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# Marriage advocates: The votes are there

BY KATE SOSIN

With the end of the Illinois' spring legislation session just days away, LGBT leaders say that equal marriage legislation has the support needed to pass by month's end.

Sponsors have until May 31 to pass the "Religious Freedom and Marriage Fairness Act," which would allow all couples, regardless of their gender, to marry. Failing that deadline, the bill's passage would be delayed for months.

LGBT groups pushing for the bill say they are ready to see it come up for a vote. "I have absolutely no doubt we're going to be done with this by May 31," said Jim Bennett, Midwest regional director for Lambda Legal. "I believe that this bill is going to pass."

Bennett declined to give a specific vote count, but said that he expected the bill could be called and passed any day.

Rick Garcia, policy advisor for The Civil Rights Agenda, said he thinks the bill has the 60 votes needed for passage in the House.

"I believe we're there," said Garcia. "The cake is baked. We're waiting for the icing." The bill passed the Senate on Valentine's Day. House sponsors have since struggled to pull together enough votes to pass it in the House.

Illinois Unites for Marriage, a coalition of groups working for the bill, has scheduled a community meeting to update supporters on the bill's progress and share plans sur-

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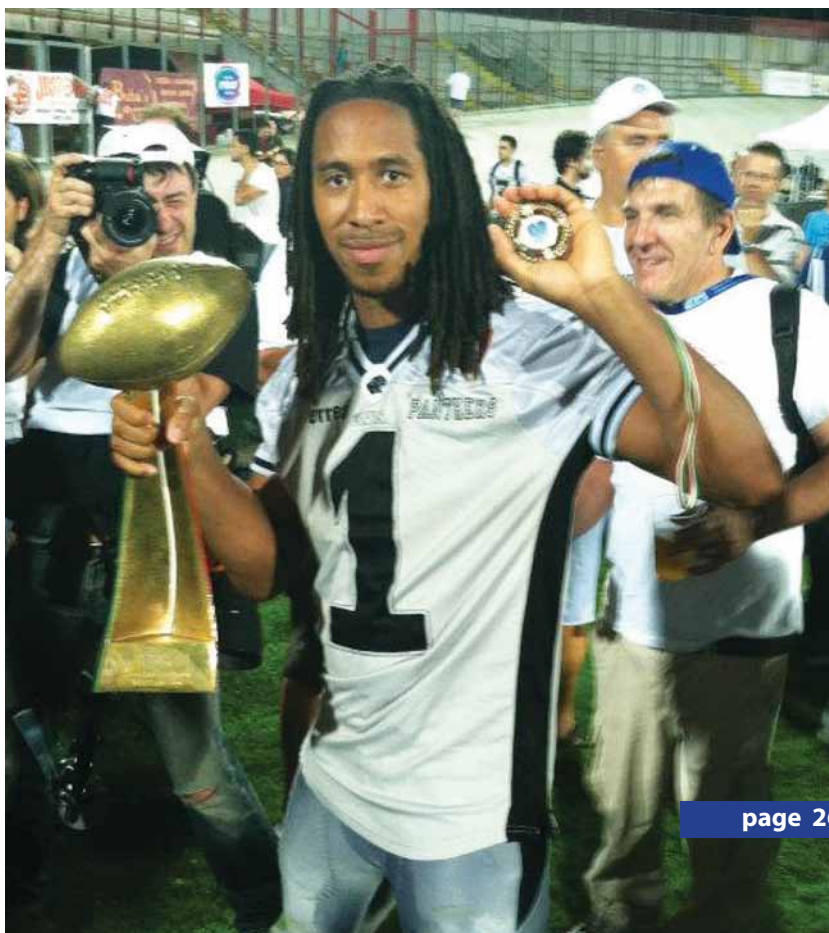


Pro-marriage equality attendees at Saturday's rally in Little Village. Photo by Kate Sosin



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## GAME TIME



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In his first interview for a newspaper, magazine or website, now-out athlete Kevin Grayson talks about his hopes for playing in the NFL. Photo courtesy of Grayson

## ROSS IS BOSS



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Before coming to Chicago, out personality Ross Matthews (The Tonight Show with Jay Leno; Chelsea Lately) chats about his new book, Man Up! Tales of My Delusional Self-Confidence, and his own talk show. Publicity photo



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TALKS POLITICAL  
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## NUNN ON ONE

## Flying high with

## Pam Ann



BY JERRY NUNN

The air hostess with the mostest—Pam Ann—is flying into Chicago, and hilarity is expected with a title like “Cockpit!”

For those readers who aren't hip to Ann's comedy, she is the alter ego of Melbourne native Caroline Reid.

