of you, it was very intoxicating. Families still have their sons or their daughters. I was very good at my job. I didn't see any reasons not to reenlist."

Manzella and his 1st Cavalry unit rotated back to Ft. Hood in March 2005. In August 2006, "I started receiving emails and phone calls threatening that I was under investigation for being gay." He contacted the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network (SLDN), which has advised him ever since.

The threats increased and became more de-

rogatory; the added stress began to affect his job performance. That is when Manzella went to his supervisor and explained the situation. Many of his coworkers were supportive, they would go out to dinner with Manzella and his boyfriend.

After a three-week investigation, his battalion commander said they "had found no proof of his homosexuality." This conclusion was reached after Manzella had acknowledged that he is gay and had shown them pictures and video of he and his boyfriend kissing.

The division was redeployed to Iraq in October 2006. He ended up serving much of that second tour in medical liaison position in Kuwait, filling a position generally taken by a person three ranks higher. "All of my colleagues knew I was gay, and it made no difference."

Manzella taped his interview with 60 Minutes in Kuwait and told his commanders about it immediately prior to the program airing. His section commander said, "Wow, you can't go back now." He stood up and wished me the best of luck, saying it is unfortunate that policies like this are in place."

The sergeant returned to the U.S. just before Christmas and spent the holidays with his family in upstate New York. He has heard nothing from his superiors and will return to Ft. Hood shortly.

Aubrey Sarvis, executive director of SLDN, said there has been "a clear and undeniable shift in attitudes regarding DADT and the issue of open and honest service in our military." Polling data indicates that the American public overwhelmingly supports repeal.

"Within the military, troops and commands increasingly are welcoming and supporting their gay colleagues." He said SLDN is aware of at least 500 soldiers who are serving openly today. "Commands do not want to discharge qualified troops simply because they are gay."

"It is time to officially give commands the authority to retain troops and end the unnecessary, arbitrary enforcement of the congressional gay ban." Sarvis called on Congress to repeal DADT.

The Democrats winning control of both houses of Congress in 2006 prompted SLDN to reconsider its strategy of ending the ban. It began to think that working through Congress would be faster than working through the courts.

But the leading proponent of repeal legislation in the House retired and that meant that the anticipated hearing on the legislation did not occur last year. Recruitment of the right cosponsors in the Senate has delayed introduction of the measure in that chamber.

Meanwhile, legal wheels continue to turn in federal courthouses in Boston and Los Angeles; decisions on those pending challenges could come at any time. It would take an additional 3-5 years for the parties to carry the appeals process forward through the Supreme Court.

The wild card in both processes is the White House. The new president might decide to back legislation lifting the ban, or if a favorable court ruling comes down, decide not to appeal it to a higher level.

## Gay Man Missing Since August

BY ANDREW DAVIS

Evanston police said that they still are not sure of the whereabouts of a gay man who has been missing for several months.

Rob Stone, 43, was reported missing last August by his roommate, Susan Polzak. According to an e-mail she recently sent to Windy City Times. Stone "is a waiter and was looking for work." She added that he goes by the nicknames "Stone," "Satan" and "Uncle Satan."

A missing persons report lists Stone's stats as a six-foot-tall white male who weighed about 150 pounds, with brown hair and eyes. The report also stated that Stone "was last seen on 8-6-07 when he left 1900 Seward with his personal belongings and has had past alcohol addiction problems. Stone is known to frequent Bar Louie, Prairie Moon and the Keg in Evanston, but has not been seen there in weeks."

Det. Jason Kohl of the Evanston Police Department said that Chicago police "were in



Rob Stone.

contact" with Stone Oct. 18, 2007; however, no one knows his present location. "I would just like to know where he is so his family will know that he is alright," Kohl said.

Anyone with relevant information should call the Evanston Police Department at 847-866-5000.

## Gov. notes LGBT statute; groups launch program

Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich marked the two-year anniversary of the Illinois Human Rights Act, which protects Illinoisans from sexual-orientation and gender-identity discrimination.

"Discrimination of any kind is unacceptable. ... We will continue our efforts to ensure fairness and equality in Illinois," Blagojevich said in a statement.

In addition, The Illinois Department of Human Rights (IDHR), which enforces the act, will launch an awareness campaign with Equality Illinois and Lambda Legal to ensure LGBT communities know about the law and its protections. The three organizations will jointly conduct training seminars specifically for the LGBT community statewide, and will include information and links of each others' Web sites.

Since the law went into effect Jan. 1, 2006, nearly 200 charges have been filed with the IDHR. For more info or complaint forms, visit [www.state.il.us/dhr](http://www.state.il.us/dhr) or call 312-814-6200.

## City offers free kits to kick the habit

A local coalition of health advocates and providers, Chicago Second Wind, recently started distributing free "Quit Kits" to help individuals who would like to quit smoking.

The kits are available at multiple distribution centers until supplies last. Distribution centers within the LGBT community include the Brown Elephant Resale Shop, 5404 N. Clark; Affinity Community Services, 5650 S. Woodlawn; Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted; and Howard Brown Health Center, 4025 N. Sheridan.

The kits include tips, support information, and nicotine replacement samples donated by the Chicago Department of Public Health.

In addition to distributing the kits, the Respiratory Health Association of Metropolitan Chicago is holding a free seven-week smoking cessation class starting Thurs., Jan. 24. Call 312-243-2000 or log onto [www.lungchicago.org](http://www.lungchicago.org).

## DEBATE from cover

now," Brown said. A lot of work has been done in the past year and a half, Brown said, specifically dealing with transmission at venues such as bathhouses.

The local health department is actively involved in building partnerships with area venues in prevention efforts. For example, CDPH is a partner of the Chicago Task Force on LGBT Substance Use and Abuse (formerly the Chicago Crystal Meth Task Force). In Chicago, venues such as Steamworks have positive relationships with agencies such as Centers for Disease Con-

trol, CDPH and community organizations like Howard Brown and Test Positive Aware Network.

According to Nanette Benbow, director of CDPH's Office of HIV/AIDS Surveillance, it is too early to look at new infection rates among men who have sex with men (MSM) during 2007 because only about half of the reporting has been finished. However, since HIV reporting began in 1999, HIV infections among MSM peaked at 994 in 2002. Since then, HIV infections among MSM have declined, with 770 reported in 2005 and 766 in 2006.



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Lisa Tonna (right) with partner Avis Jamison. Photo by Tracy Baim

## Reflections on Lisa Tonna

As reported last week in Windy City Times, Lisa Tonna, an anti-tobacco advocate who was a former manager of the Center on Halsted's Anti-Violence Project and interim managing director of the Lesbian Community Care Project (LCCP), passed away Jan. 8 after an almost year-long battle with cancer. She was 38.

Vernita Gray, a good friend of Tonna, e-mailed her memories to Windy City Times: "Lisa was very special to me. We partied together as she, Avis and I were all friends. We worked together when she was at Horizons, we did anti-violence work together. By coincidence, Lisa and I ended up on the same flight to Portland, [Ore.,] where we went to Creating Change together. Each year she and Avis would do this pancake party in the spring that was always a riot. I never participated in the pancake race, but I would drink, eat, and laughed at the others. Lisa was a bright light in our community. She was looking forward to having a child, and had just set up her own practice. What a beautiful person she was—a real loving, hippie-spirited, passionate woman, and I loved her piercings."

In a mass e-mail, LCCP Director Catherine Jefcoat said, in part, that "[a]s a person, Lisa was inspirational. She was empathic and warm, bringing a critical eye and tender heart to everything she did. She asked difficult questions in the most loving ways—holding everyone with grace and accountability. ... She will truly be missed."

Center on Halsted Executive Director Modesto "Tico" Valle e-mailed this statement: "Our community has suffered a great loss. Lisa gave a voice to those who have been mistreated and worked to ensure no one would be silenced. Her passion for the Anti-Violence Project and desire to create safe and healthy lives for those she met along her journey will never be forgotten. We will miss her laughter and joy. Her partner Avis and her family are in our thoughts."

A celebration of Lisa's life was held Sat., Jan. 12, at the University of Illinois at Chicago's Student Services Building, 1200 W. Harrison. Another friend of Tonna, Nancy J. Powell, e-mailed that "[t]he service was very nice, and the turnout was amazing. The effect that Lisa had on individuals and the community was huge, and many had a chance to get up and speak, to say just that." Powell added that Ann Sather Restaurant donated food and Sidetrack donated water, with leftover items going to the Pacific Garden Mission.

Tonna is survived by her mother, Yvonne; a brother, Adrian; a sister, Celia; and her partner, Avis Jamison, as well as many friends.

## 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."

## Lambda Legal Head Comes to Chicago

BY AMY WOOTEN

The head of Lambda Legal's national organization paid the Windy City a visit Jan. 8 to discuss the recent progress for LGBT people made in the courtrooms in the Midwest and beyond this past year.

Lambda Legal Executive Director Kevin Cathcart spoke at the law firm of Kirkland & Ellis, 200 E. Randolph, for an informal breakfast and chat with local lawyers. Cathcart also touched on emerging trends across the United States, and made some predictions about what the future holds.

Cathcart told the audience that a lot of work would need to be done in order to undo all of the laws passed around the United States. Although some battles can be won in the courtroom, he predicts that a lot of victories will have to occur through the political process.

Read much more about Cathcart's talk at [www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com](http://www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com).



## Albright Signs 'Memo'

Last week, former U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright made several appearances around Chicago, including one Jan. 10 at Borders, 150 N. State, where she signed copies of her latest book, *Memo to the President Elect*. In the book, Albright offers ideas about how the next commander-in-chief should deal with the challenges he or she will face. Photo by Kat Fitzgerald; see more at [www.MysticImagesPhotography.com](http://www.MysticImagesPhotography.com)

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# ELECTION '08



Iris Martinez.

## Iris Martinez

BY AMY WOOTEN

Since 2003, State Sen. Iris Martinez has fought for the needs of those in the 20th District, working on issues close to her heart, such as women's healthcare and affordable housing.

Martinez was the first Hispanic woman elected to the Illinois Senate, and holds a leadership role as Assistant Majority Leader, where she works alongside Senate President Emil Jones. She is seeking re-election because she wants to continue fighting for those who need it the most.

Martinez has focused largely on legislation that provides affordable housing for seniors and low-income families, daycare and healthcare. She worked to ensure agencies in her area, such as the AIDS organization Children's Place, received enough funding to continue providing much-needed programming, and has also focused on women's issues.

**WCT: How do you think you've most improved the lives of those in your district?**

IM: There are many things going on within the district, as well as the whole state of Illinois. We have social services that got cut on a federal level. When you talk about health issues, for instance, mandating these insurance companies for cancer testing, mammograms, ovarian cancer—there are a lot of things. We're talking about making sure with insurance companies those kinds of mandates are important. We can do a lot of preventative care early on before we spend so much money on the after-the-fact. With women, it's pretty fatal. We're talking about breast exams and cervical tests. It's important we mandate those kinds of tests be done. It's an important part of insurance coverage. We're talking about a very serious illness or fatality. That's one of the things I've worked very hard on.

When it comes to trying to find more affordable daycare, I put in \$2 million in a project in the 33rd Ward called the Concordia Community Center [which provides daycare and programs for senior citizens]. It serves low-income families, working families.

**WCT: People who need it the most.**

IM: Right. ...It's very important we have daycare available for working moms. It's very important to me. I was a single mom myself. I always say that it's important that the experiences I had—trying to find affordable housing, trying to find affordable daycare, bringing up my daughter on my own—were very important things for me to bring up when I came to the Senate. Those are experiences you cannot understand—unless you experienced them yourself. [My focus is on] the quality of life for people in my district, especially women, because we are the caregivers. We do it all.

**WCT: The 20th District is really diverse. You don't want to push people out.**

IM: Exactly, and some of these big buildings were subsidized through the federal government—HUD [Housing and Urban Development] buildings. A lot of those buildings were 20 and 30 years in the making, and now a lot of those buildings are beginning to end their contracts. .... You have a lot of people living in those, especially these subsidized buildings. In order to

turn it over to the developer, they need to first offer it to the tenants association. They are given a one-year opportunity in order to organize to buy it back at a fair market value for the area. Through a lot of the city and state programs that are out there, we've been able to salvage a few of these senior buildings.

...We need rental space in this area because everything has gone condo, like Wicker Park and Bucktown. I think Logan Square is one of those very few wonderful places that people can live in where rental is still available. One of my jobs is to make sure we can find those resources to keep that conversion from happening.

**WCT: Let's go back to healthcare, which is clearly a large issue for you. The 20th District is largely Hispanic, and that community has been disproportionately impacted by HIV/AIDS. Tell me a little bit about the work you've done for that community.**

IM: I've participated in and co-sponsored bills that deal with HIV programs out there, so we can continue to put more resources in. When it comes to the budget, part of my participation is to watch the budget, make sure that HIV housing is available and there is money for it. Right now, one of the things that I was involved in was making sure that, with the comprehensive housing plan that takes effect next year, what we're making sure is there is enough dollars that is going to supportive housing for people living with HIV/AIDS. It's a huge issue.

When it comes to housing, that is my number one priority. Through the housing plan that now exists, we are making sure that ... there is a substantial amount of money that is geared towards housing, and making sure there is housing for those with HIV for the HIV residents I have out there, and all over. I told people, housing doesn't just deal with poor people. It needs to deal creating affordable housing in all areas for middle- to low-income families. That is the bottom line. ... To me it's making sure that as we are creating more housing dollars, that affordability is included in that, which includes HIV supportive housing.

**WCT: What are some key issues you think need to be tackled in Springfield if you are re-elected to office?**

IM: The CTA is a huge issue for me. I have the Blue Line right here. But we have to look at it long-term. We have to look at long-term solutions, ... so there is no Doomsday. The CTA and RTA need to get their act together. ... Is it a General Assembly issue? Not entirely. Local government has to be involved, especially Chicago, with what is going on in Springfield. ... It is a local, state and federal issue, a combination of all three. People can't continue to blame the legislature. Let's be fair here. ... I want to look at the whole picture of everything combined. Not one government is only responsible. We have to find a solution, and a long-term solution, together.

**WCT: Besides having been in a leadership role, what can you bring to the table your opponents can't?**

IM: First of all, I'm a woman. We're the caregivers of everything. I look at my district as my family. I want to take care of my district like my family. I don't think the two male opponents can ever think like that and look at it the way I look at it. I have 20 years of experience in my district. I have 20 years of public service, working with the city, the homeless, domestic violence. I've worked in so many capacities the years I've worked for the city. I bring that experience.

