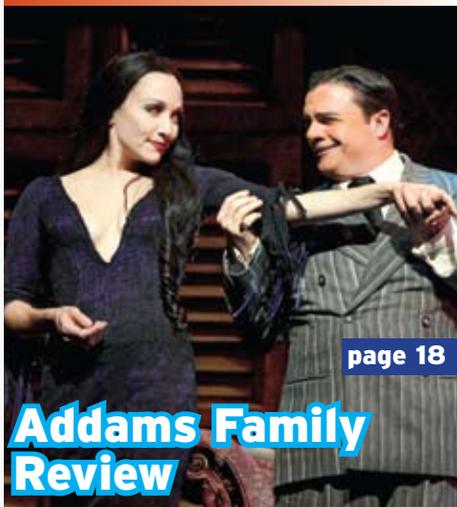




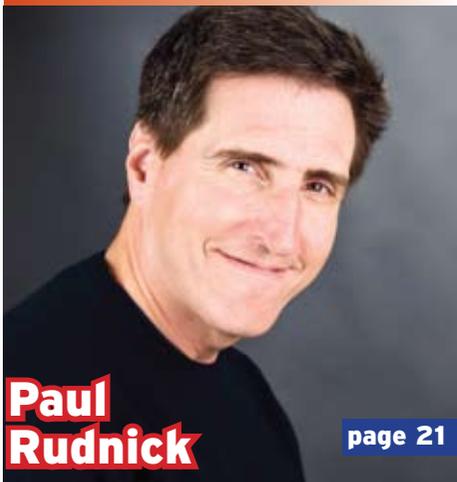
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Gay Latino Group's Grant



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Addams Family Review



Paul Rudnick

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nightpots
pick it up
take it home

Lesbian Is Houston Mayor

BY LISA KEEN
KEEN NEWS SERVICE

Annis Parker, an openly gay public official, won the final mayoral election race in Houston Dec. 12, becoming the first openly gay person to be elected as mayor of one of the top five most populated cities in the United States. The victory makes Parker head of the fourth largest populated city in the country.

"Tonight the voters of Houston have opened the doors to history," said Parker in her acceptance speech at George Brown Convention Center Saturday night. "I acknowledge that. I embrace that. I know what this win means to many of us who thought we could never achieve high office. I feel it, too. But now, from this moment, let us join as one community. We are united in one goal in making this city the city that it can be, should be, might be, will be."

Parker, 53, who has been openly gay during all 12 years of her time in elected office in Hous-



Annis Parker.

ton, was pummeled by an anti-gay campaign against her in the month-long run-off election. One effort tried to portray Parker as part of a gay takeover of the city government. Her opponent was more subtle, saying he was "not running to be a role model" but to be mayor, but news emerged late in the campaign that members of his finance committee had made sizeable donations to the campaigns opposing Parker because she is gay.

Two other openly gay candidates were seeking election in the Dec. 12 runoff: council incumbent Sue Lovell and council challenger Lane Lewis. Lovell won her seat with 54 percent of the vote; Lewis failed, with only 43 percent.

According to the Houston Chronicle, Parker won with 53 percent of the vote to opponent Gene Locke's 47 percent. The paper noted that she was not only the "first openly gay person to lead a major U.S. city" but also the first candidate in Houston in a generation to beat the can-

Turn to page 4



Guide to the Gays



At least 10 openly gay and lesbian candidates are running for various political offices Feb. 2. Get more insight into these individuals in our guide. See page 12.



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A rather bizarre confrontation took place last week between openly gay state Senate candidate Jim Madigan and Leo Smith (above), husband of incumbent state Sen. Heather Steans. See page 11.

Photo by Lauren Peters



The Addams Family (starring Bebe Neuwirth and Nathan Lane) is review on page 18.

Photo by Joan Marcus

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ONLINE INDEX

ASSETS TO ASSETS

Tom Franklin (right) has written another useful article about money—this time about sharing property when you can't marry.



Photo courtesy of Franklin

WHAT'S THEIR 'LINE?'