Born from the travel industry with a pinch of Austin Powers, a smidge of Dame Edna, and a dash of Kathy Griffin, this comedienne mixes a recipe for entertaining audiences over the years. Madonna herself described her as “cruelly funny” and Elton John hired her for his own private jet. She toured with Cher and performed on the first ever JetPride flight on JetBlue.

Let's get to know the funny lady from down under with a fly-by-the-seat-of-our-pants interview.

**Windy City Times:** So tell our readers about the new show, “Cockpit.”

Pam Ann: It is really based on a lot of things that are on the news and have happened in the airline industry. I found the information from sources, the airlines and crew.

There is so much merging of airlines to the point that we will be one big airline one day. It will be called Merge!

This show will be topical to what is happening in the airline industry. I've packed up the trolley. There is dry ice and a champagne service. There is an opportunity for Pam Ann to talk to her first class cabin. There are new videos. I have spoofed the Pan Am ABC series where I put Pam Ann in their shoes. I think if they had made the Pan Am show with Pam Ann it would have been a hit.

**WCT:** It is a shame that it went off the air.

PA: It is a shame. So there is a spoof on that. I am shooting a new safety video on Saturday but I am not sure if I will put it in this show or not. I'm constantly organically growing it. There's a movie channel where I have Pam in all these different movies. We recap the show with a montage of what I have been talking about throughout the show at the end through news clips. I think half the time people think what I am saying is a joke and it is not real but then I surprise them at the end that it is real. That inspired this show.

**WCT:** You have interacted with the crowd before in past shows. Are you coming out into the audience to talk to them?

PA: Anything can happen at my shows.

One time a guy actually put himself into a plastic bag to cleanse himself when flying over cemeteries. So I might put someone in a plastic bag. You will see what I am talking about at the show.

I will talk to the audience from the trolley and get to know people and what they do. I want to ask them what airlines are in and things like that. I won't actually get people onto the stage this time so they can rest easy but they will be verbally abused.

**WCT:** I will warn them. Will you be flying

**first-class to the show?**

PA: I think I will be flying JetBlue, which is just one class.

**WCT:** I like that airline.

PA: I like it, too. I think it is my favorite airline domestically through the States because you can watch TV. It keeps you occupied. I love watching TV live and there are priority seats for an extra price. People will pay more for 1A. It's like the same seat, bitch, but you have extra legroom!

**WCT:** Will we ever get Wi-Fi on airplanes?

PA: There is already. I think Virgin and American have Wi-Fi. You can actually get online and get on Facebook, all of that stuff.

**WCT:** People can't live without Facebook.

PA: It passes the time though, right? You get sick of watching movies. Everyone has attention deficit disorder. No one can focus.

**WCT:** After flying on airberlin in business class, I am spoiled with flying.

PA: I heard the new chairs are hardcore.

**WCT:** It has a massage feature built into it.

PA: I need a German man to do that.

**WCT:** I heard you love Germans.

PA: I love them. They can speak to me in German any day. It sounds like porn to me!

**WCT:** We flew back on American and it was nice, too.

PA: Sounds like you didn't want to get off. When I flew to Australia I could have stayed on the plane for days and just drink wine.

**WCT:** I like the uniforms on airberlin.

PA: They have those leather gloves. They make that sound when they hit you in the face don't they? “Sit down!”

**WCT:** Speaking of clothing, talk about your new costumes.

PA: Garo Sparo, who does Amanda Lepore's costumes, is based in New York and I have been working with him for a while. We have created some great stuff. There are so many costumes I don't know which ones to wear in the show.

Inspired by Pierre Cardin I have this sort of space-looking PVC and visor outfit, which is Pam-galactic.

I have this Pucci fabric that we have made into a gown for this show. I have really over-the-top big hair.

**WCT:** You have a travel app, too?

PA: I do, but it is a bit outdated to be honest with you. I did it a couple of years ago. It is about good places to go when you are visiting Sydney, New York, and London. We are doing a Pam Ann app that will be more current. It is hard to keep up with the apps. I put a place on there and then these venues close down.

**WCT:** You should start a Chicago section. Where did your gay following come from?

PA: I think they just see my ad on Grindr and think they can get some cock. They know it is going to be a hot audience.

I have always been in the gay world myself. I grew up with gays and drag queens. They have been the people that I have always hung out with. It was a natural fit. I did all the gay bars in my early career in London. I did every fuck club and was usually the only girl there.

**WCT:** When did Madonna come to see your show?

PA: That was in London. I don't know when or what show. I love the quote [that Pam Ann is “cruelly funny”] because it is so true. People ask if I am offended by it but it's true, I am. Pam Ann is a cruel bitch—get used to it!

**WCT:** It would be intimidating if you knew Madonna was in the audience.

PA: Hell, yeah.