See [www.friendsofirisymartinez.com](http://www.friendsofirisymartinez.com).

Read the entire Iris Martinez interview online at [www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com](http://www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com).

## Richard Bradley

BY AMY WOOTEN

Democratic candidate Rich Bradley is displeased with what he views as the lack of compromise and direction in Springfield, and wants to continue serving his community as senator of the 20th District.

For the past 11 years, Bradley has served as state representative of the 40th District. But when lesbian activist Deb Mell, daughter of longtime Alderman Dick Mell, announced she would run for Bradley's seat, the legislator made the decision to run for senator. The 20th District includes areas such as Portage Park and Logan Square.

Some of the key legislation Bradley worked on in the legislature last year includes relief from high electricity bills and property taxes. In the past, he worked to bring anti-crime programs to the neighborhoods he serves, among other issues.

Windy City Times talked to Bradley about the changes he would like to bring to Springfield as a senator.

**Windy City Times: Let's start out by discussing some of the changes you would like to see in the 20th District. What are some of the key issues that you'd like to continue to tackle as a senator?**

Richard Bradley: I think our government has been paralyzed under the leadership of the governor and, frankly, under President Emil Jones and his leadership, which is [represented by] my opponent [Iris Martinez].

I think that with the last budget year, the governor created a paralysis of government, and cut local programs. Area schools have had their pre- and after-school programs cut. The Cease-Fire program [was cut]; violence protection was cut. A theme of change is what I would bring to the Senate.

In an orderly fashion we should look at these complex issues and get them negotiated and resolved on time. Then, the issues are resolved one by one, if we could agree to disagree.

**WCT: The 20th District is largely Hispanic, and the Hispanic community has been disproportionately impacted by the HIV crisis. What are your thoughts on ways to tackle the crisis within Illinois?**

RB: We really need to look at education as the key component, and to start at an early age. We can just educate the young adults on how to conduct themselves in a safe manner. I think that probably there isn't a huge cost to that, and it's frustrating that we don't invest more, because it isn't a huge amount of funding, but we could see results.

I think local groups need to do everything that they can in getting out the word, message and latest statistics, whether those are good or



Richard Bradley.

bad. Whatever they may be, we need everybody who has a stake [to get involved] and we need education.

**WCT: Have you had any experience yet working with or on behalf of the LGBT community, and where do you stand on some issues?**

RB: I'm for civil unions. I'm for that, I would be in favor of that and I would vote for that. My voting record of the past has been supportive and I will continue to do that. It's been a learning curve for society. I think sometimes controversial issues have a personal, social and religious makeup, and there's a lot in it. But I've seen that society, even legislators, over time, can change their mind or embrace it more. Or maybe they don't fear that anymore.

**WCT: A while back, Deb Mell announced her run for the 40th District seat, which you have held since 1997. Was it completely your decision to step aside and let her do her thing? Was running for Senate something that you had thought about before?**

RB: It was under consideration. I was kind of faced with three choices: run for re-election as a representative, run for Senate or retire. They were complex, but those are the three decisions that me and my family faced. As you may realize, a district is made up of wards of alderman and committeemen who work that area. I evaluated my chances, and understood that Alderman Dick Mell is very popular in his area, and has done some great things in his community. For him to have the goal to get his daughter elected made all the sense to me. I accepted that. I accepted that she's worked on issues in your community, and has been very active. I didn't look at it as an end of the line. I could have. I could have retired. I firmly believe in working with Alderman Mell and Deb Mell. I think I'll continue to provide excellent service and do some good work for the community as senator.

See [www.bradleyforsenate.org](http://www.bradleyforsenate.org).

Read the entire Richard Bradley interview online at [www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com](http://www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com).

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# NATIONAL ROUNDUP

BY AMY WOOTEN

Lambda Legal, which won the 2006 New Jersey Supreme Court ruling that said same-sex couples must have the same rights as married couples, is **calling on the state's legislature to amend its civil unions law in order to provide full marriage equality**, according to 365gay.com. "Civil unions label same-sex couples as different and inferior and no amount of tinkering with the rules and benefits can erase that stain of inequality," Lambda Legal Executive Director Kevin Cathcart wrote in a letter to the legislature and Gov. Jon S. Corzine.

A group of conservative religious leaders recently formed a **corporation in hopes of creating a shareholder revolt against Microsoft** because of its support of gay rights, reported 365gay.com. The group, AGN Financial, is led by Rev. Ken Hutcherson of Washington. The group just launched a campaign in hopes of getting enough Microsoft shares donated to it in order to vote at the company's next annual meeting.

The man who filed a **federal lawsuit claiming that he failed the Massachusetts bar exam because he refused to answer a gay marriage question** has apologized, according to the Associated Press. Stephen Dunne apologized in a letter that was published in Boston's weekly LGBT newspaper, Bay Windows, calling his lawsuit "misguided." He dismissed the suit in October.

An **anti-gay marriage group recently emerged in Vermont**, launching a Web-based campaign to counter the commission appointed by the state charged with analyzing whether or not marriage rights should be granted to same-sex couples. The group is called the Vermont Marriage Advisory Council, reported The Advocate. The state-appointed panel will release its findings to lawmakers in April.

The focus of Philadelphia's Equality Forum 2008 will be "**Gays and Lesbians in the Muslim World**," according to organizers of the annual event. International journalist Michael Loungo,

Iranian Queer Organization founder Arsham Parsi and Irshad Manji, among others, will be present for various events. Equality Forum 2008 will be held April 28 to May 4. See [www.equalityforum.com](http://www.equalityforum.com) for more information.

The Human Rights Campaign released the 2008 "Best Places to Work for GLBT Equality." This year, **195 major U.S. companies, an unprecedented number, made the list** for scoring 100 percent on HRC Foundation's Corporate Equality Index. Last year, 138 made the cut. See the complete list at [www.hrc.org/placestowork](http://www.hrc.org/placestowork).

The New York Times recently reported that **rates of new infection of HIV have been on the rise among New York City's young gay men**. The state health department's recent statistics show that while new infection rates are falling on most communities, young gay men of all demographics aren't following that trend. According to Gaywired.com, researchers attribute the rise in rates to drug use and other factors.

In a joint release, Equality California (EQCA), the Gay-Straight Alliance Network (GSA Network), Lambda Legal, the National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR) and the Transgender Law Center (TLC) responded to **the failure of a signature drive to overturn the California Student Civil Rights Act, SB 777**, which went into effect Jan. 1. Opponents of the measure needed 433,000 signatures, and collected only 350,000. NCLR Legal Director Shannon Minter said that "[t]he opponents of SB 777 failed to gather enough signatures because the vast majority of Californians strongly support safety and equality."

Theresa Sparks, the transgender head of the San Francisco Police Commission, **has returned the Equality Award she received from the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) in 2004**, according to the Bay Area Reporter. Sparks returned the award during a Jan. 5 meeting between HRC President Joe Solmonese and members of the local trans community, saying that the honor "no longer symbolized equality for" her.

## Local News

### National Teen Test Day observed in Chicago

Chicago teens were the targets of an HIV/AIDS educational outreach program that took place Jan. 5, a date organizations called National Teen Test Day.

On that date, an event sponsored by the Metropolitan Area Group for Igniting Civilizations, Inc. (MAGIC) and the National Teen Test Day Foundation received the support of politicians such as Congressmen Danny K. Davis and Chicago Mayor Richard Daley, according to a press release from Miles Media & Marketing.

Over 500 youths and adults were tested for HIV and enjoyed a concert at the Harold Washington Cultural Center, 4701 S. Martin Luther King, that featured Chicago artists Crucial Conflict and Malik Yusef, among others, according to [ChicagoTribune.com](http://ChicagoTribune.com).

### Feigenholtz files HIV notification repeal bill

State Rep. Sara Feigenholtz, D-Chicago, has filed a bill (HB 4314) to repeal the existing HIV/AIDS principal notification law.

An Illinois law, passed in 1987, requires the names of children with HIV to be reported to school principals. Thirty-six states do not statutorily address disclosure of a student's HIV status.

Advocates crusading against the statute are concerned that, among other things, the law may have been driven more by hysteria than by a real need to protect the public health.

On Nov. 9, 2007, Feigenholtz participated in a forum, hosted by the Chicago-based child welfare agency The Children's Place Association, that centered on HIV/AIDS and Illinois adolescents. Prior to the forum, she told Windy City Times that she was "alarmed" when the notification statute was brought to her attention, and called the law "culturally insensitive."

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## Clinton, McCain Prevail in N.H.

BY LISA KEEN  
KEEN NEWS SERVICE

From anonymous phone calls and flyers to public speeches and debates on the editorial pages of newspapers, gay issues were heavily in the news as New Hampshire held the nation's first primary of the 2008 presidential campaign Tuesday. John McCain took the Republican lead, but the big news of the day was Democrats taking 55 percent of the record turnout and the surprise victory of Democrat Hillary Clinton, whom pundits had widely predicted was flailing.

Openly gay State Rep. Jim Splaine said Clinton "did something in the last two to three days I have been urging her to do—let Hillary be Hillary."

While Splaine supported Clinton, the state's other two openly gay representatives were split on the other two top polling candidates. Ed Butler supported Barack Obama; Mo Baxley supported John Edwards.

That division appeared to be true for gays in both Iowa and New Hampshire. But, Clinton has enjoyed the lion's share of big-name gay endorsements—from Reps. Barney Frank and Tammy Baldwin to filmmaker Bruce Cohen, tennis legend Billie Jean King, Illinois Human Rights Director Rocco Claps and California State Senator Sheila Kuehl.

Her victory over Iowa winner Obama was especially big news Tuesday night because polls had piled up to predict that New Hampshire would be a repeat of her Jan. 3 third-place finish behind John Edwards. But large numbers of voters were undecided right down to the wire and apparently many of them—especially women—cast their ballots for Clinton.

"She earned this victory. I am thrilled for her. And she will make a great president," said Hilary Rosen, a longtime gay Democratic activist and Clinton supporter.

Clinton won 39 percent of the votes for Democrats in the primary, followed by Obama with 36 percent, Edwards with 17 percent, Bill Richardson with 5 percent and 3 percent for the others.

In Republican voting, McCain topped the field with 37 percent, followed by Mitt Romney with 32 percent, Mike Huckabee with 11 percent, Rudy Giuliani with 9 percent, Ron Paul with 8 percent and 3 percent for the others.

Obama was the only candidate to speak positively of gay people during the last days of campaigning in New Hampshire. At a rally in Manchester on Monday night, he said, as president, he would represent a number of constituency groups, including "gays and lesbians." Although

he has used the constituency line frequently in his speeches, he does not always include the reference to gays and lesbians.

Gays were used in some negative campaigning, too. The Concord Monitor reported Tuesday that the Romney campaign said many of its supporters received phone calls on primary day telling them that Romney supports same-sex marriage and gays being allowed in the Boy Scouts. According to the campaign, the callers claimed to be from the Log Cabin Republicans, a national gay Republican organization, and claimed that the group was endorsing Romney.

A Romney spokesperson called the calls "completely false."

Log Cabin has not endorsed Romney and, in fact, has aired radio and television ads opposing only him among the Republican candidates. Its ad in New Hampshire focused on his positions concerning taxes. And Log Cabin National President Patrick Sammon said the group "had nothing to do" with the phone calls.

Romney is a well-known opponent of same-sex marriage, as are all the Republican candidates. Although the Romney campaign said the claims were false, he did, in fact, say, in 1994, "I support the right of the Boy Scouts of America to decide what it wants to do on that issue. I feel that all people should be allowed to participate in the Boy Scouts regardless of their sexual orientation." Romney was on the national executive board of the BSA at the time.

The claim about Romney supporting gays in the Boy Scouts also showed up on a flyer that was distributed last Sunday in the parking lot of a Catholic church in Manchester, according to the Monitor. The Web site said the flyer indicated it was "prepared by a concerned citizen" and was used to compare Romney unfavorably to McCain. The McCain campaign said it had nothing to do with the flyer.

The Human Rights Campaign was also involved in The Granite State, opening a field office in Manchester and hiring a full-time staffer to help mobilize LGBT voters.

Civil unions were heavily in the news in New Hampshire just as national attention was shifting there from the Iowa caucuses Jan. 3. Just two days earlier, the state's new civil-unions law had gone into effect and front page photos of gay couples kissing and stories of their obtaining the first civil-union licenses were showing up in papers around the state. Editorial pages were full of letters to the editor commenting on the news.

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TRACY BAIM

## The Hillary-Barack Debate ... In My Head

What's a feminist civil-rights supporter to do?

This is an embarrassment of riches we have in the Democratic primary. Sure, they all have their limitations, but when was the last time we had some viable, charismatic choices? When didn't you hold your nose to vote for the president?

But it's also been a very draining battle to watch. As I lay down at night after hours of play-by-play by the TV talking heads and online bloggers, the inside of my head pounds—Clinton vs. Obama, we feminists are between a Barack and a hard place. Our fantasy presidential teams are flush.

I am also realistic: I know that Clinton and Obama will both compromise, both equivocate on many issues. It's what being a politician is. The Clintons sold gays down the river a few times. Obama has been pretty good on our issues, even when he knows he's on the wrong side of history about marriage. He's a practical guy, he tells us to fight for what we can win. It's like telling us peas are good for us. We don't like to hear it, even when we know he's right. We can afford our moral high ground, while presidents shed most of their principles on the way to a different mountain top.

I have met both Clinton and Obama. In person, they are equally charismatic. But it's been very clear that Hillary has not found a way to translate that charisma through a TV screen. Barack has. He has also been a bit un-presidential in some of his comments, in his cockiness. Humility, sir, is much more appealing. Clinton, Edwards, and most of them have all had their stupid moments—when you watch them act like 5-year-olds. In this camera-video-phone culture, we get to see every blemish, on every one of them. So we dodge the negatives, trying to see the positives. To hope again. The silver lining is this: We have a chance for change in November. How we get there is as important as actually getting there. The winner should act like a winner, and the losers must be asked to be part of the team—and we should not allow them to say no.

In some ways, I feel like casting a vote for Dennis Kucinich. Not just because he is the closest to my views on so many issues, including gay rights. But also because I don't want to choose which "parent" I love more. It's like we're sitting around the dinner table and mom and dad are lobbying for my affection. Maybe I will go for cousin Dennis instead. Sorry cousin John, you are a bit too mean. At least I don't have the dilemma of a Condoleezza Rice—no thanks to her on all counts.

