



LORNA LUFT INTERVIEW
PAGE 24



TALKING WITH MEGAN HULTY OF NBC'S 'SMASH'
PAGE 26



STEVENSON HIGH SCHOOL'S GAY-STRAIGHT ALLIANCE
PAGE 11



SINGER MATT ZARLEY
PAGE 30

Gerber/Hart refuses to reveal group info

BY KATE SOSIN

Amid growing concern about the future of the Gerber/Hart Library and Archives, Chicago's LGBT library, the organization remains steadfast in its silence about its plans for relocation and basic operations.

In late January, Windy City Times first reported that the library's current home at 1127 W. Granville Ave. was for rent. Karen Sendziak, president of the library's board, later confirmed that the library would move. She has provided little information since, stating that media inquiries would be handled by the library's attorney, who Sendziak said is out of the country and cannot be named.

To date, WCT has not been able to obtain the names of any other board members, nor has the paper been

provided a copy of the organization's current bylaws.

WCT submitted multiple inquiries to Sendziak but received no response.

On Feb. 5, two WCT reporters arrived at the library and asked Sendziak for a copy of the organization's bylaws and a list of its board of directors, both of which she declined to disclose, stating that the library's attorney was working hard on getting that information to the newspaper. Sendziak would not provide the name of that attorney when questioned further. Asked when such information would be made available, Sendziak replied, "When we are ready."

Sendziak did note that the Windy City Times newspaper remains at the front of the library. The Feb. 1 issue featured a front-page investigation on the library.

On Feb. 6, Gerber/Hart released an update on the

move. "The new location will be a place where we can ensure the safety and protection of the books and historical archives we have been entrusted to hold," the statement read.

The language of the statement suggests that the library has not yet found a new home.

"We will keep you apprised throughout our search and will let you know as soon as we find and secure a new home, and are looking forward to sharing the excitement of this next, new chapter of our existence with you all!" the library said in a statement.

The library's lease is up at the end of April. The Gerber/Hart has not yet stated the anticipated costs of the move or what neighborhoods it is considering.

Turn to page 8

California's Prop 8 ruled unconstitutional

Divided fed appeals court panel hands down landmark decision Tuesday in controversial battle for marriage equality

page 4

Univ. of Chicago aims to be site for gender and sexuality studies

BY KATE SOSIN

When the University of Chicago founded its gender studies department in 1996, it trailed other colleges and universities in doing so by about two decades. It is perhaps no surprise then that the prestigious school never became a target for gender studies majors.

However the Center for the Study of Gender and Sexuality, an old campus house wedged into a muddy lot at 5733 S. University Ave., is abuzz this year with change.

The center is going after a reputation as destination school for LGBT and women's studies. That effort started with adopting a new name last summer (it was formerly called the Center for Gender Studies), will continue with the hosting of lesbian comic writer Alison Bechdel and will stretch over the next three years as the campus begins recording its LGBT history for the first time.

"We're trying to make the center more visible," said Director Linda Zerilli.

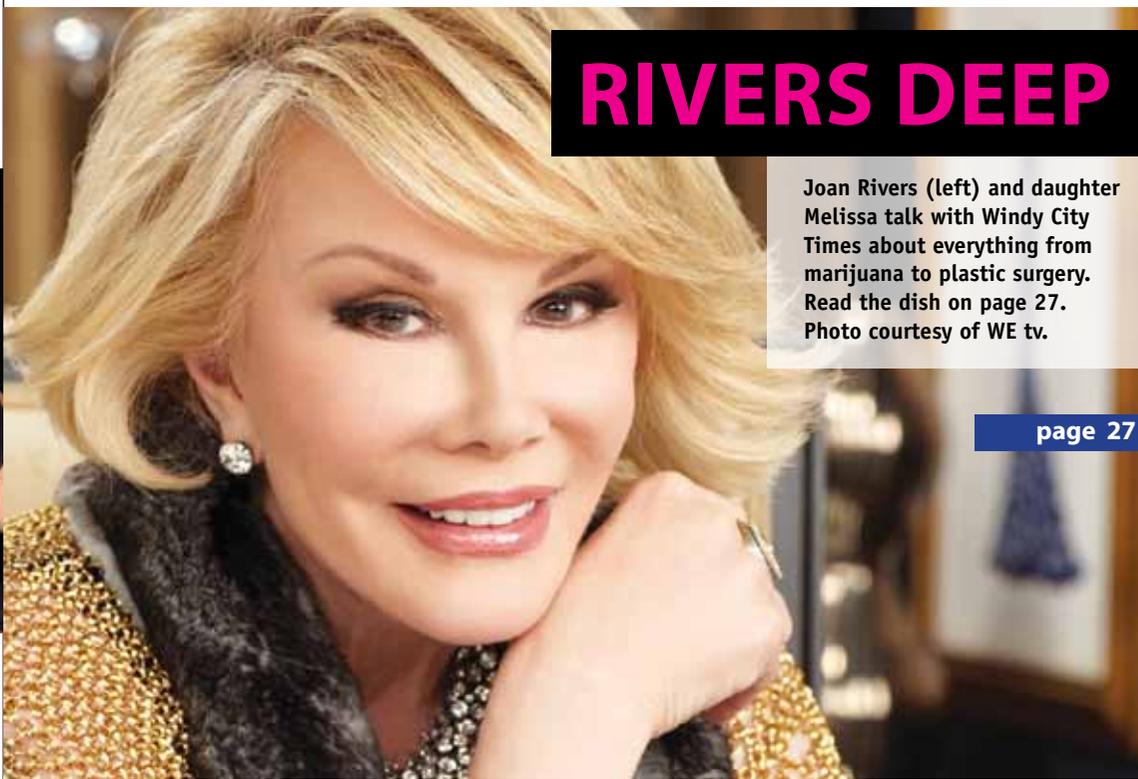
That has meant updating the name of the center to highlight work on LGBT lives and history, which faculty