WCT's Jerry Nunn talks with several people connected with the new Bravo reality show Launch My Line.

Photo courtesy of Bravo

MOVIE KIND OF LOVE

Disc and That is back, with more DVD recommendations, including Extract (right).



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Feldblum passes committee hurdle

BY LISA KEEN
KEEN NEWS SERVICE

A Senate committee approved the nomination of openly gay law professor Chai Feldblum Dec. 10 to serve as a member of the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC). The nomination now goes to the full Senate, where it could still face opposition.

Right-wing groups turned up the volume on their opposition to the nomination in recent days.

Focus on the Family, the Traditional Values Coalition, the Liberty Counsel, the American Family Association and a number of other ultraconservative groups signed onto a Dec. 8 letter to the U.S. Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, saying they "strongly oppose" Feldblum's nomination. They cited a number of concerns, the biggest of which appeared to be that Feldblum believes that religious institutions that engage in commercial activities in the public realm must adhere to anti-discrimination laws.

Concerned Women for America, on its Web site, says Feldblum "represents one of the most serious threats to religious freedom we have seen in a long time." The Traditional Values Coalition urged its members to call Senate Committee members to oppose the nomination.

But there was no indication that any debate about Feldblum's nomination took place by committee members prior to the vote. The committee members took their vote not on Feldblum's nomination individually but as part of a slate of eight nominees for EEOC and other agencies. Committee Chairman Tom Harkin's office issued a press release saying that the vote was taken "off the Senate floor in between votes" on the health reform bill amendments in order to "accommodate members' schedules."

Feldblum, a longtime gay legal activist, has been a key player in the development of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), which prohibits discrimination against people with HIV and other disabilities. She has decidedly liberal credentials: having clerked for U.S. Supreme Court Justice Harry Blackmun, served as legislative counsel to the ACLU, and worked as a consultant to the Human Rights Campaign. But she also is professor of law at the prestigious Georgetown University School of Law, where she helped found the Federal Legislation and Administrative Clinic. Through that clinic, she helped provide representation to Catholic Charities USA.



Chai Feldblum. Photo by Rex Wockner

Her nomination has also been endorsed by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the Society of Resource Management.

Clearing the committee vote, while important, does not guarantee Feldblum's nomination clear sailing on the Senate floor, and Republicans have, in fact, held up action on a number of Obama nominees this year by using a Senate rule that allows any senator to delay a vote on any nomination for any reason. Senators can create these delays anonymously and, given the ferocity of the right-wing organizational opposition to Feldblum's nomination, that prospect might be an attractive political move for any conservative senator. Already, Republicans have put holds on President Obama's nominees for director of the census, surgeon general, and for Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke's second term, among many others. Should a senator place a hold on a nomination, the Senate will have to muster 60 votes in order to force the nomination to the floor.

The opposition to Feldblum began to surface soon after she was nominated, and some predicted there would be a grilling at her confirmation hearing last month. But no opposition surfaced at that hearing. Committee Chairman Harkin prompted Feldblum to address one criticism—that she had signed onto a 2006 statement that expressed a number of views on marriage, including support for polygamy.

"I do not support polygamy," said Feldblum. "I am sorry I signed that document and I have asked that my name be removed."

A position on the EEOC could put Feldblum in the position of being one of five commissioners to develop regulations for the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA), should that bill ever pass Congress.

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Pelosi lauds lift of needle-funding ban

U.S. Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi has issued a statement praising the inclusion of language in the fiscal year 2010 Consolidated Appropriations Act that lifted the ban on federal funding for syringe-exchange programs that help limit the spread of HIV.

"Sound science is an essential component of good public health policy, and science must come first in our public health policy decisions," Pelosi said. "The language lifting the ban on the use of federal funds for syringe exchange appropriately allows local public health and law enforcement officials to determine where exchanges should operate in their communities."

"Injection drug use is linked to 12 percent of new HIV infections, as well as most Hepatitis C infections. Lifting the ban on federal funding for syringe exchange is a big victory for science and for public health."