What is probably most frustrating to all Democratic and Independent voters is that this field is so deep in ideas and talent, so why can't they all just get along? Let the voters decide, by their votes, who is the first, second, third, etc. candidate. Then, second place gets Vice President. Third place gets to pick a cabinet post, and so on. We have a full baseball team's worth of talent, with room for a deep bench.

Let's put John Edwards in charge of healthcare and poverty. Al Gore head of the Environmental Protection Agency. Kucinich in charge of the "I

have a dream" not deferred department. For once, let's use the entire slate of talent at the top, with former President Jimmy Carter as Secretary of State, former President Bill Clinton as United Nations ambassador. Michelle Obama as head of whatever she wants. I'm sure Bill Richardson could find a post that fits him. Even some independent-minded Republicans can be slotted in. How about Michael Bloomberg at the Federal Reserve? John McCain head of Veteran's Affairs—clean up that mess and fight for the injured troops as hard as you have fought to put them in harm's way. And who wants to be in charge of the hot potatoes of trade, immigration, and education? Come on, step up to the plate; we have been waiting for you since the 1960s. [Just please keep Lou Dobbs away from immigration. Is it me or does the circumference of his head swell each time he promotes his new book?]

While we're at it, how about some creative choices: Phill Wilson as AIDS czar, Ellen DeGeneres head of a new cabinet post on animals, Brad Pitt in charge of a New Orleans Rebuilding Project, and Staceyann Chin as poet laureate. Heck, if Oprah's candidate wins or loses, will she actually step up to be in charge of rebuilding inner-city schools? The supporters and critics on the sidelines, even the Sunday morning talking heads, should be asked to serve. The nation and the world face a dangerous tipping point. Without creative solutions, without everyone stepping up, even a Democratic president will strike out.

Stop making us hate Washington, and make us believe you do really care. If Obama wins, be unanimous, choose the second-place finisher, even if it's Hillary. Same if Hillary wins. If not VP, something in the cabinet. Or keep the Senate post and make a difference there.

Now, can Clinton and Obama please stop debating in my head? I need some sleep.



REV. IRENE MONROE

## I didn't wake up dead!

I have breast cancer. I tell you this to better accept the blow that has struck me. I look at the horror and shock in your face of this news to assess am I experiencing this moment in real time or is this just merely the nightmare I can't wake up from. And like the Good Morning America anchor Robin Roberts, who announced in August 2007 she had breast cancer, I, too, never thought I would be writing this.

But now I must stop, see and assess my life differently as African-American lesbian poet and activist Audre Lorde told all women confronted with breast cancer in *The Cancer Journals* before she succumbed to the disease in 1992. There are no instructional guides on how to personally to handle this ongoing health crisis, because it is about the particular woman herself.

"Each woman responds to the crisis that breast cancer brings to her life out of a whole pattern, which is the design of who she is and how her life has been lived. The weave of her every day existence is the training ground for how she handles crisis," Lorde wrote.

The weave of my everyday existence for the past twenty years has been about social injustice concerning race, class, gender identities and expressions as it relates to religious intolerance. But now I take up another gauntlet: the politics of breast cancer, because this too is personal, exploring the function of cancer in a profit economy, the medical establishments' indifference to cultural and sexual differences and insensitivity to women's health issues, the political and emotional impli-

cations of prosthetic breasts that hides the pain of amputation and disguises the epidemic of the disease, and the oftentimes dangerous reconstructive surgeries in the name of "quality of life" and "normal" femininity.

And our silence and invisibility on this issue will not protect me our other women.

In October 2004 two-time Grammy winner rock singer-songwriter and lesbian activist Melissa Etheridge was diagnosed with breast cancer. "Our society doesn't say the word cancer much," said Etheridge. When her grandmother was dying from breast cancer, no one even told Etheridge what was wrong. But Etheridge refused to remain silent or invisible with the disease. At the 2005 Grammy Awards, Etheridge made a return to the stage bald from chemotherapy to performed a tribute to Janis Joplin. Etheridge was praised not only for her performance but also for courage.

With any illness you look for spiritual sustenance. But be leery of some of the self-help books and New Age Religions on the market, because they too can make you go in hiding with their "blame the victim" philosophies that will flog you as painfully as self-flagellation and the expected fire the brimstone theologies

While it is true that there is a correlation between "dis-ease" in the mind and disease in the body the bigger question should be why with all the advances made in breast cancer research are there so many women across race, class, education and sexual orientations being diagnosed with breast cancer today? Is there an environmental link?

For example, research has shown there is a correlation between environmental pollutants and breast cancer, like personal care products containing endocrine disruptors and other controversial compounds that have been marketed to both Black and white women in popular women's magazines since the 1950s.

According to the American Cancer Society, Every three minutes, a woman in the U.S is diagnosed with breast cancer. It is the most common cancer among women, and about 178,480 women will be found to have invasive breast cancer in 2007. Be-

cause of the disparity in health care African American women are more likely to die from the disease although more white women are diagnosed with it. Being a lesbian or bisexual woman does not increase your risk for breast cancer, but risk factors like fear of coming out to health care providers, less access to health insurance, and having fewer doctor visits for mammograms and professional breast exams will increase your chances. To address the homophobia and life-threatening illnesses lesbian are bisexual women are likely to face in our health care system the Mautner Project was founded in 1990 following the death of Mary-Helen Mautner in 1989 of breast cancer.

My good news for now is that I'm up! I didn't wake up dead but I woke up still suspicious as to why so many women are confronted with this disease. I got the report from my surgical oncologist that my nodes are negative. Yippee! So this is what I know so far on this journey: My cancer is Stage 1, my nodes are negative, my tumor is the size of a blueberry, and there is no sign of metastasis. Whew! This is perhaps as good as it gets for a person diagnosed with breast cancer.

## Make your thoughts known!

Send your letters to Editor@Windy-CityMediaGroup.com or Andrew@WindyCityMediaGroup.com.

Letters may be edited for length or clarity.

# WORLD ROUNDUP

BY REX WOCKNER

## South African AIDS leader marries

Well-known South African AIDS activist Zackie Achmat and his activist boyfriend Dalli Weyers were married near Cape Town Jan. 5.

South Africa is one of six nations where same-sex couples have access to full marriage.

Hundreds of people attended the wedding, including Mayor Helen Zille. Gay High Court Judge Edwin Cameron conducted the ceremony, sporting eye glitter for the occasion.

The wedding cake was a chocolate-brownie tower with a king and a cowboy on top.

Achmat, 45, is the founder and chairman of the Treatment Action Campaign, South Africa's leading AIDS-activist organization.

"We decided that the marriage statement as a same-sex couple was a profound one and we want the union to be seen as equal," Weyers told the Sunday Times before the wedding.

Same-sex marriage also is legal in Belgium, Canada, the Netherlands, Spain and the United States (Massachusetts only). Numerous nations (and eight U.S. states and the District of Columbia) offer civil unions or registered partnerships that grant same-sex couples some, most or all of the rights and obligations of matrimony.

## Brazilian gay activist murdered

Brazilian gay activist Francisco Tício de Oliveira Soares was stabbed to death Jan. 3.

His naked body was found in the hair salon he ran in the northeastern city of Crato.

Police have speculated the killing was a crime of passion, given that nothing was stolen from the salon.

Tício, 38, organized several local gay pride parades and had been involved in gay activism for more than two decades.

## Bishop: 13-year-olds provoke sexual contact

The Roman Catholic bishop of Tenerife in Spain's Canary Islands is in hot water for saying that 13-year-olds seek sex with adults, according to TypicallySpanish.com.

In a Christmas Eve interview with the newspaper La Opinión de Tenerife, Bernardo Álvarez said, "There are 13-year-old adolescents who are under age and who are perfectly in agreement with, and what's more, wanting it, and if you are careless, they will even provoke you."

Álvarez added that such activity harms society the same as homosexuality does, and said cultures where either takes place will pay a price down the road like "other civilizations" paid.

Álvarez's office later released a statement saying he had not meant to suggest that "an event as condemnable as the abuse of youngsters" could be justified.

The Triángulo Canarias Foundation for the Social Equality of Gays and Lesbians condemned Álvarez's remarks.

## Canadian students target gay blood ban

The Canadian Federation of Students is stepping up its opposition to Canada's ban on blood donation by any man who has had sex with another man, even once, since 1977, CanWest News Service reported Jan. 3.

Federation spokeswoman Amanda Aziz said the ban is outdated and "a form of institutionalized discrimination."

Opposition to the ban has provoked renewed organizing at the University of Toronto and McGill University in particular, the report said.

A spokeswoman for Health Canada called the policy "science-based" and said men who have sex with men are not the only individuals targeted.

People who visited the United Kingdom or France between 1980 and 1996, for example, also are banned from donating blood, because they may have a type of mad-cow disease.

Canadian Blood Service said it is continuing to study the issue.

Current HIV testing can detect infection within days of its taking place.

—Assistance: Bill Kelley

# QUOTELINES

BY REX WOCKNER

"ABSOLUTELY. WHY NOT? PEOPLE ARE COMPETENT BECAUSE—not with anything to do with their sexual orientation. I had people who are homosexual who worked for me in the governor's office." — *Presidential candidate Mike Huckabee when asked on CNN Dec. 17, "Could a gay be in your administration?"*

"POOR MITT ROMNEY JUST CAN'T FLIP WITHOUT FLOPPING.

In a cynical ploy to win over social conservatives, Romney has beat a well-documented retreat from a whole host of moderate positions, including a number of gay rights issues. ... How ironic that a man who wears his faith—albeit in generic Christian form—on his sleeve turns out to be the biggest moral relativist in the race—from either political party." — *Syndicated gay-press columnist Chris Crain on his blog, citizenchris.typepad.com, Dec. 27.*

"[W]E CAN'T HAVE A PRESIDENT WHO SPENT TWO MINUTES on YouTube staring in a mirror and poofing his hair. Really, we just can't." — *Wall Street Journal columnist Peggy Noonan on John Edwards, Dec. 28.*

"IT'S JUST AS WELL I'M GAY. IF I WAS STRAIGHT, I'd be a hopeless mad movie star who fucks everything that moves. That's what I'd be like—married to every single girl that I'd worked with, on wife number 10 by now, always being sued for divorce because I'd been caught with two chicks somewhere. ... Or I'd be like a rapper—three girls at the same time, coke, orgies, yachts. I would be a monster, actually. I'd have to be competitive on a lad level with all those other male movie stars. I'd probably be an alcoholic, too. Mind you, I'd have made a lot more money—20 times more money, probably." — *Actor Rupert Everett to London's Telegraph, Dec. 9.*

"LET'S BE CLEAR: WE HAVE LOST THIS WAR.

We have lost because the initial, central goals of the invasion have all failed: we have not secured WMDs from terrorists because those WMDs did not exist. We have not stymied Islamist terror—at best we have finally stymied some of the terror we helped create. We have not constructed a democratic model for the Middle East—we have instead destroyed a



File photo

Let's be clear: We have lost this [Iraq] war.

—Gay writer Andrew Sullivan.

totalitarian government and a phony country, only to create a permanently unstable, fractious, chaotic failed state, where the mere avoidance of genocide is a cause for celebration. We have, moreover, helped solder a new truth in the Arab mind: that democracy means chaos, anarchy, mass-murder, national disintegration and sectarian warfare. And we have also empowered the Iranian regime and made a wider Sunni-Shiite regional war more likely than it was in 2003. Apart from that, Mr. Bush, how did you enjoy your presidency?" — *Gay writer Andrew Sullivan on his blog, Dec. 17.*

—Assistance: Bill Kelley

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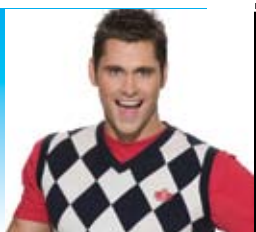


## A DOG'S LIFE

The Little Dog Laughed (above) is one of the plays spotlighted in Windy City Times' winter theater special. See page 12.

### TV

**Just Jack.**  
Page 20.



### THEATER

**Strong 'coffee.'**  
Page 11.



### MUSIC

**What a dame!**  
Page 16.



## Bailiwick's Fight from cover

to identify with coming-out plays—it seems they were born out!”

However, Zak said those have not been the only factors, citing competition with such entities as “Gay Games and Center on Halsted fundraising” for Bailiwick’s slump. “As we were talking with individuals and foundations, we realized that people’s funding dollars [were geared] toward priorities like the Gay Games—and thank God [it was successful]. Then, people went from there to the Center on Halsted, or vice versa. A lot of times, the phrase ‘donor fatigue’ came up.”

Since noticing the financial slide (which Zak stated is in the six figures), Bailiwick has altered its strategy, he said: “We have some programs that have always targeted different programs, such as [the upcoming] Sunday on the Rocks, which is part of our women’s series, and this summer we have Lesbians Who Kill, and a summer play. We won’t have a festival of shows, but maybe just one show.

“We’ve cut back, but we still do the [occasional big show] such as Hunchback, with [musician] Dennis DeYoung,” Zak said. “[Cutting back] is something we’ve been discussing. This summer, all the Pride Series shows are two or three characters, so there isn’t a lot in terms of sets or productions,” adding that Hunchback will be the last big show for a while.

Zak added that “we need help with benefits. ... I heard of people doing fundraisers for other not-for-profits; I hope that if someone has a benefit, they would make Bailiwick [a] beneficiary of that. That helps a lot of us—[including] the people here and Hell in a Handbag [Productions].” He also said that Bailiwick is working on lengthening its donor list and is collaborating with such troupes as Handbag.

### ‘What the hell is going on here?’

While talking about the debt, Zak commented that “we always try to take care of the artists first. We try to pay a high level for our non-Equity people.” (When asked point-blank if all the actors have been paid, Zak responded that “yes, all the actors” were.)

Maybe the actors were, but at least one writer has a different story to tell.

Jim Provenzano is in the midst of a lawsuit against Bailiwick, saying that he was never paid for his playwriting efforts regarding Pins, a production revolving around wrestling that ran in 2006. (Provenzano also wrote the novel the play was based on.) Talking with Windy City Times, Provenzano said that being unpaid is not the only thing that irritates him. “The play was so poorly done,” he said. “The director made over 50 script changes, [the play] got bad reviews and I was incredibly, horribly disappointed in them. ... I wanted to sue them for damages because they made so many script changes I feel that it was incredibly bad and damaged my reputation as a writer.”