**WCT:** You opened for Cher for a while, I read.

PA: I did for the UK part of the tour back in 2004. Every night was like a dream. I was always

wondering if she was coming to hang out after the show. Ever seen the movie Waiting for Guffman? This was waiting for Cher.

**WCT:** You are working on a movie?

PA: I am writing a screenplay. It is going to take a little while to make it because I want to produce it and do the whole thing. It will take some time so like a couple of years. I know some of the locations and the gist of it. It is Ab Fab-meets-Austin Powers-slash-The Hangover. It is a big airline disaster movie thrown in there, too. It's filthy as fuck. I don't think it will even get past any censors. It might have to come out as an adult video!

**WCT:** Maybe you can work on it after the tour.

PA: Yes. My trainer just presented a sitcom to me out of the blue just the other day, too. Only in New York is a trainer also a screenwriter. It is brilliant. He named me Pam Ann Muscovich, all of sudden I am Russian and Jewish. He put Caroline's life, my life, into this which is genius.

**WCT:** You can get ideas while you are getting in shape.

PA: I am. I tell him all about my life. I think he wants to fuck me.



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important for even suburban theaters to produce shows that challenge audiences. Liesz points out that Village Theatre Guild has also done edgier works with gay characters like Christopher Durang's Beyond Therapy and David Marshall Grant's Snakebit in the past.

“What's going on with Proposition 8 in California and gay marriage before the United States Supreme Court, we could not have picked a more relevant time to be doing this piece,” said Liesz about Next Fall and the questions it brings up about faith within a gay relationship and how it is tested when an accident occurs. “This play needs to be done and people should see the show.”

Quirk was proud to point out that Beautiful Thing ended up being the second highest-grossing show of Albright's season. Yet he's slightly disappointed that Albright's next season is largely traditional fare from the 1940s

**WCT:** Good luck ending it with a trainer. When I cut off mine it was rough.

PA: I can't even think about that. I have to finish the sitcom before we break up.

**WCT:** An Australian living in New York would be enough of a sitcom.

PA: Just like Crocodile Dundee. I would keep saying, “That is not a knife. This is a knife!”

**WCT:** Do people recognize you when you are out on the street?

PA: Not in New York. They couldn't give a fuck.

**WCT:** They are in their own world there, from what I have experienced.

PA: So true. There is so much eye candy and everyone is on Grindr. They don't look at you—they are looking at their phones.

**WCT:** Why isn't there a straight version of Grindr?

PA: They have one and it is called Blendr but it didn't work. I would fuck someone five minutes away but women are, unfortunately, such prudes.

**WCT:** They don't hook up, like some gay people.

PA: Gays have taught me everything I know. I am on Grindr myself.

**WCT:** I am going to look for you on Grindr when you are in town!

PA: I am called Captain Rim. I am Middle Eastern and “I like flying.”

I haven't been on for a while. I need to go check my profile out. I took a picture like an Islamic extremist, put a turban on and it got accepted. People are so turned on by it.

**WCT:** It must be nice to get out of New York and visit Chicago.

PA: I love Chicago. Last time I was there, it was fantastic. This visit will be at the same time as Mr. International Leather. You know me—I love my leather queens!

**WCT:** We should take a stroll around the leather market when you get here.

PA: They are so fucking hot with those leather harnesses on. If I were a gay, I would be a big bear and eat everything! I got propositioned once by two bears on a sea cruise to go with them to their cabin. I was like a baby seal to them.

**WCT:** You didn't go through with it?

PA: I couldn't wake up with a rainbow flag in my face and DJ music playing. That would be horrifying.

**WCT:** We have to hit the town after your show.

PA: Let's go have a COCKTAIL!

**Fly over to the Harris Theater, 205 E. Randolph St., on Saturday, May 25, at 8 p.m. Visit [www.harristheater-chicago.org/performers/pam-ann](http://www.harristheater-chicago.org/performers/pam-ann) for tickets and more information.**

and 1960s.

“I think [Beautiful Thing] delivered a really great message, especially when we're talking about all sorts of things like teen suicide and teen bullying and yet another state legalizing same-sex marriage,” said Quirk. “It's things like this that make me go, ‘Guys, look, this is what people want to see. Just because we're in the suburbs doesn't mean we can't be doing shows like this.’”

Village Theatre Guild's Next Fall plays from Friday, May 24, through Saturday, June 15, at the corner of Butterfield Road and Park Blvd., Glen Ellyn. Performances are 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays (plus Thursday, June 13), with 3 p.m. Sunday matinees. Tickets are \$18; call 630-469-8320 or visit [www.villagetheatre-guild.org](http://www.villagetheatre-guild.org).

For more LGBTQ shows playing throughout the summer, don't miss the Summer Theater Preview issue of Windy City Times running Wed., May 29.