ONLINE AT
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NATIONAL NEWS



—Gay man to run as mayor in Kentucky

—John Perez (left) to be first gay Calif. Assembly speaker

HOUSTON from cover

didate favored by the business establishment.

Other openly gay people have served as mayors of large cities: David Cicilline was elected mayor of Providence, R.I.; Sam Adams, mayor of Portland, Ore.; and Ken Reeves, mayor of Cambridge, Mass. Toni Atkins served as acting mayor of San Diego, Calif., for one week by appointment of the city council.

Locke led with a strategy to improve the city's economy through new construction projects, such as a new soccer stadium. Parker, who currently serves as the city's controller, favored a more conservative approach—including one that considers holding off on seeking to provide gay city employees with benefits for their domestic partners equal to straight employees' spousal benefits.

With some ironic choice of words, the Chronicle reported Dec. 13 that, "At the polls, voter after voter cited Parker's experience watching over the city's \$4 billion budget as a primary consideration in their choice. Instead of being turned off by a politician reluctant to promise the world, voters responded to Parker's straight talk about all that might not be possible in the coming years."

At her victory speech, Parker thanked her life partner—"the person who has shared my life for more than 19 years"—Kathy Hubbard, their son and two daughters and her mother, all of who were on the stage with her along with a large crowd of other supporters.

Chuck Wolfe, president of the Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund, which helped marshal some financial support for the campaign, was also on the victory platform. He issued a statement saying her election marks a "watershed moment in American politics."

"One of the largest cities in the country will be headed by an out lesbian, chosen by people who voted for her because of her experience and competence," said Wolfe. "Houston rejected the politics of division and the extremists failed. After a bittersweet political year for the LGBT community, it's nice to be able to smile this wide."

National Stonewall Democrats, a gay partisan group that endorsed Parker, also issued its congratulations. Stonewall Executive Director Mi-

chael Mitchell said Parker's victory is "another reminder to people across America that being authentic with one's constituents is a winning strategy."

Parker herself noted that the election "has changed the world for the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered communities," but added that it is also "about transforming the lives of all Houstonians for the better and that is what my admin will be about."

"I promise to give to citizens an administration of honesty, integrity and transparency," she said. "The only special interest will be the public. We are in this together. We rise or fall together."

A native Houstonian, Parker was a leader in the Houston GLBT Political Caucus and other Texas gay political groups in the 1980s. She also worked many years for Texasgulf Oil and Gas and Mosbacher Energy, and co-owned a bookstore before running for public office. She ran for and lost her first race for a seat on the city council in 1991, then began training city police cadets on LGBT sensitivities and ran again four years later. Though she lost that second race as well, she finally won a seat—three times—then went on to win the city controller's job in three elections. The mayoral victory Saturday night marked her seventh straight victory for public office.

Glen Maxey, the state's first openly gay state representative, noted in his blog at dailykos.com that "the ugly undercurrent of third party attack direct mail from homophobes and right-wingers has dominated the race." And Chronicle blogger Mike Tolson noted that Parker's victory celebration sought to focus on the meaning of the victory to herself personally, the city generally, and to its meaning for the LGBT community nationwide.

"As those in the room expected a statement commenting on her sexual orientation, which made headlines across the country in the final days of her campaign," wrote Tolson, "she continued, 'I am proud, very proud, to be elected the first'—she paused slightly—the very first graduate of Rice University to be mayor of Houston."

Her choice of campaign victory soundtrack was "We Are Family."

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VIRAMUNE is indicated for use in combination with other antiretroviral agents for the treatment of HIV infection.

VIRAMUNE does not cure HIV or AIDS, and has not been shown to reduce the risk of passing HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination. VIRAMUNE can cause severe liver disease and skin reactions that can cause death. These reactions occur most often during the first 18 weeks of treatment, but can occur later. Ask your healthcare provider about how to recognize symptoms of skin and liver problems. Stop taking VIRAMUNE if you have any of these reactions. Do not restart VIRAMUNE if you experience any of these reactions. Call your healthcare provider immediately if you have any of these reactions.