Provenzano added that Bailiwick also skimmed on the production. “I gave them multiple examples, links and catalogs where to get wholesale wrestling shoes, mats [and other pieces],” he said. “When I went to see it in 2006, I had already read several bad reviews and I’m like, ‘What the hell is going on here?’ ... What the director did was chop up the dialogue. ... It even took them a year and a half for them to even send a videotape of the show—and the first half-hour of Act Two the video camera was off, so I don’t even have proof of how bad the show was. ... I hadn’t seen that bad a show in years. They cast it wrong; the runt of the wrestling team was taller than anyone else in the cast, even the father—so they cut out all references to weight

## Windy City Times' Winter Theater Preview

classes, which are kind of pivotal when you’re talking about wrestling.”

When told about Provenzano, Zak admitted that things got out of control, financially and managerially, when he was away from Bailiwick for a while after having open-heart surgery, adding that “Jim’s show was one of those shows that opened while I was in the hospital, and [he] was not happy with the show the director had made. I think a lot of what we’ve done in the past 18 months can be attributed to when I wasn’t here. People said that they would take care of things, and they didn’t get it done.” (According to Zak, those people are no longer working at Bailiwick.) Zak—commenting that he’s heard from “a really small percentage, because you never hear from the people who are happy”—said that “it’s all going to work itself out.”

Zak also said that “the fact that so many people have worked here so long and keep coming back testify, in general, to the artistic integrity of the plays.”

Provenzano, who said that he will never work with Bailiwick again, confirmed that his situation occurred while Zak was away, but added that Zak’s operation “is not an adequate excuse. They still haven’t paid me; they wanted to settle for a few hundred dollars. ... Don’t tell someone you’re going to pay them when you can’t.

“There were five contract violations: they haven’t paid my royalties; they didn’t put my bio in the program—which was even criticized [in] two reviews; they didn’t credit New Conservatory Theater with having commissioned the first production; they provided an incomplete videotape; and they made [dozens of] script changes.”

Brian Lobel—whose production about testicular cancer, Ball, ran at Bailiwick in 2006—e-mailed Windy City Times that he also ran into financial difficulties regarding Bailiwick, having received his royalties late. However, un-

like Provenzano, Lobel (who currently lives in London) felt that the situation was related to Zak’s absence: “While it is true that I received royalties late, I am tempted to agree with David that the lapse was because of his absence in my specific case. While getting paid from Bailiwick was not easy, it was not significantly more difficult than getting paid by small theaters who want to be big theaters. As a touring performer, from 2005-2007, I ... received on-time payment about 50 [percent] of the time.”

However, Lobel added that he is “so conflicted about my experience with Bailiwick. On one hand, it was a point of entry for me and so many young artists ... and for that I’m thankful. Would I have preferred them to be more honest about their budget, ability to reimburse [and] capability to fill a house? Absolutely. But I was warned. Warned sufficiently. ... In a world where space is key, Bailiwick has it and is relatively generous with it... I just so wish that they focused their efforts on quality, not quantity. While Bailiwick may be guilty of [lack of] focus, many [others] are, too.” (Another performer, Tim Miller, e-mailed that he “performed two years ago at Bailiwick before David Zak’s surgery, I believe. It took a while but I was paid.”)

### Closing?

When asked if Bailiwick Repertory will have to close its doors, Zak said, “I don’t think so. We don’t own this building, so that’s something else that’s pressing on people’s minds. This neighborhood is a hot neighborhood. We are trying to figure out [the payment] of debt and what the long-term life is going to be.”

Zak also said that he and the rest of the company are trying to get the message out about Bailiwick’s standing in the community. “Art should be a big priority, and sometimes it’s not,” he said. “Bailiwick has contributed tremendously to the cultural fabric of this neighborhood over the past 25 years, and I think people would miss us if we were not here.”

See [www.bailiwick.org](http://www.bailiwick.org).



Eliza Stoughton (left) and Victoria Caciopoli in *Blooming Flowers in Weeds*.

## THEATER REVIEW

# 22nd Annual Chicago Young Playwrights Festival

**By: Laura Fernandez, Molly McAndrew, Claire Rychlewski and Sarah Winters**  
**At: Pegasus Players at Truman College, 1145 W. Wilson**  
**Phone: 773-878-9761; \$12**  
**Runs through: Jan. 27**

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

One of the pleasures of seeing Pegasus Players' Annual Chicago Young Playwrights Festival is seeing teenagers' short plays professionally produced on stage. For the 22nd edition, Pegasus Players has chosen four works by young women out of more than 700 entries from Chicago Public Schools.

Some may question the quality of a few selections in this year's edition. In some cases you feel works were chosen because important issues are brought up.

This is the case with Sarah Winters' *Daydream Nation*, which has teenagers voicing their concerns and drifting apart due to their differing takes on where the Bush administration is taking the country. Alas, Winters doesn't succeed in making the characters more than mouthpieces after the promising first scene of a booze-filled prom night. Winters throws in new details and motivations, making the two scenes of *Daydream Nation* feel like they're from different plays.

Molly McAndrew does a better job of tying everything together in her historical what-if play *A Rose in the Royal Court*. Here, a feisty groundskeeper's daughter named Rosalind gets a brief reprieve from a troubled family life when she becomes the muse for a certain William Shakespeare writing *Romeo and Juliet*. It's all a bit too cutesy and reminiscent of the 1998 film *Shakespeare in Love*, but McAndrew makes the play fun by upending some of the stereotypical traits of love-struck girls.

Much more serious and affecting fictional historical drama is in *Coffee Girl*. Here, playwright Claire Rychlewski's follows a young slave girl who makes a painful realization that her father is the plantation's white slave owner, following a violent incident with his jealous wife. The rawness of this difficult American subject doubled with the unflinching acting by Aaya McDaniel as the girl, Margaret, and Taylar as her grandmother

make *Coffee Girl* an unsettling piece that pushes all the right emotional buttons.

More inspired work is seen with the dazzling dialogue for the Southern diner workers in Laura Fernandez's *Blooming Flowers in Weeds*. Eliza Stoughton has a field day as the chipper waitress, Candy, who takes in a troubled teenager Julia (Victoria Caciopoli) who hangs out in the diner to avoid a troubled situation at home. The ending may be melodramatic, but it provides a big finish and helps to highlight the humanity of Fernandez's working class characters.

Even if some of the selected plays' quality is in question, this young playwrights edition is tops in production values and acting. Set designer Jack Magaw frames the stage with a lively collage of historical teenage portraits which glimmer game-show style by lighting designer Diane Fairchild. The acting company is also to be commended as they morph through multiple roles and professionally play the dialogue.

## THEATER REVIEW

# Flowers Out of Season

**Playwright: Edward Crosby Wells**  
**At: People's Theater of Chicago**  
**at EP Theater, 1820 S. Halsted**  
**Phone: 773-371-1868; \$25**  
**Runs through: Feb. 3**

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

Nowadays we call it "assisted suicide," and it usually occurs in either of two scenarios: in one, both the person desiring to die and the person granting their wish have given consent to their relationship in this venture. In the other, however, the proposed *felo-de-se* deliberately invites death at the hands of agents wholly unaware of the role for which they have been chosen.

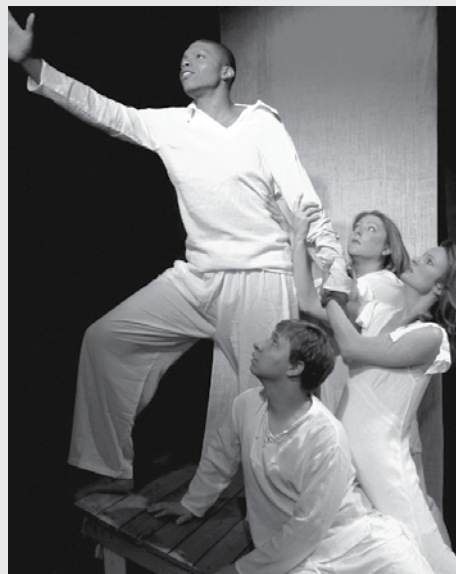
Edward Crosby Wells' drama presents us with both kinds: In the first act, young parents Dawn and Buck Rose despair of their fortunes in the depressed economy of the New Mexico oil fields as Dawn's terminal illness spurs her to theoleptic seizures counseling her to "go before"—a departure ceremoniously planned and compassionately executed by her devoted husband. In the second act, Buck attempts to seduce a wealthy matron, planning to rob her of the money he needs for his now-motherless children. But Mrs. Daisy Winter has her own secrets, and after confessions have pushed them both to the edge, the Grim Reaper can take his pick.

A play taking 20 years to write is something significant at any stage of its gestation. Wells' narrative still hovers between the short story it once was and the drama it wants to be, the brevity mandated by modern theatrical convention frequently forcing characters to switch gears too quickly, too often. But *Flowers Out of Season* (Buck *Rose* and *Daisy Winter*, get it?) has ambiguity built into its very plot: Is Buck as innocent as he presents himself to be? Is Daisy telling the truth about *her* past? And how much does a religion cobbled together from scripture, folklore and tabloid superstition contribute to guilt and confusion engendering self-destruction?

There is no arguing the care bestowed by the People's Theater of Chicago on this world premiere production. Jorge Felix's scenic design features a mural by Patricia Perez that all but shimmers with a life of its own, while Alka Nyaar and Sarah Pitard's choreography seamlessly melds grace and menace in a tango-dance hinting at the violence to come. Madrid St. Angelo directs Kristina Klemmeti, Remy O'Brien and Gerardo Cardenas in performances with stamina sufficient to sustain tension even during the text's time-stepping passages, resulting in a riveting display of ensemble acting in the Cornell-box quarters of Pilsen's EP Theater. For audiences wary of the obstacle course comprising access to this remote playhouse, be advised that this is the show that will soon make the journey worth the effort.

# SPOTLIGHT

## Songs for a New World



The Bohemian Theatre Ensemble, popularly known as BoHo, is remounting its recent hit production of *Songs for a New World*, the theatrical song cycle by gifted young composer and lyricist Jason Robert Brown, who's had quite a successful relationship with Chicago even though he's New York-based. In fact, *Songs for a New World* received its world premiere here several years ago, although not in the BoHo production. The remount is at Theatre Building Chicago, 1225 W. Belmont, through Feb. 10; 773-327-5252; \$24. Photo courtesy of Bohemian Theatre Ensemble

## Olympia Dukakis to Direct Play

Academy Award-winning actress Olympia Dukakis will direct the world premiere of Todd Logan's *Botanic Garden*, starring real-life husband and wife James Leaming and Carmen Roman. The two-character play will begin preview performances on Wed., Jan. 30, at The Victory Gardens Greenhouse Theatre, 2257 N. Lincoln, and run through Sun., March 9.

In *Botanic Garden*, Kate (Carmen Roman) faces the daunting and often humorous prospect of her first date since the death of her hus-

band, Jake (James Leaming). Memories of her husband and their marriage force Kate to take a stark look at her present, and the choices she must make as she embarks upon the next chapter of her life.

Among Dukakis's films are *Steel Magnolias*, *3 Needles*, *Mr. Holland's Opus* and *Moonstruck*, for which she won a Best Supporting Actress Oscar. On TV, she is known for portraying Anna Madrigal in the *Tales of the City* series.

Tickets go on sale Wed., Dec. 12, and are \$25 for previews and \$35 for regular performances. Call the Victory Gardens Theatre box office at 773-871-3000 or see [www.victorygardens.org](http://www.victorygardens.org).



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Timothy Edward Kane and Elizabeth Ledo in *Titus Andronicus*. Photo by Michael Brosilow

## Seven to Applaud

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL,  
THEATER EDITOR

They call them straight plays—yeah, right—or legitimate dramas to distinguish them from musicals, revues, vaudeville, burlesque and other forms of theatrical presentation such as pole dancing. Whatever—there are hundreds of them produced in Chicago every year (out of some 1,200 total productions of all kinds) including classics, modern plays and new works. Here's our pick of seven plays coming up in the winter months that we think are of special interest.

**Titus Andronicus**, Court Theatre, through Feb. 10—Written by Shakespeare early in his career, and set in ancient Rome, *Titus Andronicus* is a blood-soaked potboiler of revenge, murder, mayhem, rape, mutilation and cannibalism. And then it gets nasty. Mostly ignored for a couple of centuries, *Titus* has made a comeback recently, perhaps because the world now is as vicious as the play. Court Theatre's modern setting of it should emphasize the parallels between the Mediterranean world imagined by Shakespeare and the real Mediterranean world the United States has helped fashion.

**Journey's End**, Griffin Theatre at Theatre Building Chicago, Jan. 29-March 9—A gripping and heartfelt drama of British officers in the trenches during World War I, this R. C. Sheriff play was produced in London in 1928 (with a young Laurence Olivier) and revived both in the U.K. and the U.S. just a few years ago. An Off-Loop production four years ago was a great success, but this is a new staging by a different company. The play was among the first—certainly in Britain—to emphasize the essential meaninglessness of the sacrifices made in World War I and suggest the stupidity of planning and command.

**A Big Blue Nail**, Victory Gardens Biograph, Jan. 25-March 2—Just in time for African-American History Month, this world premiere by the estimable Carlyle Brown examines the relationship between American Robert Peary—so-called Conqueror of the North Pole—and his Black associate Matthew Henson. Which one reached the Pole first? Truth is, as with Hillary and Tenzig, they were a team working together. But Henson's role was ignored for decades, along with many other historic African-American achievements.

**Fragments**, Chicago Shakespeare Theater, Jan. 31-Feb. 9—Towering playwright meets towering director: several short theater texts by Nobel Laureate Samuel Beckett as staged by Peter Brook, among the most influential directors of the mid-to-late 20th century and still at work at 82. This pithy production is but 65 minutes, but should be a memorable and compelling hour for all who love theater. It probably will be profound but not necessarily heavy: Beckett loved clowns and clowning and love to tricks in the theatre, as does Brook.

**Underneath the Lintel**, City Lit at Edgewater Presbyterian Church, March 7-30—This is

the second area production in two years of Glen Berger's fascinating and brilliant one-man play, and it's well worth another look. When a mild librarian finds a book returned that's 113 years overdue, he launches a personal detective journey that takes him into the realm of legends, Biblical history and miracles as he tracks down the Wandering Jew in a dazzling synthesis of wit, history and metaphysics.