Turn to page 9

RIVERS DEEP

Joan Rivers (left) and daughter Melissa talk with Windy City Times about everything from marijuana to plastic surgery. Read the dish on page 27. Photo courtesy of WE tv.

page 27



See Both for Only \$99!

LILY TOMLIN

Sat, Feb 25 at 5pm & 8pm

Save \$16! Use Code: LTWCT1*

PAULA POUNDSTONE

Fri, Mar 30 at 8pm




NORTH SHORE CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS IN SKOKIE

9501 Skokie Blvd. FREE PARKING

*Good for Price Level 2. Some restrictions apply.

847.673.6300

NorthShoreCenter.org

UNIVERSITY from cover

members say the department has engaged with since the department's inception. The inclusion of the word "sexuality" is more about acknowledging current work than changing course, said Zerilli.

The shift happened over the summer of 2011, without resistance from community members—a surprise to some who thought that feminists might worry about the role of women's studies in a growing and more inclusive department. Other project names that bore the name "gay and lesbian" have also been updated to include the full LGBT.

Part of growing its visibility for LGBT life and studies in the future, will be an effort to look back at the school's past. In March, the center

made their way into the archives. Gathering up oral histories may dig up some of those lost records, she said.

"I think that people don't realize that what they have is valuable," Mercado said.

The project is hardly business-as-usual for a department that works to bring in some of the more current names in LGBT and women's studies. The department will host Alison Bechdel, cartoonist behind "Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic" and "Dykes to Watch Out For," this spring. It is also home to English and gender-studies titan Lauren Berlant. It regularly hosts talks, programs and workshops, including a recent talk with controversial feminist figure Catharine MacKinnon.

Looking back into the LGBT past has not always been the focus, said Mercado. The oral

until graduation." Hoover uses the terms "LUG" and "GUG" for short.

Hoover wanted to interview people who had identified as LGBTQ in college and then went on to have long-term heterosexual relationships or changed the way they identified to heterosexual.

However, finding people to interview was hardly easy. As expected, the university's alumni office thought his request to interview LUGs and GUGs was weird, and they declined to put the call out on through their networks. In the end, Hoover found seven people, all women, using other school resources to interview. His thesis will be completed later this year.

When he graduates, he will have the option of taking the department's new name in gender and sexuality studies on his diploma or keeping the old.

The building that houses that center, an odd mix between the Harry Potter-esque architecture of the university and the bare space-like updates that now adorn it, was quiet on a recent Thursday afternoon. Upstairs, longtime Affinity Community Services member Kelly Saulsberry—who

is studying public policy at the university and working at the center—tapped away at a computer.

Mercado notes that when helping other students find the center, she often describes its proximity to the math building, well-known because an extra-alarm blaze burned through its roof in October, 2010.

The center itself, however, is less known on campus, something that Zerilli is determined to change.

"Gender studies has to create a lot of energy. ... This place just has to be an intellectual magnet," she said. "I think we're really rocking here now."

Upcoming events at the Center include a talk by Katherine Crawford entitled "Love Talk and Dirty Jokes: French Erotic Poetry and Masculinity in the Renaissance" Thursday, Feb. 9, 4:30-6:00 p.m., at Harper Memorial Library, Room 103. There's also a lecture by Jasbir Puar, "Homonationalism Gone Viral: The Affective Politics of Sensation," on Thursday, Feb. 16, 4:30-6:00 p.m., in the same venue.