Any patient can experience liver problems with VIRAMUNE, but women and patients who have higher CD4 counts when they begin VIRAMUNE treatment have a greater risk. **If you are a woman with CD4+ >250 cells/mm³, or a man with CD4+ >400 cells/mm³, you should not begin taking VIRAMUNE unless you and your doctor have decided that the benefit of doing so outweighs the risk. Women, including pregnant women, with CD4+ cell counts >250 cells/mm³ are at the greatest risk.**

Do not take VIRAMUNE if you have severe liver problems.

The dose of VIRAMUNE for adults is one 200-mg tablet daily for the first 14 days, followed by one 200-mg tablet twice daily. VIRAMUNE is always taken with other anti-HIV medications. The 14-day lead-in period is important because it can help reduce your chances of getting a potentially serious skin rash. If you have a skin rash during the first 14 days, immediately contact your doctor and do not increase your VIRAMUNE dose to twice a day. The total duration of the once daily lead-in dosing period should not exceed 28 days, at which point an alternative regimen may need to be started.

Other side effects that patients have experienced include nausea, fatigue, fever, headache, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain, and myalgia. Changes in body fat may occur in patients receiving antiretroviral therapy. Immune reconstitution syndrome has been reported in patients treated with combination ARV therapy.

Please see Medication Guide for VIRAMUNE on the following pages.



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MEDICATION GUIDE

VIRAMUNE® (VIH-rah-mune)

Tablets

VIRAMUNE® Oral Suspension

Generic name: nevirapine tablets and oral suspension

Read this Medication Guide before you start taking VIRAMUNE and each time you get a refill because there may be new information. This information does not take the place of talking with your doctor. You and your doctor should discuss VIRAMUNE when you start taking your medicine and at regular checkups. You should stay under a doctor's care while using VIRAMUNE. You should consult with your doctor before making any changes to your medications, except in any of the special circumstances described below regarding rash or liver problems.

What is the most important information I should know about VIRAMUNE?

Patients taking VIRAMUNE may develop severe liver disease or skin reactions that can cause death. The risk of these reactions is greatest during the first 18 weeks of treatment, but these reactions also can occur later.

Liver Reactions

Any patient can experience liver problems while taking VIRAMUNE. However, women and patients who have higher CD4 counts when they begin VIRAMUNE treatment have a greater chance of developing liver damage. Women with CD4 counts higher than 250 cells/mm³ are at the greatest risk of these events. If you are a woman with CD4 >250 cells/mm³ or a man with CD4 >400 cells/mm³ you should not begin taking VIRAMUNE unless you and your doctor have decided that the benefit of doing so outweighs the risk. Liver problems are often accompanied by a rash.

Patients starting VIRAMUNE with abnormal liver tests and patients with hepatitis B or C have a greater chance of developing further increases in liver tests after starting VIRAMUNE and throughout therapy.

In rare cases liver problems have led to liver failure and can lead to a liver transplant or death. Therefore, if you develop any of the following symptoms of liver problems stop taking VIRAMUNE and call your doctor right away:

- general ill feeling or "flu-like" symptoms
- dark urine (tea colored)
- tiredness
- pale stools (bowel movements)
- nausea (feeling sick to your stomach)

- pain, ache, or sensitivity to touch on your right side below your ribs
 - lack of appetite
 - yellowing of your skin or whites of your eyes
- Your doctor should check you and do blood tests often to check your liver function during the first 18 weeks of therapy. Checks for liver problems should continue regularly during treatment with VIRAMUNE.

Skin Reactions

Skin rash is the most common side effect of VIRAMUNE. Most rashes occur in the first 6 weeks of treatment. In a small number of patients, rash can be serious and result in death. Therefore, if you develop a rash with any of the following symptoms stop using VIRAMUNE and call your doctor right away:

- general ill feeling or "flu-like" symptoms
- blisters
- fever
- mouth sores
- muscle or joint aches
- swelling of your face
- conjunctivitis (red or inflamed eyes, like "pink eye")
- tiredness
- any of the symptoms of liver problems discussed above

If your doctor tells you to stop treatment with VIRAMUNE because you have experienced the serious liver or skin reactions described above, never take VIRAMUNE again.