**What Every Woman Knows**, ShawChicago (sic) at the Ruth Page Center, April 12-May 3—James S. Barrie, the Edwardian playwright most famous for *Peter Pan*, lends his sympathies in this 1908 social comedy to a woman who wishes to be independent and resourceful, but can only do so within the bounds of conventional marriage where she indisputably is the power behind her husband's throne. Barrie doesn't quite march in lockstep with Shaw and other progressives of the time, because his play is about a man being chastened rather than about a woman achieving her independence.

**Better Late**, Northlight Theatre, April 2-May 11—Based on its pedigree and cast, we take a leap of faith that this world premiere will be well worth seeing. Great favorites and skillful veterans Mike Nussbaum and John Mahoney star in this oddball love triangle, in which circumstances force a man to move in with his ex-wife and her new husband. The co-authors are Larry Gelbart (of *M\*A\*S\*H* fame) and Craig Wright, a gifted stage and TV writer with a knack for pointed social commentary.



Marcello Magni (left) and Jos Houben in *Fragments*. Photo credit: Pascal Victor/Max ppp.



Lea Coco (left) and Levi Holloway in *The Little Dog Laughed*. Photo by Michael Brosilow

## Six to Shout 'Out!'

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL,  
THEATER EDITOR

Members of our LGBT communities are to be found everywhere in theater, from top management posts; to designers and performers; to writers and composers; and to ushers and audiences (naturally). We even hear there are gay stagehands, although don't say that to the stagehands union. Of course, no season in Chicago theater would be complete without a number of shows with special appeal to LGBT audiences, and here are my top six for the winter and early spring.

**The Little Dog Laughed**, About Face Theatre at the Center on Halsted, through Feb. 17—Seen on Broadway just last year, this play by Douglas Carter Beane has more wit than depth and has a few big holes in construction, but it offers plenty of entertainment, four good acting roles and flashes of two naked bodies (at least it did on Broadway) in its tale of a closeted Hollywood star, his agent, a hustler with a heart of gold and his girlfriend. This is About Face co-founder Eric Rosen's final show as artistic director of the theater before taking over the much-larger Kansas City Repertory Theatre.

**The Day on Which a Man Dies**, Summer NITE at Links Hall, Feb. 1-10—Here's something that's certainly odd and could be wonderful: a world premiere play by Tennessee Williams, written in the late 1950s, never produced and presumed lost. Not only that—Williams was inspired by the writings and philosophy of iconic gay Japanese poet, filmmaker, philosopher and athlete Yukio Mishima (whom Williams met), so stylistically *The Day on Which a Man Dies* should be interesting, as poet blends with poet.

**La Cage aux Folles**, Theatre at the Center (Munster, Ind.), Feb. 7-March 9—Oh, why not?

You just can't get much gayer than a Broadway musical by Jerry Herman, Harvey Fierstein and Arthur Laurents (adapted from the non-musical original French film comedy) with outrageous characters, a live-and-let-live philosophy, a right-wing homophobic bad guy and a famously tuneful score. Rudy Hogenmiller choreographs and directs as James Harms plays Albin for the fourth time. Well worth the short drive across the state line, where gas is much cheaper.

**A Man of No Importance**, Bailiwick Repertory, March 17-April 20—As gaudy and flashy as *La Cage* is, so *A Man of No Importance* isn't. Yet this quiet, soulful Off-Broadway musical by Lynn Ahrens, Stephen Flaherty and Terrence McNally (the Ragtime team) makes an equally powerful statement about being true to one's own nature, and being out-and-proud. The quirky tale is set within a world of amateur theatricals in contemporary Dublin, Ireland, where the ghost of Oscar Wilde inspires a lonely, closeted gay man. The show's in the good hands of director Scott Ferguson and musical director Robert Ollis.

**A Passage to India**, Vitalist Theatre and Premier Theatre and Performance at Theatre Building Chicago, April 8-May 18—This should be a gripping production of the great novel of empire and its cultural failings by the long-closeted E. M. Forster. This is the American premiere of a stage adaptation by Martin Sherman, the American expatriate author of *Bent*.

**Girls Will Be Girls**, Hubris Productions at the Center on Halsted, Feb. 21-March 29—Sometimes one must take a leap into the unknown when picking shows worth seeing, and this world premiere is a case in point. The folks at Hubris have adapted the film by Richard Day about three Hollywood women of different ages and their cat fights to reach and/or stay at the top of movie/TV food chain. We don't know whether the Hubris version will be a drag or in drag or both, but it could be an instant camp classic in the making.



Jennie Moreau and Steve Key in *The Day on Which a Man Dies*. Photo by Jim Womack

## Six to Sing

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL,  
THEATER EDITOR

Nothing defines the essence of American theater more than a tuner, a musical, a song-and-dance even though the last 35 years have brought enormous changes to the form and style of the traditional big, brassy show of Broadway's Golden Age (roughly 1920-1970). The line-up of musicals between now and April covers the waterfront, offering examples of the old, the very new and the high-concept. Here are my top six picks.

**1776**, Signal Ensemble at the Chopin Theatre, Jan. 27-March 1—Ben Franklin is a song-and-dance man and Thomas Jefferson is the romantic lead in this cagey Broadway musical, which gives entertaining form to the crucial conflicts and issues that surrounded the founding of our nation. It reminds us of the principles of democratic government that are missing in action under the present American regime. FYI: 1776 will be the very first musical for the small Signal Ensemble.

**The American Dream Songbook**, Next Theatre Company (Evanston), Feb. 19-March 22—A not-quite-accurate title for an intriguing slice of musical theater that combines Leonard Bernstein's little-known one-act opera, *Trouble in Tahiti*, with new, original theater songs by cutting-edge New York and Chicago composers such as Michael John LaChiusa, Joshua Schmidt and Kevin O'Donnell (yeah, all guys). Written in 1952, *Trouble in Tahiti* is Bernstein's satirical and jazz-influenced look at life in suburbia. This is Next Theatre's second musical foray.

**Les Miserables**, Marriott Theatre (Lincolnshire), Feb. 20-May 11—This overblown but iconic show—part of the so-called British invasion of Broadway (even if the show actually is French)—is far from my favorite musical. But it does offer some splendid tunes and performing opportunities, and it's only recently been



Philip Winston as John Adams in 1776. Photo by Johnny Knight

released to regional theatres. While a local high school (Can you imagine?) already has staged it, this Marriott production will be its first independent professional presentation, and Marriott always does very good work.

**Can-Can**, Circle Theatre (Forest Park), Feb. 29-April 6—A bit of the old pizzazz is sure to surface as Circle Theatre revives an early 1950s Broadway classic with music and lyrics by the great Cole Porter and a book by master director Abe Burrows. *I Love Paris* and *It's All Right with Me* are among the hummable tunes. Circle Theatre, just over the border from Oak Park, has a way of extracting the best from old shows and

squeezing surprising production numbers onto its small stage.

**Carousel**, Court Theatre, March 6-April 13—This early Rodgers and Hammerstein show is earthy, heavily dramatic and features one of Rodgers' richest and most melodious scores. Court Theatre "reimagines" great American musicals and—for my money—destroys them by so doing, but I remain in a critical minority that feels that way. Court Artistic Director Charles Newell has engaged a choreographer for *Carousel*, so maybe even Charlie now understands that if you refuse to stage production numbers, you're robbing a musical of its very essence.

**Nine**, Porchlight Music Theatre at Theatre Building Chicago, April 4-May 8—This thoroughly hetero musical is based on Federico Fellini's legendary film, *8 1/2*, about a movie director pursued by women (past, present, real and imaginary) as he contemplates his next project. Somehow, composer Maury Yeston and book writer Arthur Kopit have boiled Fellini's somewhat-surreal flick into an entertaining and popular vehicle. ... Antonio Banderas starred in its most recent Broadway revival. *Nine* is quite a different choice for Porchlight, which knows how to extract the heart and soul of a show.

## CRITICS' PICS

**Hunchback**, Redmoon Theatre, through Feb. 3. This clever condensation of Victor Hugo's epic novel utilizes puppets, masks, pop-ups, music and other devices that tickle the imagination to give life to the tale of good, evil and lust in Medieval Paris. SCM

**Requiem for a Heavyweight**, Shattered Globe at Victory Gardens Greenhouse, through March 8. A rare Chicago revival of the all-too-realistic drama by Rod Serling, before *The Twilight Zone*, about a washed-up boxing champ turned into a wrestling "character." JA

**The Turn Of the Screw**, Writers Theatre, through March 30. Neo-gothic spinsters menaced by phantoms in old country houses are a dime a dozen, but is our heroine really as innocent as we—and author Henry James—imagine? See what *you* think! MSB.

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge and Morgan

### Sedaka to Perform on Valentine's Day

The legendary Neil Sedaka will perform from his catalog of hits at Centre East at The North Shore Center for the Performing Arts in Skokie in a romantic Valentine's Day concert. (The venue is located at 9501 Skokie in Skokie, and the concert starts at 7:30 p.m.) Among Sedaka's classics are *You Mean Everything To Me*, *Breaking Up is Hard To Do* and *Calendar Girl*.

Tickets are \$75-125 and can be purchased by calling 847-673-6300 or by visiting [www.centreast.org](http://www.centreast.org).

### 'Broadway' Run to End Jan. 27

The popular musical comedy revue *Forbidden Broadway: Special Victims Unit* will complete its successful 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](http://Ticketmaster.com) and all Ticketmaster ticket centers.

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## THEATER REVIEW

## Sunday on the Rocks

Playwright: Theresa Rebeck

At: Bailiwick Repertory Theatre's

Second Sex series at the

Bailiwick Arts Center, 1229 W. Belmont

Phone: 773-883-1090; \$20-\$25

Runs through: Feb. 10

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

The formula for writing a play of this genre is to: 1) assemble a group of personalities guaranteed to annoy one another, 2) put them together in one room, 3) contrive to have them lose their inhibitions/manners, 4) keep them from leaving and then 5) try to wrap up the lesson plan when the therapy session—oops, human conflict—has run its course.

Playwright Theresa Rebeck presents us with four unmarried ladies, tidily distinguished by their sexual proclivities: Jen sleeps around, Jessica claims to be chaste, Gayle doesn't have a boyfriend and Elly has just discovered she's pregnant. A lack of affordable housing in their rural Massachusetts town explains how thirty-something career women of widely diverse oc-



Rebekah Walenzak, Audrey Flegel and Sienna Harris (from left) in *Sunday on the Rocks*. Photo by David Zak

cupations and lifestyles come to cohabit in fashionably-decorated domesticity. Elly is starting off her morning with a fifth of Dewar's. Soon, Gayle and Jen have been persuaded to join her in drinking and kvetching about men, sex, God, the absent Jessica, men, their moms, confessions of youthful indiscretions, abortions vs. hiring out as a surrogate carrier (but *not* more effective methods of contraception), men, Ouija board games and the compulsion to bake cookies when inebriated.

But Rebeck's depiction of her personnel as sorority girls at a slumber party (the rational

Jessica standing in for housemother) appear to be her sole means of preventing these distressed damsels from going *away*—for a walk, to take out the trash, up to their *rooms*, for chrisssakes—when the fur begins to fly. And her means of spurring them to permanently alter the status quo—or consider doing so, anyway—is to introduce a creepy crime-show complication so hackneyed as to make us suspect a red herring even before our guess is revealed to be accurate (a reversal barely acknowledged by the characters involved).

Presented as part of Bailiwick Repertory The-

atre's "Second Sex" series (the title, a reference to Simone de Beauvoir's feminist manifesto, though one wonders what its namesake would think of Rebeck's portrait of *les femmes* as shrill, irresponsible, infantile whiners), *Sunday On The Rocks* provides a vehicle for four capable young actresses under the direction of multiple award-winning sound designer Victoria DeIorio (who also supplies the superlative incidental music). But no matter how they may strive to invoke the harmonies of cozy cat-chat, the agenda in Rebeck's 100-minute-long, no-intermission symposium still disrupts any enjoyment or enlightenment it may offer.

## THEATER REVIEW

## Storybox

By: Jonathan Pitts and the ensemble

At: Piven Theatre, 927 Noyes St., Evanston

Phone: (847) 866-8049; \$10

Runs through: Feb. 3

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

Everyone is a storyteller, set designer and costumer in *Storybox* (which is both the name of the ensemble and the show). Dressed all in black, the actors build and improvise a play with fabrics, sticks and their own acting skills based upon an audience member's suggestion.

So don't be shy when *Storybox* director/conceiver/actor Jonathan Pitts asks whether or not you want the play to be about a woman or a man. After ritualistically approaching by clattering wooden poles on the floor, the ensemble launches into the play's main character's description, appearance and frame of mind immediately after the first audience member speaks up.

I'm unable to go into a lengthy plot description of *Storybox* since it's very likely the show changes at each and every performance. The night I attended focused on a cat-loving librarian who falls in love with an auto mechanic who loves to dress up in a bear suit. And when that story didn't quite run 90 minutes, *Storybox* filled out the intermission-less running time with a fairy tale acted on the spot from an audience's suggestion. (We got a revisionist Hansel and Gretel with a lot of dubious German accents.)

So you can't really comment on whether the plot is satisfactory or not based upon the variable beginnings and endings of where the actors take the show. What can be commented on is the firm commitment and playfulness the ensemble brings to the story and characters they concoct.

The ensemble of Maria Caceres, John Hildreth, Elise Lammers, Jonathan Pitts, Kristala Pouncy, Jenn SavaRyan, Jeremy Schaefer, Kelly Williams and Joe Yau all work together smoothly and adeptly.

The initial tale feels like a certain amount of polished rehearsal and preset guidelines are part of the process, while the Hansel and Gretel was improvised in a more by-the-seat-of-their-pants style. Backing all the actors up is Jonathan Wagner, playing a solid musical accompaniment on percussion and sampled keyboard.

Yet for all the improvised creativity, there's an element of pretentious preciousness about the whole affair if you're not in the mood for such artsy creation. Oh there's no doubt that the show is frequently funny and clever, but the unwieldy nature of the spontaneous construction might not be to everyone's personal taste.

But at \$10 for a ticket, you can easily give away 90 minutes of your time to watch this dedicated ensemble prance, prod and play around as they each work together as a team to be storytellers. *Storybox* does stress the elemental importance of imagination and ritual in theater and, on that level, it succeeds.