Monica Mercado. Photo by Kate Sosin

in launching its "Closeted in the Quadrangles" project (the "quadrangles" refer to a part of campus), a three-year oral-history project aimed recording the school's LGBT history from the early twentieth century through the present.

In the coming years, the center will be working to supplement its lack of archival records with oral testimony from LGBT people who experienced the campus in decades past.

Monica Mercado, a graduate student in history, is kicking off that effort in her Spring undergraduate class. Over the course of the quarter, approximately 12 students will begin digging through the university's archives and through its rolodex. Students will be contacting alums and past community members in hopes of recording a history of the institution not yet on paper.

The task is not an easy one, said Mercado. "We're really starting from scratch," she said. "If I walked over to the archives in Regenstein Library right now, I wouldn't find anything [on LGBT history at the university]."

Mercado speculates that historical LGBT documents on the university exist, but that few have

history project will change that.

"In some ways, it's not a super-sexy project," she said. "Most of what we do here is very current."

The project was inspired by another successful undertaking from the department that completed in 2009 when students compiled women's oral histories from the university. That project included between 80 to 90 interviews and culminated in the thin, glossy book "On Equal Terms."

But the challenges facing the LGBT oral history project will be steeper. For one, the project will rely on alumni relations to outreach to former students. With the women's oral history project, contacting right alums was simply a matter of looking up women who attended the college. With the LGBT history project, determining where to start looking means figuring out who identifies as LGBT to begin with.

It's an issue that Christopher Hoover, an undergraduate student in the department ran into when he started working on his thesis. The fourth-year is studying people often derogatorily deemed "lesbians until graduation" and "gay

Anti-gay foster care bill is back

BY KATE SOSIN

An anti-gay foster care bill that was unsuccessfully introduced repeatedly in the Illinois General Assembly last year has made its first 2012 appearance.

House Bill 3942 seeks to make it legal for religious institutions to turn away foster care applications "if acceptance of that application would constitute a violation of the organization's sincerely held religious beliefs."

Similar bills were introduced repeatedly last year after civil unions went into effect and a group Catholic charities lost their foster care contracts for refusing to place children with same-sex spouses. The charities sued the state and lost when a judge ruled that the charities were not entitled to the contracts.

Advocates have said that such bills pose a threat to LGBT people but are unlikely to make it far.

"This is the same bill that we have been fighting for a year now," said Anthony Martinez, executive director of The Civil Rights Agenda, in a statement. "It is just another attempt to codify into law the ability to discriminate against Gay people."

"The separation of Church and State is absolutely imperative to this argument, because these agencies are State funded. They are funded with tax payer's money, so they should have to follow the laws like every other State funded agency. The fair-minded voters and elected officials of Illinois do not allow discrimination, and this should not be the exception."

Internat'l law firm announces minority scholarships

International law firm McDermott Will & Emery announced the recipients of the 2012 McDermott Diverse Law Student Scholarships Feb. 6.

Law students Larry C. Guess (Northwestern University), Lauren Schuster (Loyola University Chicago School of Law) and Brianna Serrano (Cornell Law School) will each receive a scholarship in the amount of \$15,000 under the program.

Schuster is the first LGBT recipient of the McDermott Diverse Law Student Scholarship. She attends Loyola University Chicago, School of Law, where she is a member of OUTLaw and the Education Policy Society.

Forum on Bayard Rustin's life Feb. 9

Brothers OUTLive will celebrate the life and legacy of the late gay civil-rights activist Bayard Rustin at Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted St., 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Hoover-Leppen Theatre.

The event will take place during Black History Month—and two days following National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day. There will be music, poetry and performance art by artists such as Marshall Titus, Nhojj, Tim'm West, Keithromell, and Ra Perre' Shelton.

There is a \$5 suggested donation; email MRoss@CenterOnHalsted.org for more information.

BE HEARD. GET PAID.

University research study looking for LGBT men and women to participate in a completely anonymous 5 minute survey

Participants will be entered into a drawing for up to four \$50 Amazon.com gift cards.



<http://goo.gl/eavit>

VALEO

AT CHICAGO LAKESHORE HOSPITAL

Chicago's Dedicated and Comprehensive LGBT Program

Valeo at Chicago Lakeshore Hospital provides comprehensive psychiatric and addiction-related treatment for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) individuals. The program offers a safe, affirming therapeutic environment for members of the LGBTQ community. The Valeo staff is comprised of well-trained, experienced gay and gay-sensitive behavioral health professionals from a wide variety of disciplines.

4840 N. MARINE DRIVE
CHICAGO, IL 60640
1-800-888-0560
www.chicagolakeshorehospital.com