These are not all the side effects of VIRAMUNE. See the section "What are the possible side effects of VIRAMUNE?" for more information. Tell your doctor if you have any side effects from VIRAMUNE.

What is VIRAMUNE?

VIRAMUNE is a medicine used to treat Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), the virus that causes AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome).

VIRAMUNE is a type of anti-HIV medicine called a "non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor" (NNRTI). It works by lowering the amount of HIV in the blood ("viral load"). You must take VIRAMUNE with other anti-HIV medicines. When taken with other anti-HIV medicines, VIRAMUNE can reduce viral load and increase the number of CD4 cells ("T cells"). CD4 cells are a type of immune helper cell in the blood. VIRAMUNE may not have these effects in every patient.

VIRAMUNE does not cure HIV or AIDS, and it is not known if it will help you live longer with HIV. People taking VIRAMUNE may still get infections common in people with HIV (opportunistic infections). Therefore, it is very important that you stay under the care of your doctor.

Who should not take VIRAMUNE?

- Do not take VIRAMUNE if you are allergic to VIRAMUNE or any of its ingredients. The active ingredient is nevirapine. Your doctor or pharmacist can tell you about the inactive ingredients.
- Do not restart VIRAMUNE after you recover from serious liver or skin reactions that happened when you took VIRAMUNE.
- Do not take VIRAMUNE if you have severe liver problems.
- Do not take VIRAMUNE if you take certain medicines. (See "Can I take other medicines with VIRAMUNE?" for a list of medicines.)
- Do not take VIRAMUNE if you are not infected with HIV.

What should I tell my doctor before taking VIRAMUNE?

Before starting VIRAMUNE, tell your doctor about all of your medical conditions, including if you:

- have problems with your liver or have had hepatitis
- are undergoing dialysis
- have skin conditions, such as a rash
- are pregnant, planning to become pregnant, or are breast feeding

How should I take VIRAMUNE?

- Take the exact amount of VIRAMUNE your doctor prescribes. The usual dose for adults is one tablet daily for the first 14 days followed by one tablet twice daily. Starting with one dose a day lowers the chance of rash, which could be serious. Therefore, it is important to strictly follow the once daily dose for the first 14 days. If you have a skin rash during the first 14 days immediately contact your doctor and do not increase your dose to VIRAMUNE twice a day. The total duration of the once daily lead-in dosing period should not exceed 28 days at which point an alternative regimen may need to be started. See the first section "What is the most important information I should know about VIRAMUNE?"
- The dose of VIRAMUNE for children is based on their size. Children's dosing also starts with once a day for 14 days and then twice a day after that.
- You may take VIRAMUNE with water, milk, or soda, with or without food.
- If you or your child uses VIRAMUNE suspension (liquid), shake it gently before use. Use an oral dosing syringe or dosing cup to measure the right dose. After drinking the medicine, fill the dosing cup with water and drink it to make sure you get all the medicine. If the dose is less than 5 mL (one teaspoon), use the syringe.
- Do not miss a dose of VIRAMUNE, because

City council adopts Mercado resolution

The Chicago City Council adopted a resolution Dec. 2 regarding Puerto Rico teen Jorge Steven Lopez Mercado, who was found murdered Nov. 14 in the commonwealth. Mercado, who was gay, was found decapitated, partially burned and dismembered on an isolated street.