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**THEATER REVIEW**

**The Cassilis Engagement**

Playwright: St. John Hankin  
 At: ShawChicago at the Ruth Page Theater, 1016 N. Dearborn  
 Phone: 312-587-7390; \$15  
 Runs through: Feb. 2

BY CATEY SULLIVAN

Washed-out shades of Oscar Wilde and underwritten echoes of George Bernard Shaw make up the flimsy foundation of St. John Hankin's *The Cassilis Engagement*, an unsubstantial comedy unworthy of the substantial talents of ShawChicago. Why ShawChicago Artistic Director Robert Scogin selected this piffle for his company's winter offering is a bafflement.

At a preview performance of ShawChicago's reader's theater treatment of *The Cassilis Engagement*, the pace occasionally sputtered, but timing isn't the core problem in this set-, costume- and prop-free production. The root trouble is one of standard material: The characters are mere types, and the dialogue apes but never comes close to achieving the sparkling wit or satirical verve that defines Shaw or Wilde. And where Shaw skewers his targets with the accuracy of an atom-splitter, Hankin's targets are never clear. He frowns on everybody, depicting the upper classes as snooty, superficial, hypocritical and duplicitous and the lower classes as vulgar, superficial, coarse and uninterested in widening their limited intellectual horizons. No

one in the story elicits any sympathy and as a result, it's difficult to give a single fig about the machinations of the gossamer-thin plot.

The titular engagement is between dashing country gentleman Geoffrey Cassilis (John Francisco) and pretty London commoner Ethel (Leslie Ann Handelman). Horrified at her son's selection in a bride, Adelaide Cassilis (Mary Michell) and her sister, Lady Marchmont (Adrienne Cury), scheme to kill the romance with kindness. When Ethel and her shrill, *déclassé* mother, Mrs. Borridge (Diane Dorsey), arrive for an extended visit at the Cassilis estate, an underhanded, impeccably mannered war is waged on the have-nots.

If any of the characters were filled in to be more than mere cartoonish types, the scheming might be great fun. As it is, however, it's devilishly difficult to engage with the shenanigans on stage. As Mrs. Borridge, Dorsey is no likable underdog—she screeches and mugs like an over-the-top version of Eliza Doolittle's long-lost cousin. As for Michell's Adelaide, she's bland as rice pudding and altogether too much of a non-entity to be believable as the maternal Machiavelli the script demands. As for the ingénues, Francisco instills Geoffrey with a poignant earnestness that truly charming even if it is utterly unbelievable that he would fall for a girl as disagreeable as Handelman's Ethel.

It's Tony Dobrowolski as the proudly disreputable Major Warrington that instills *The Cassilis Engagement* with its one bit of bracing gusto and as such, it's unfortunate that Major Warrington is only in a few scenes. Would that Hankin had written *The Warrington Engagement*—then we might have a story worth telling.



**Arts Groups to Mark MLK Day**

The Chicago Sinfonietta will celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Day with *Celebration* by Adolphus Hailstork; Chicago's Deeply Rooted Dance Theater; guest violinists Christina Castelli and Melissa White; and the 200-voice Apostolic Church of God Sanctuary Choir and its director Mark Jordan. The performances will take place Sun., Jan. 20, at Lund Auditorium, Dominican University, 7900 W. Division, River Forest, at 3 p.m.; and Mon., Jan. 21, at Orchestra Hall, Symphony Center, 220 S. Michigan, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$26-\$96. Call 312-236-3681, ext. 2, or visit [www.chicagosinfonietta.org](http://www.chicagosinfonietta.org).

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POP  
MAKING  
SENSE

BY DAVID BYRNE AND TONY PEREGRIN

Things heat up this winter as there is an anticipation of impending releases. **Moby's** recent ventures as a DJ will be more apparent on his forthcoming album, *Last Night*. His previous sets—*Play*, *18* and *Hotel*—favored a more soulful, even bluesy sound. *Last Night's* upbeat first single, *Alice*, features the rappers *Aynzli* and *419 Crew*. Reminiscent of his critically acclaimed EP, *Move*, and his 1995 opus, *Everything Is Wrong*, *Last Night* is scheduled to arrive April 1 state-side. A sampler of Moby's new electronic material is available for a free download at [www.moby.com](http://www.moby.com) and can be previewed on his MySpace page.

**Taylor Dayne** shows that she knows satisfaction on her fifth studio album, *Satisfied*. The great Dayne revels in chirpy upbeat numbers (*I'm Over My Head*, *My Heart Won't Change*), a brighter departure from 1998's *Naked Without You*. As promised on her MySpace page, Dayne belts out covers on *Satisfied*, too: Here, she opts for the Red Hot Chili Peppers' *Under the Bridge* and Des'ree's *Kissing You*. Her ode to Los Ange-

les is more organic than the All Saints's take on *Bridge*, and Dayne adds more instrumentation to Des'ree's broken-hearted love song. The lead single, *Beautiful*, boasts remixes by Hex Hector and is accompanied by a new incarnation of *Tell It to My Heart* with new vocals. *Satisfied* will be available Feb. 8, courtesy of the Prove Your Love singer's Intention Music label.

Expect more than "a little piece of history repeating itself" on **Dame Shirley Bassey's** latest, *Get the Party Started*.

Here the James Bond theme crooner uses her trademark delivery to revamp Grace Jones's *Slave to the Rhythm*, Lionel Richie's *Hello* and Pink's mega-hit on the title track. Bassey also provides an updated spin on her signatures, *I Who Have Nothing* and *You Only Live Twice*. Previously, Bassey had songs remixed by Propellerheads and Groove Armada, adding to her career's longevity. *Get the Party Started* will do just that once it hits shelves March 4 via Decca Records.

On her third solo outing, *Some People Have Real Problems*, **Sia** remedies most of her maladies from her breakthrough, *Colour the Small One*. The soulful Zero 7 vocalist does manage to keep the aching alive with *You Have Been Loved* and *A Day Too Soon*. Even her reworking of the Pretenders's *I Go to Sleep* bares the wounds of her earlier efforts. But it is the plucky tongue twister *Academia* and the cleverly crafted *The Girl You Lost to Cocaine* that show Sia's artistic progress. The Australian singer-songwriter has a concert lined up on Feb. 29 at Park West, 322 W. Armitage. (Please note, Sia's MySpace page erroneously lists the venue as The Metro.) At her



**Lenny Kravitz.** Photo by David Hindley. Below: **Dame Shirley Bassey.** Photo by Kerry Brown

last performance in the Windy City, Sia was irked that fans already knew her new material, since *Some People Have Real Problems* was leaked online but it is now in stores.

**Olivia Newton-John** is loved for her classic film roles in *Grease* and *Xanadu* as well as her more dramatic turns in *It's My Party* and *Sordid Lives*. On the heels of her holiday collection, *Christmas Wish*, the Australian superstar is releasing *Olivia's Live Hits*. Recorded with the Sydney Symphony, this live album is out in conjunction with the full-length concert DVD *Live at the Sydney Opera House*. It is back to the '70s and '80s with these projects, as *You Never Have Been Mellow*, *Magic* and *Physical* are highlights. Also, Newton-John will recreate her role from *Sordid Lives* for the forthcoming TV series on Logo based on the movie.

Broadway veteran **Idina Menzel** flies without a broom on the spellbinding *I Stand*. She even collaborates with uber-producer Glen Ballard (Alanis Morissette, Michael Jackson, Annie Lennox). Although the title cut and *Better to Have Loved* are plagued with clichés, the catchy *Gorgeous* and *Where Do I Begin* serve as pillars on *I Stand*. The Tony award winner's distinctive voice muscles through the entire set, which comes out on January 29 on Warner Brothers. Need more Menzel? She performs the end title song in *Beowulf* and there are dance mixes to *Defying Gravity*, her show-stealing number from *Wicked*.

As one of the sexiest men in rock 'n roll, **Lenny Kravitz** returns with his eighth studio album, *It Is Time for a Love Revolution*, just in time for Valentine's Day. Due out Feb. 8 on Virgin, the Grammy-winning singer rocks on *Bring It On* and slows it down some for *I'll Be Waiting*. *Revolution* will also be available as a limited-edition package, which will include a documentary on the Let Love Rule singer. Kravitz's *Get on the Bus with the Love Revolution Tour* stops in Chicago at the Riviera, 4746 N. Racine, on Sat., Jan. 26.

The avant-garde electronic duo **Goldfrapp** intends to surprise fans, as its fourth album *Seventh Tree* is a major departure from its previous studio album, the upbeat glam-rock-disco CD *Supernature*. This change in direction may even effect Madonna, who has been pegged as copying Goldfrapp's sound into a more mainstream product, thus leaving the Hung Up singer to be dubbed Oldfrapp. Due out Feb. 26, *Seventh Tree* will be the follow-up to the sparkling remix EP *We Are Glitter*. A U.S. tour is in the works for late spring.



## Deep Inside Hollywood

BY ROMEO SAN VICENTE

### Paul Rudd Says I Love You, Man

Does the success of *Superbad* and its teenage protagonists expressing love for one another—however drunkenly—signal the beginning of a trend in the comic treatment of heterosexual male intimacy? Is this the age of the "bro-mantic comedy"? The new movie, *I Love You, Man*, makes that look likely. Co-produced by Judd Apatow (*Knocked Up*) and starring Paul Rudd (whose willingness to "go there" with gay-related subject matter in films like *The Object of My Affection* and *The 40 Year-Old Virgin* is well documented), the film centers on an engaged man who finds himself without a best man. He has to find a male friend he considers close enough to fill that position. Expect a lot of mock dating situations as the poor straight guy navigates gay(ish) waters. Shooting this spring, here's hoping it's better than *I Now Pronounce You Chuck and Larry*. Like that'll be hard.

### Nathan Lane Casts Swing Vote

He's acting up a storm on Broadway right now with Laurie Metcalf in the new David Mamet play, *November*, but stage fixture Nathan Lane will be back on the big screen this new year, too, with a role in the ensemble comedy *Swing Vote*. Starring Kevin Costner as a low-achieving, apolitical American citizen, the movie concerns a presidential election that hinges entirely on Costner's not-entirely-well-informed vote and the national chaos that results from it. Lane will co-star, along with Dennis Hopper, Stanley Tucci, Kelsey Grammer, George Lopez, Mare Winningham, Willie Nelson, and political commentator Arianna Huffington as herself. Already wrapped, the film—if audiences vote for it with their ticket dollars—could find itself increasing poll turnouts. But not likely.

### Addams and Mapa Make Transamerican Love

It was just a matter of time, really. Get ready for *Transamerican Love Story*, a reality dating show feature Calpernia Addams, a 36-year-old transgendered woman (whose life and tragic relationship with an Army private inspired the TV movie *Soldier's Girl*). Addams will be the object of affection for a group of men competing to date her—all of whom will know about her formerly male body. Contrast that to the U.K. series, *There's Something About Miriam*, on which the male contestants were not told about Miriam's transgender status, and the new concept marks a bold step for the reality television genre. Actor and stand-up comic Alec Mapa will host the show that's just been given the green light by gay cable channel Logo. The dating game begins later in 2008.

### Choosing America's Prom Queen

For further evidence that pop culture is now dominated by entertainment designed for the High School Musical demographic, look no further than *America's Prom Queen*. ABC Family has given the go-ahead for the new series that will pit a group of high school-aged young women against each other in the quest to be the fairest prom queen of them all. The contestants will reside in a mansion and compete in challenges that will show if they've got what it takes to wear a tiara in public and wave at less popular people; then they'll stay or go based on viewer votes. But Romeo has one complaint: in an era when young men are routinely making the news after being voted prom queen at their school, why no boys allowed?

E-mail [DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com](mailto:DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com).

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## 27 Dresses, Mad Money

BY RICHARD KNIGHT, JR.

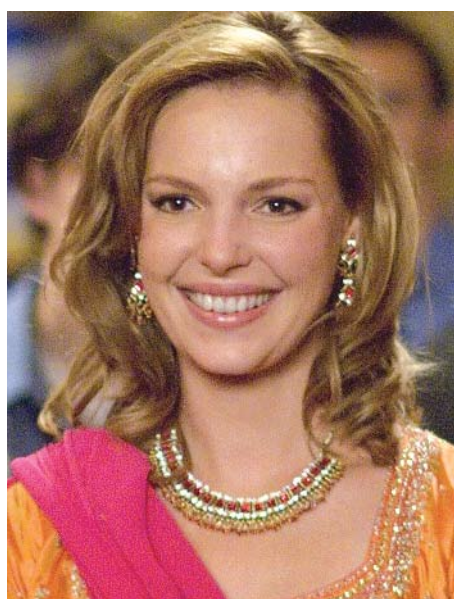
Fans of romantic comedies and chick flicks—often one and the same—will be happy to note that two films for the ladies (and gay men), **27 Dresses** and **Mad Money**, are both opening this week just as the long winter blahs begin to set in. Last week's newest buddy picture—*The Bucket List*, with Jack Nicholson and Morgan Freeman—is nothing more than a chance for the two perennial audience favorites to tour the world in service of a dramedy so familiar it contains not a whit of originality. Nonetheless, in a season heavy with serious awards contenders, a healthy dose of sentimental, emotional sludge like *The Bucket List* delivers the goods mainly because of its very familiarity—like a comfy pair of slippers. The same can be said of *27 Dresses*, the romantic comedy showcasing Grey's Anatomy's Katherine Heigl, who is making a bid for film stardom. However, it cannot be said of *Mad Money*—with Diane Keaton, Queen Latifah and Katie Holmes—which never finds much laugh-

ter, discovers the right tone or utilizes its strong cast.

That might be because *27 Dresses* was written by Aline Brosh McKenna, who also penned another chick flick *par excellence*—*The Devil Wears Prada*—while *Mad Money* credits four different writers—all men—for its script. I'm not sure if the feminine perspective helped the former but, surely, it didn't hurt. In *27 Dresses* Heigl plays Jane, a literal incarnation of the familiar phrase "always the bridesmaid, never the bride" who takes her role too seriously. (At one point, we see her even holding up the bride's dress in the toilet so the bride can pee—now *that's* a friend.) Naturally, Jane, who seemingly lives to serve others, dreams of one day walking down the aisle herself, preferably in her late mother's dress, with her handsome but uninterested boss George (Edward Burns). And Jane's acerbic coworker and friend (Judy Greer, funny in the *Eve Arden* role) is all too happy to point this out. The plot kicks into gear when Jane's luscious but less-than-honest sister Tess (*The Heartbreak Kid's* Malin Ackerman) arrives back in town and immediately catches the boss' eye, heart and a fast wedding proposal, much to Jane's silent dismay.