The resolution, signed by Aldermen Manny Flores (1st Ward) and Tom Tunney (44th Ward), calls for, among other things, the council's Committee on Human Relations to conduct a study of homophobic and transphobic hate crimes in Chicago. Below is the resolution in its entirety:

WHEREAS, On Saturday, November 14th, 2009, 19-year old Jorge Steven Lopez Mercado was brutally murdered and found on a road in the town of Cayey, Puerto Rico; and

WHEREAS, Jorge Steven Lopez Mercado's violent murder was motivated by homophobia and transphobia; and

WHEREAS, In 2008, the Federal Bureau of Investigation reported 9,168 hate crimes resulting from a bias toward a particular race, religion, ethnicity; national origin, disability or sexual



Memorial to Jorge Steven Lopez Mercado at a Nov. 22 vigil for him in Humboldt Park. Photo by Hal Baim

orientation; and

WHEREAS, The perpetrators of hate crimes seek to dehumanize their victims and to strike fear and terror on specific groups of people in our society; and

WHEREAS, It is believed that many hate crimes motivated by homophobia or transphobia are unreported or go unreported; and

WHEREAS, We should honor the memory of Jorge Steven Lopez Mercado by fully assessing

the prevalence of hate crimes in Chicago motivated by homophobia and transphobia; and

WHEREAS, The City of Chicago should strive to be a national leader in the advocacy of human rights for all its citizens, regardless of sexual orientation or preference; and

WHEREAS, It is imperative that a culture of tolerance and understanding be established to discourage hate crime, and appropriate human rights legislation be enacted to allow for the full

prosecution of these crimes; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the Mayor and Members of the Chicago City Council assembled here this 2nd day of December, 2009, do hereby request that the City Council Committee on Human Relations conduct a hearing to fully evaluate and analyze hate crimes motivated by homophobia and transphobia in the City of Chicago and to hear from the Chicago Police Department and from pertinent non-for-profit organizations serving Chicago's Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender and Queer community.

In related news, Juan Martinez Matos, who is charged with killing 19-year-old Puerto Rican Jorge Steven Lopez Mercado, has been ordered to undergo a mental evaluation, Advocate.com reported. According to an e-mail journalist Christopher Pagan sent to the Web site Towleroad, "the psychological evaluation that was performed on Juan was in the total amount of thirty minutes. ... [H]e was noted to have anxiety, flashbacks, nightmares, and was unable to remember the events of that gruesome night, when he beat, burned, decapitated and dismembered Jorge." The next pre-trial hearing is scheduled for Jan. 13, 2010.

this could make the virus harder to treat. If you forget to take VIRAMUNE, take the missed dose right away. If it is almost time for your next dose, do not take the missed dose. Instead, follow your regular dosing schedule by taking the next dose at its regular time.

- If you stop taking VIRAMUNE for more than 7 days, ask your doctor how much to take before you start taking it again. You may need to start with once-a-day dosing.
- If you suspect that you have taken too much VIRAMUNE, contact your local poison control center or emergency room right away.

Can I take other medicines with VIRAMUNE?

- VIRAMUNE may change the effect of other medicines, and other medicines can change the effect of VIRAMUNE. Tell your doctors and pharmacists about all medicines you take, including non-prescription medicines, vitamins and herbal supplements.
- Do not take Nizoral® (ketoconazole) or Rifadin®/Rifamate®/Rifater® (rifampin) with VIRAMUNE.
- Tell your doctor if you take Biaxin® (clarithromycin), Diflucan® (fluconazole), methadone, or Mycobutin® (rifabutin). VIRAMUNE may not be right for you, or you may need careful monitoring.
- It is recommended that you not take products containing St. John's wort, which can reduce the amount of VIRAMUNE in your body.
- If you take birth control pills, you should not rely on them to prevent pregnancy. They may not work if you take VIRAMUNE. Talk with your doctor about other types of birth control that you can use.

What should I avoid while taking VIRAMUNE?

Avoid doing things that can spread HIV infection, as VIRAMUNE does not stop you from passing HIV infection to others. Do not share needles, other injection equipment or personal items

that can have blood or body fluids on them, like toothbrushes and razor blades. Always practice safer sex by using a latex or polyurethane condom to lower the chance of sexual contact with semen, vaginal secretions, or blood.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention advises mothers with HIV not to breast feed so they will not pass HIV to the infant through their milk. Ask your doctor about the best way to feed your infant.

What are the possible side effects of VIRAMUNE?

VIRAMUNE can cause serious liver damage and skin reactions that can cause death. Any patient can experience such side effects, but some patients are more at risk than others. See "What is the most important information I should know about VIRAMUNE?" at the beginning of this Medication Guide.

Other common side effects of VIRAMUNE include nausea, fatigue, fever, headache, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain, and myalgia. This list of side effects is not complete. Ask your doctor or pharmacist for more information.

Changes in body fat have also been seen in some patients taking antiretroviral therapy. The changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast, and around the trunk. Loss of fat from the legs, arms, and face may also happen. The cause and long-term health effects of these conditions are not known at this time.

How do I store VIRAMUNE?

Store VIRAMUNE at room temperature, between 59° to 86°F (15° to 30°C).

Throw away VIRAMUNE that is no longer needed or out-of-date.

Keep VIRAMUNE and all medicines out of the reach of children.

General information about VIRAMUNE

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

This Medication Guide summarizes the most important information about VIRAMUNE. If you would like more information, talk with your doctor. You can ask your pharmacist or doctor for information about VIRAMUNE that is written for health professionals, or you can call 1-800-542-6257 for additional information.

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090340228/3

U.S. Patent Nos. 5,366,972 and 6,172,059

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

This Medication Guide has been approved by the US Food and Drug Administration.

VR-CBS-8/09

VR67210

Forum looks at violence against LGBT youth of color

BY JOHN FENOGLIO

Violence against LGBT youth of color is on the rise in Chicago. That was the focus of a community meeting Dec. 11 at 1525 East 55th organized by the Coalition for Justice and Respect (CJR).

"This is not a new problem," said CJR Executive Director Marc Loveless. "Crime against LGBT African Americans has always existed. What is new is the frequency and brutality of these recent attacks. ... We're talking about kids here. They're being targeted for being gay or for being perceived as gay."

As reported last month by Windy City Times, the Youth Pride Center (YPC), an LGBT youth support organization in Hyde Park—they also have offices at the aforementioned address—issued a press release stating that 17 of its members had been attacked in 2009. One recent attack occurred Nov. 11. The victim, who identified himself only as "Prince," had just left a YPC meeting. After taking the Green Line to the West Side's Conservatory/Central Park stop, Prince said he was walking home when he was swarmed by a group of five men, threatened with a gun and beaten almost unconscious. His attackers reportedly targeted him for his "feminine" appearance.

Referring to the Nov. 11 attack, YPC President Frank Walker said that it was the fourth incident in four consecutive weeks in which a YPC member had been the victim of anti-gay violence (bringing the total number of attacks to 17).

At the CJR meeting, some of the young people in attendance asked practical questions about violence in their neighborhoods: Are these



Marc Loveless. Photo by Andrew Davis

crimes perpetrated against kids based on their sexual orientation because they "look" gay? Are they being attacked because, gay or straight, they, simply, look vulnerable?

"Around here you gotta be tough. If you're a man that looks effeminate, then you look vulnerable. If you look vulnerable you're gonna get targeted," said one attendee. It was statement that seemed to resonate with other people in the room.

"The violence is bad. African-American kids down here are experiencing it more. If they're gay then, in many cases, it's even worse for them," said Loveless.

In Chicago, violence against Black youth—whether motivated by a sexual orientation bias or not—has gained national attention as of late. On Sept. 24, 16-year-old Derrion Albert, an honor student from Fenger High School, was beaten to death on his way home from school. The brutal incident was captured by an onlooker's cell-phone camera and rebroadcast by news agencies around the world. The attack on Albert had nothing to do with a sexual-orientation bias. In fact, the attack had nothing to do with him at all. He was the casualty of gang fight that he just happen to pass by on his way home.

A study released by the Justice Department in

October paints a grim picture of youth violence in the United States. In the last year alone, almost half of U.S. children have been assaulted at least once, 60 percent have been exposed to violence and roughly one-quarter of American children were victims of robbery or vandalism.