Another plot thread is provided by James Marsden as Kevin (the real Dr. McDreamy—getting his chance at starring status as well) as a romantic cynic who writes the wedding announcements column for a New York Times-like paper that Jane loves so much she keeps a file of her favorites. Kevin, of course, is assigned to write a story about the impending nuptials of Tess and George but his real quarry is Jane, whose over-the-top bridesmaid behavior has come to his attention.

There are very heavy shades of *Muriel's Wedding*, *The Wedding Planner* and many other wedding-themed comedies mined in the script as the mismatched lovers are sorted out. Director Anne Fletcher, who is also an actress and choreographer, connects the dots ably, allowing



Katherine Heigl in *27 Dresses*. Photo by Barry Wetcher

for the usual number of montages cut to light rock songs (the one in which Jane shows off her different bridesmaid dresses is the comedic highlight of the picture) but doesn't really solve the picture's biggest problem: its lack of chemistry. Though Heigl shows deft timing, there's really no spark between her and the love interest, and it doesn't help that she appears to tower over the much shorter Marsden (except when the duo are photographed face to face, when it appears someone got out Alan Ladd's box for him to stand on) and that he is stuck in the stock cynic role until late in the film. The lack of chemistry between *all* the actors points out the overfamiliarity of McKenna's well-crafted but by-the-numbers script. It was apparent in *Prada*, too, if one looked beyond that film's four strong elements (Meryl Streep, Anne Hathaway, Emily Blunt and Patricia Field's clothes).

But it's the narcissistic message of *27 Dresses* that is the most grating. Jane is told over and over again to stop taking care of others and take care of herself, to "look out for Number One and you'll find love." It's the opposite of the selfless, self-serving message of a picture like, say, *It's a Wonderful Life* and other classic pictures in which society lauded individuals who gave of themselves. Now we view these selfless, caring people—these "do gooders"—as repressed losers, too weak to take what they want. It sounds harsh to point this out about a piece of ersatz feel-good romance like *27 Dresses*, but if the dress fits you gotta wear it.

*Mad Money*, a caper comedy (along the lines of *Who's Minding the Mint?*, *How to Beat the High Cost of Living* and *Fun with Dick and Jane*) in which three women steal money from the Federal Reserve to enhance their middle-class lives, has pretty much the same message but relays it through much less pleasing circumstances. *Thelma & Louise* screenwriter Callie Khouri directs (chosen because of the crime element that drives the plot?) in her first feature film since her debut, *Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood* (which she also adapted). But *Mad Money*, with its quartet of writers (minus Khouri), is filled with enough plot holes to make Swiss cheese out of and Khouri doesn't begin to fill them. Instead, she haphazardly directs a group of A-list actors who each seems to be employing different techniques in the sloppily assembled B-list scenes that veer wildly in tone. Suffice it to say that any movie that makes Diane Keaton unlikable is mad—and certainly isn't worth spending money on.

Check out my archived reviews at [www.windycitytimes.com](http://www.windycitytimes.com) or [www.knightatthemovies.com](http://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, *Knights at the Movies 2004-2006*.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS



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## HELP WANTED

**WEDNESDAY NEWSPAPER DELIVERY DRIVER:** Four hours, \$56. Must have car and insurance. Please call Jean at 773-871-7610.

**SEEKING SUPERVISING COMMUNITY EDUCATOR:** Supervising Community Educator sought by Lambda Legal, a nat'l LGBT/HIV advocacy org to supervise all community educators and to increase support for Lambda Legal's mission. Req: 5 yrs exp. See [www.lambdalegal.org/about-us/jobs](http://www.lambdalegal.org/about-us/jobs). (1/16/08-1)

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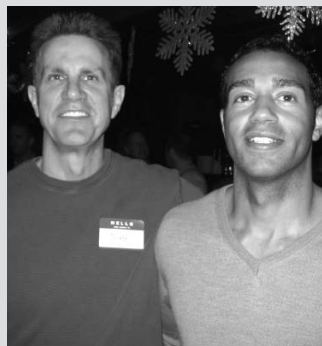
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## Political Parties

With 2008 being an important election year (and with this state's residents voting Feb. 5 or before), political fundraisers and other activities are in full swing. On Tues., Jan. 8, Young Chicago Lakefront held a New Hampshire primary-viewing party at Red Ivy, 3525 N. Clark (left set), while Stonewall Democrats Illinois held another one at Halsted's Bar & Grill, 3441 N. Halsted (middle set). The following night, congressional candidate Mark Pera held an LGBT fundraiser at Mix, 2843 N. Clark (right set). Among those attending at least one of these events were local political figures such as Metropolitan Water Reclamation Commissioner Debra Shore and political activist Mike Bauer as well as judicial candidates Daniel Gillespie, Debra Kramer Marcus and Aaron Weiss. Left and middle photos by Andrew Davis; right photos by Suzanne Kraus; see more photos at [www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com](http://www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com)



Jack Mackenroth. Photo courtesy of Bravo

## Jack Mackenroth: Clothes Call

BY ROSS FORMAN

Jack Mackenroth was 20 when his doctor said he'd need an HIV test.

"I was almost positive that I was negative. I thought it was ludicrous [that I would be positive.] There was no way," he said.

Mackenroth returned to the doctor about three weeks later.

He was HIV-positive, his doctor said.

"I was horrified. I thought my prospect [for living] was very bleak," Mackenroth said. "I assumed I'd be dead by 25."

There were no tears that August afternoon, just a lot of profanity.

"I left the doctor's office in this haze," he said. "I figured I could cope with it myself because I've always been this strong person, but I really worried about my family and others having to deal with watching me die."

His fears, luckily, never came to fruition.

Mackenroth, now 38, is healthy and happy—

truly a role model for gay, HIV-positive individuals. He has excelled athletically, setting national swimming records, and professionally as a fashion designer.

Mackenroth appears on Project Runway's fourth season, currently airing on Bravo, though he had to remove himself from the fashion reality show due to a staph infection in his face during the filming last June.

"I spent a few years feeling sorry for myself [after being diagnosed HIV-positive], and adjusting to what the possibilities were, but then I just resumed a normal life. I've always had a lot on my plate; I've always been very ambitious," he said. "Once I realized that HIV wasn't really going to get me down, or hold me back in any way, I just proceeded with the goals that I had set for myself before I found out that I was HIV-positive. So nothing has really changed.

"I'm now completely recovered [from the staph infection]. I've had that before, maybe three or four years ago. It just was bad luck, bad timing for me [that it returned]."

The Emmy-nominated reality series Project Runway features host Heidi Klum and a panel of industry luminaries, such as Michael Kors and Nina Garcia. Tim Gunn, the chief creative officer at Liz Claiborne, Inc., acts as a mentor to the contestants as they navigate weekly fashion challenges.

The series started with 15 contestants, including Mackenroth and Chicagoan Steven Rosen-gard, and it culminates in February. The winner receives an editorial feature story in ELLE Magazine and a cash prize of \$100,000 from TRESemé Professional Hair Care to start his or her own line and the opportunity to sell a fashion line on Bluefly.com—plus, a 2008 Saturn Astra.

"I loved [the experience]. It really was a creative bubble, very high pressure. It was great, though, to have that be your only focus. I had a great experience," Mackenroth said.

Would he do it again? "I don't know," he said. "I have an option of auditioning again because

I left under bizarre circumstances, but I don't know if I will.

"Project Runway really takes over your life in a much broader scope than you as a viewer witness. Some days I think, 'Yes; I would do it again.' Some days I think, 'Nah; I've had enough.' We'll have to see."

Mackenroth moved to New York City in 1991 to attend the prestigious Parsons School of Design, where he studied fashion design. He then opened a menswear store in New York's West Village. In 1997, he went to work for Tommy Hilfiger. He later worked for the Slaters brand under the Levis umbrella. Before appearing on Project Runway, he was the design director at Weatherproof Active wear for four years.

"There are a lot of things on my plate now," he said.

"Project Runway was a really accurate [portrayal] actually, though I have a sarcastic side that didn't really come across because, well, Christian kind of assumed that role. I can be sarcastic; I'm a New Yorker. Although I didn't grow up here, I've been here for over 15 years. I came across as this always jovial, always helpful guy, which is true, for the most part. But we all have our bad days.

"I think I'm funnier than I was on TV, but that's just my personal opinion."

Mackenroth also was a fitness and fashion model throughout the 1990s, appearing in such publications as Men's Fitness, Genre, Blue and others. He has a perfectly-sculpted physique and seven tattoos—the first he got when he was 20.

Mackenroth's most recognizable tattoos are the colorful stars that surround his elbows. They

also are his most recent, which he got about five years ago.

"The tattoos are a conscious decision to deface my body, as weird and bizarre as that may sound; I was designing my body," he said. "I drew all of them and knew where I wanted to put them, and there's a story behind each one. I just like the way they look.

"The stars have the least amount of significance. To be honest, I was bored one day, walking down the street and just decided to get more tattoos. I had seen someone previously with one black star on their elbow, and thought it was cool."

Mackenroth is openly gay and doesn't hide his HIV status, but he does not want to be the poster child for living with HIV.

"I just always have lived very honestly and openly," he said. "I have gotten so much positive feedback for being an inspiration and great role-model. But I didn't really expect that going into [the show]. But, I'm glad it's a secondary effect of being on the show. I think it's great.

"There's still a huge stigma around HIV, which I think is ridiculous, and I'm glad to be fighting that in some small way."

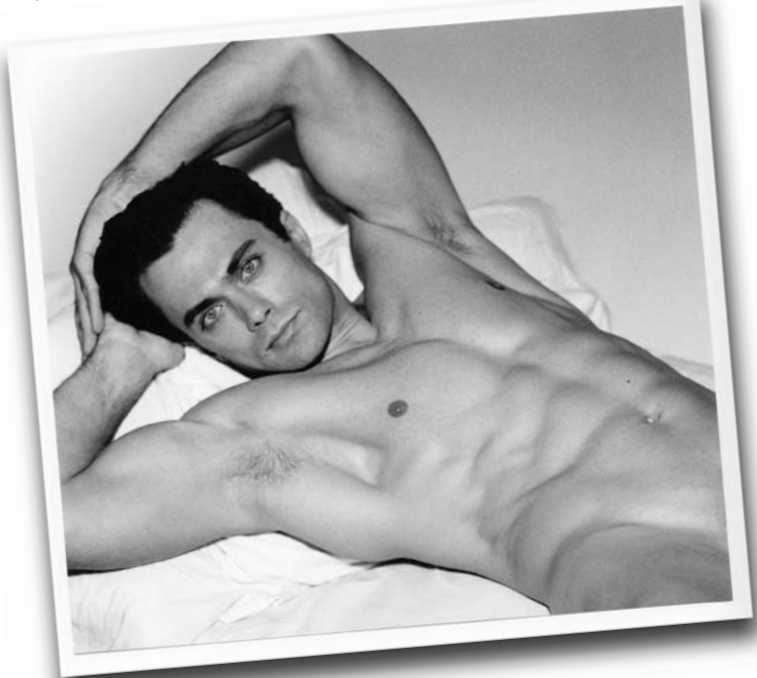
Mackenroth added: "To the HIV-positive community, I really want to be an example of someone who has lived with the disease for a really long time, and it's not the death sentence that it used to be. You can still do amazing things, even if you are positive. I lead a completely normal life; I do more than most of my peers. So, I really want to be a ray of hope [for positive people.]

Read much more about Jack Mackenroth at [www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com](http://www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com).

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## Foldin' Globes

What if you gave awards and nobody came? That was the situation at the 65th annual Golden Globes held by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association Sun., Jan. 13, in Beverly Hills, Calif. Instead of a ceremony featuring glittering gowns and acceptance speeches, award winners were announced at a news conference due to the ongoing strike by the Writers Guild of America.

Among the winners in the movie categories were Johnny Depp (Best Actor in a Comedy or Musical for his role in Sweeney Todd) and Cate Blanchett (Supporting Actress) for her cross-dressing turn as Bob Dylan in I'm Not There. In the television categories, David Duchovny won the Best Actor in a Musical or Comedy for the series Californication, and Tina Fey (Actress, Musical or Comedy) was the only non-cable winner for NBC's 30 Rock.

See [www.goldenglobes.org](http://www.goldenglobes.org).

## Logo's 'Momentum' to Debut Jan. 19

Gay network Logo, a division of Viacom Inc.'s MTV Networks, has announced the premiere of season five of its documentary series, Real Momentum, on Sat., Jan. 19, at 7 p.m. CT.

The first film—airing to coincide with the national Martin Luther King, Jr., Day holiday—will be Brother Outsider, a feature-length biography of Bayard Rustin, who mentored and advised King. Rustin's openness about his homosexuality led him to be targeted by segregationists, J. Edgar Hoover's FBI—and colleagues within the civil rights movement.

Other documentaries in season five include Out on the Job, which examines being openly gay in the workplace, and Late in Life Lesbians, a documentary about women who come out following a life of husbands and children.



## All the Way Clive...

Openly gay writer/film director/artist Clive Barker was in Chicago this past weekend, appearing at Packer Schopf Gallery, 942 W. Lake, on Jan. 11 and 13 for an art reception and a book-signing, respectively. Then, Barker appeared at the Music Box Theatre, 3733 N. Southport, for a midnight showing of the horror movie classic Hellraiser—which debuted 20 years ago. Left photo of gallery owner Aron Packer and Barker (right) by Chris Kohlhof; others by Andrew Davis

# WHAT TO DO?

## 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](mailto:rsvp@howardbrown.org) or call Hope at 773-388-8906. [www.howardbrown.org](http://www.howardbrown.org)

**POW-WOW** Sixth Annual Kings of Poetry: In Honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Features Talaam Acey, Triple Black, Avery 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 [wagn60660@aol.com](mailto:wagn60660@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

RSVP required at [beyondmedia.org](mailto:beyondmedia.org) or 773-973-2280

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

**Services and Advocacy for GLBT Elders** Lunch and Learn: Debt Management Seminar. 12-1 p.m., free, Center on Halsted's John Baran Senior Center, 3656 N. Halsted St., RSVP to Serena Worthington at 773-472-6469, ext. 160 or [sworthington@centeronhalsted.org](mailto:sworthington@centeronhalsted.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-theater-chicago.org](http://www.peoples-theater-chicago.org) or 773-371-1868

**Test Positive Aware Network** Chicago Takes Off promotional event that includes drink specials, a chance to buy tickets and special performance or host character from the show. 7-9 p.m., Hydrate Chicago, 3458 N. Halsted, [www.tpan.com](http://www.tpan.com)

**Women and Children First** Eileen Favorite, The Heroines. 7:30 p.m., 5233 N. Clark St., 773-769-9299, [www.womenandchildrenfirst.com](http://www.womenandchildrenfirst.com)

**Women and Children First** Shouting Out: Youth and Adults Use Poetry to Respond to Violence against Women & Girls, featuring young women from Young Women's Action Team. 7 p.m., 5233 N. Clark St., 773-769-9299, [www.womenandchildrenfirst.com](http://www.womenandchildrenfirst.com)

## Saturday, Jan. 19

**Affinity** Lez Chat. Every third Saturday. 5650 South Woodlawn Avenue, Garden Level, [www.affinity95.org](http://www.affinity95.org)

**Brotherhood of the Phoenix** Workshop: An Introduction to Earth Based Religions and Spirituality, Part 1. 1-4 p.m., \$20, RSVP to [chicago-herald@brotherhoodofthephoenix.org](mailto:chicago-herald@brotherhoodofthephoenix.org)

**Brotherhood of the Phoenix** Neo-pagan order for GBT men who love men holds a religious celebration, "Quietus: A Celebration of the Stillness Within." 7:30-10 p.m., 1900 W. Fulton St., [www.brotherhoodofthephoenix.org](http://www.brotherhoodofthephoenix.org)

**Center on Halsted** Many Loves Workshop and Support Series, a supportive environment for those exploring non-monogamous practice and identity. 10 a.m.-1 p.m., \$15, contact David Rodemaker at 773-472-6643, ext. 472 for more info

**Gay Lesbian Artist Network** GLBT-themed session of Dr. Sketchy's Anti-Art School. Artists treated to burlesque dancers, carnies and fetish divas modeling for a life-drawing session. Theme: "Naughty and Bawdy, Tool Time Taboo." 3-6 p.m., \$10, must provide own sketch pads and materials, Big Chicks, 5024 N. Sheridan Rd., [www.myspace.com/drsketchyschicago](http://www.myspace.com/drsketchyschicago)

**Hydrate** DJ Brett Henrichsen, 3458 N. Halsted St., [www.hydratechicago.com](http://www.hydratechicago.com)

**Rainbow Cafe** An opportunity for LGBT's and allies to socialize. Every third Saturday. 7-9:30 p.m., The Unitarian Universalist Community Church, 70 Sycamore Dr., Park Forest, 708-481-5339 for more info

**Spin** Ear-rotic hip-hop/raggae party, by Zeret Music, \$5 cover, DJ Stoney and

DJ sp1, 800 W. Belmont Ave., 773-327-7711, [spin-nightclub.com](http://spin-nightclub.com)

**Windy City Gay Naturists** M2M massage party. 2 p.m., call 312-494-2654 or email [wagn60660@aol.com](mailto:wagn60660@aol.com)

**Youth Pride Center** 2008 Midwest Dance Classic. And Jan. 20. Special performances by South Shore Drill Team, Chicago Footworkin'z and more. \$10 Saturday pass (11 a.m.-6 p.m.), \$15 Sunday pass (5-11 p.m.), \$20 weekend pass, McCormick Auditorium, 32nd and State, tickets at 773-783-8800

## Sunday, Jan. 20

**Entre Familia** Support group meeting for family and friends of LGBT people conducted in Spanish and Spanglish. Second Sunday of every month. 2-4 p.m., El Valor, 1924 W. 21st St, call Tony at 773-319-3329 for more info

**Hydrate** DJ Jeannette, 3458 N. Halsted St., [www.hydratechicago.com](http://www.hydratechicago.com)

## Monday, Jan. 21

**Center on Halsted** Memorial service for David Jenkins. 5:30 p.m., 3656 N. Halsted St.

## Tuesday, Jan. 22

**Funky Buddha Lounge** Outdanced with We Are Wolves (live), Mother Hubbard and Mr. Bobby. 10 p.m.-2 a.m., 728 W. Grand Ave., [www.funkybuddha.com](http://www.funkybuddha.com)

**Lakeside Pride Musical Ensemble** Friends! All Mankind are Brothers! In Tribute: The Civil Strife of Peoples. A celebration of the diversity of people through music. 7-9 p.m., \$10, Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted St.

**POW-WOW** Young butches and studs take the mic to challenge the status quo of masculinity in "A Slant on Being King." Seating 7:30, open mic begins 8 p.m., \$5, Lee's Unleaded Nightclub, 7401 S. South Chicago, [powwowchicago@yahoo.com](mailto:powwowchicago@yahoo.com), [www.myspace.com/powwowchicago](http://www.myspace.com/powwowchicago)

## Thurs., Jan. 17



## TROCK ON

Les Ballet Trockadero de Monte Carlo will entertain at a one-night-only engagement at the Harris Theater, 205 E. Randolph, to benefit AIDS Foundation of Chicago.

## Thurs., Jan. 17



## LANDING STRIP

A promotional event for Test Positive Aware Network's second annual burlesque event, **Chicago Takes Off**, will be held at Hydrate, 3458 N. Halsted.

Photo of 2007 Chicago Takes Off by Kat Fitzgerald

See our online calendar: [www.windycitymediagroup.com/calendar](http://www.windycitymediagroup.com/calendar)

## Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel



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Wolfgang Busch.

## The OutField

BY DAN WOOG

### Wolfgang's World of Ping-Pong

Wolfgang, Rodolfo, Paulo, Jeff—as teenagers, they all played Ping-Pong.

They were good. But they grew up, went to college, got jobs, came to terms with being gay, and had no time to smash a little white ball across a small green table.

Eventually, though, they realized that life is more than going to work and clubs. They came back to Ping-Pong. They were rusty at first, but according to Wolfgang Busch, "It's like riding a bicycle. You never forget." Busch, Rodolfo, Paulo and Jeff quickly discovered how much fun—and what great exercise—Ping-Pong is. "My shirt is drenched when I'm done," Busch says.

Welcome to Ping-Pong, gay style. It is one of three dozen sports associated with Out of Bounds, New York City's gay athletics umbrella group. Members play once a week, at Paradise in Sunnyside, Queens. If you didn't know Ping-Pong palaces existed, join the club.

But, Busch says, playing socially is the whole idea. "The gay community should have lots of sports. Anyone can play Ping-Pong. It's all-inclusive, and it gets people together in a positive, constructive way."

Busch describes his sport as "a fascinating game. To play well you need complete concentration. Your whole body must be focused. You must be properly positioned at all time. And it's so fast. There's no downtime whatsoever." Busch is proud of his progress. "I used to be only a defensive player," he says. "Now I like to attack, too."

Ping-Pong was not always his favorite sport. Growing up near Heidelberg, Germany, he followed the path blazed by his father, president of a local soccer club. Busch played semi-profes-

sionally for a local team, Olympia Lorsch, but a bad back forced him to quit at age 22.

He moved into the entertainment field, serving as a DJ and sound engineer. At the same time, he was hanging out in gay bars, meeting American soldiers from nearby military bases.

"It was cool [in the '70s] in Germany to have American friends," he says. "GIs couldn't be out, but they went to the gay bars anyway. That's how I learned English." He learned about life, too, and after several visits to new friends in the States, he emigrated in 1983.

In this country, too, sports has been part of Busch's life. In 1990, he videotaped the Vancouver Gay Games with Lou Maletta, founder and president of the Gay Cable Network. He also bowled at the Gay Games. "I don't know why there is not so much attention paid to gay sports," he says. "There are plenty of porn videos, but nothing about gay athletes. And where are the gay sports shows on Logo?"

Busch was involved in a number of nonsports projects too, many of them music and video-related. He produced *How Do I Look*, a documentary about the Harlem "ball" community that derived from the 1920s drag tradition. He was a promoter and booker at clubs like the Lime-light, Palladium, Tunnel, Roxy, and Danceteria. He worked with megastars like Madonna, Mick Jagger and Billy Joel.

He was not just a clubgoer, however. A committed activist, Busch served on Manhattan borough president C. Virginia Field's gay and lesbian advisory council. He coordinated events for the MetroBears. And he volunteered with Senior Action in a Gay Environment (SAGE), an organization for elderly gay, lesbian, and transgender people.

It was through SAGE that Busch rediscovered Ping-Pong. He saw the injuries suffered when older men and women fall, and wanted to avoid that himself. "A lot of prevention has to do with reflexes," he says. "Ping-Pong is great for developing reflexes."

Diving into the sport with his trademark enthusiasm, Busch soon joined the Out of Bounds board of directors. "It's a great way to get publicity and attract new players," he notes. "And we always welcome people. Gay people should know Ping-Pong is good fun; it's competitive, but not too serious. That's a great combination."

Nonetheless, in December 2007, Busch was busy organizing the first championship for his club, Ping-Pong NY. And he is already looking ahead to 2010, when table tennis (the sport's official name) will be part of Gay Games VIII.

Those Games are being held in Cologne, Germany, a site with special meaning for Wolfgang Busch. "Of course I'll be there," he says. "I've already told my parents and friends that we've got a whole group coming from New York. They must get the apartments ready!"

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](http://www.danwoog.com). He can be reached care of this publication or at [OutField@qsyndicate.com](mailto:OutField@qsyndicate.com).



Marty Tuley.

## Marty Tuley's 'Ass'-Kicking Regimen

BY ANDREW DAVIS

We're a nation of couch potatoes—at least that's personal trainer Marty Tuley's theory behind why this country is full of overweight people. In his book, *Get Off Your Ass!* (\$14.95; Basic Health), Tuley employs a motivational (and humorous, in spots) plan to get people moving, especially those who have already started slacking off on those fitness-related resolutions. He recently talked with Windy City Times about the book's title and what he thinks of health clubs, among other things.

**Windy City Times: I have to ask about the book's title, because it's the least subtle title I've come across in quite some time.**

Marty Tuley: At the time I started writing the book, I owned a commercial health club. The book started off as part of an introductory package for members when they joined the club and, as I started writing, the book took on a life of its own. The tone that was coming out of me was that [I wanted] to scream at these people sometimes because they come in and want to change their lives, but they don't want to do anything to change them; they think a \$40-a-month membership is gonna solve their problems, but they don't want to do any of the work [associated] with them. You just wanna grab them and say, "Get off your ass!"

I got stuck on it. I started talking with publishers, and several [were interested], but didn't want to run it with the title—and I refused to let it go. Finally, someone liked the title, message and tone, so the rest was history.

**WCT: You say that people have abandoned their work ethic.**

MT: People are inundated with the concept of instant gratification. If you want something, you go to Wal-Mart and get it—and that tone has overlapped in the fitness realm. We're all looking for that miracle pill or that miracle diet that tastes good and lets you eat everything. ... From a fitness perspective, it all comes back to the tried-and-true basis: exercise and watching what you eat.

**WCT: Let me play devil's advocate: What's wrong with finding a quick fix? What if I want to get calf implants instead of exercising?**

MT: This is my armchair psychology, but if you look at a show like [the 2004-05 reality series] *The Swan*—with the instant physical makeovers—what gets lost is that these people never develop the emotional changes that have to go along with the physical ones. They never appreciate the journey.

I don't know the number of people who get liposuction, but I suspect it's high. But, you get the fat sucked out of you, but you never change your behavior and you don't appreciate what's been accomplished and, 60 days down the road, you're fat again.

**WCT: What's the biggest mistake people make when they exercise?**

MT: [Pauses.]

**WCT: Well, let me ask you this: Is it worse for a person to not exercise or to exercise incorrectly?**

MT: That's a great question. I would say it's worse to not exercise. The truth is, if you are not working out regularly and start working out, that you can do damn near everything wrong and still make gains and see results. That's one of the bad aspects of it—and why there are so many bad trainers out there.

One of the things I see a lot—going back to your first question—is that people don't work hard enough when they exercise. I see too many people with a magazine on the Precor, lumbering like they're on a Sunday stroll—and trainers aren't working their clients hard enough. The clients should [at least] sweat and hurt.

**WCT: Complete this sentence: Health clubs are \_\_\_\_\_.**

MT: Health clubs are both part of the problem and a potential solution. Health clubs have grown exponentially since the '80s, [but] obesity is at an all-time high; something's wrong here. They also perpetuate the myth that exercise is relatively easy, that it's inexpensive and \$40 a month solves all your fitness problems.

See [www.getoffyourass.biz](http://www.getoffyourass.biz).

**Read the entire interview—and find out why Marty is not a big fan of running but is an advocate for reading—at [www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com](http://www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com).**

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## Former Pro Skater Dead at 40

Christopher Bowman, a two-time U.S. figure skating champion known for his rebellious lifestyle, was found dead at a California motel Jan. 10, according to the Los Angeles Times. He was 40.

Police indicated that Bowman's death is being investigated as a possible drug overdose. The coroner must determine if his death was accidental or a suicide.

According to his own Web site, Bowman was a member of the 1988 and 1992 U.S. Olympic teams and captured a silver medal at the 1989 World Championships.

"If I had to pick the three most talented skaters of all time, I would pick Christopher as one," 1988 Olympic champion Brian Boitano told the Chicago Tribune.

The Associated Press reported that the Los Angeles County Coroner's Office may not be able to determine the cause of Bowman's death until March. Coroners are awaiting the results of toxicology tests.

## BOWLING - CMSA Mixed Standings

Division A	W	L	Second to None	5	9	Bobby Love's	10	4
Hamburger Mary's	14	0	North End	5	9	Wicked	10	4
GYOF	11	3	Jury's	5	9	Salon Michael	9	5
REMAX Edge	10	4	FVB Interiors	4	10	Castaways	7	7
Cornelia's	9	5	Marty's	0	14	Wells Fargo ONYX 5	7	7
5 Pins 10 Balls	8	6				Great Scots	5	9
Gutter Fluffers	7	7	<b>Division B</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>L</b>	Done More 5 Less	4	10
Funky Five	7	7	Halsted Bar & Grill	12	2	Juana Bees	4	10
Bowlers-A-GO-GO	7	7	Windy City Sweets	12	2	Lady & Her Tramps	3	11
Bowlers	5	9	Rough Trade	12	2	Looney Tunes	2	12
Crew's Ball Busters	5	9	Scot Shotz	11	3	Extremely Striking	0	14

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