As for hate crimes nationwide, the numbers are equally discomfiting. On Nov. 23, days after the YPC report of attacks in Chicago, the FBI released data indicating an 11 percent increase in hate crime offenses based on sexual orientation in 2008. And, while half of all hate crimes were motivated by race, one out of every six was based on sexual orientation.

It should be noted that on Oct. 28, President Barack Obama signed a bill expanding protection to victims of hate crimes. Known as the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act, the law now covers crimes based on gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or disability. Previously, the law had protected those attacked on the basis of race, color, religion or national origin.

The day before CJR's meeting, Loveless said that he was pleased to have been visited by a representative from the Chicago Police Department's Civil Rights Unit to discuss the reports of anti-gay violence. "I'm hopeful that we'll start to see some change. I'm also pleased with the idea of getting our organization aligned with other African-American community groups. We want to try to develop allies with groups like Cease Fire, National Action Network, Rainbow Push Coalition, and the NAACP. We'll be stronger if we work together."

Outside the meeting I spoke with a woman who was waiting to pick up her son. Her name was Kiyana (she did not want to give her last name). I asked her to tell me how she felt about the reports of anti-gay violence. Her reply, undoubtedly, reflected how a lot of parents feel about their children. "It's hard enough for these kids. Being Black and GAY ... well, that just makes me worry about my kids a lot," she said.

'Chocolate' raises more than \$200K

The eighth annual AIDS Foundation of Chicago's (AFC) holiday extravaganza, World of Chocolate—held Dec. 3 at the Hilton Chicago, 720 S. Michigan—commemorated World AIDS Day and raised more than \$200,000 for the fight against HIV/AIDS.

The Peninsula Hotel, which featured a Candyland theme complete with lollipops and giant peppermint candies, won several of the judges' awards. Judges included entertainer Miss Foozie, WGN-TV entertainment reporter Dean Richards and WLS-TV anchor Kevin Roy.

Funds raised through World of Chocolate will support AFC's policy, public education and grant-making programs, and \$50,000 of the proceeds will fund AFC's Global AIDS Initiative.

Gay History Project holding Photo Days

The Chicago Gay History Project will be holding community photo days Thursday, Dec. 17, 2-7 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 19, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; and Tuesday, Dec. 22, 12-4 p.m.

There will be individual head shots as well as group photos. No reservations are needed.

Photos will be posted at www.ChicagoGayHistory.org, a project by Windy City Times Publisher Tracy Baim.

Center's food drive Dec. 19

Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted, is hosting a holiday food drive and stocking-making party with LGBT families and friends Saturday, Dec. 19, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

All LGBT families are welcome and encouraged to bring non-perishable food items. To RSVP for this free event, contact Cathy Jones at 773-472-6469, ext. 265, or e-mail cjones@centeronhalsted.org.



From left: Edwin Corbin-Gutierrez, Julio Rodriguez and Ruben Feliciano. Photo by Samuel Worley

Gay Latino group receives grant

BY SAMUEL WORLEY

The Association of Latino Men for Action (ALMA)—a Chicago-based advocacy organization for gay, bisexual, and questioning Latino men—is a recipient of a grant designed to foster coalitions among Latino organizations.

According to ALMA President Julio Rodriguez, the \$60,000 grant—funded by the Chicago Community Trust—grew out of his organization's recognition of a disconnect between the agendas of LGBT and non-LGBT Latino organizations. Rodriguez said he had become troubled that when mainstream Latino groups talked about issues such as family unity and immigration, "the constructs they were using were all centered on the institution of marriage. ... The Latino LGBT community is invisible."

But, said ALMA board member Ruben Feliciano, "We're not invisible. This is part of the Latino community, it should be part of the Latino agenda ... As a collective, we want to be visible. We want the community to know that we're present."

With the help of the AIDS Foundation of Chicago, ALMA members wrote a grant, for which the award was announced in May 2009. The grant term began in September 2009 and ends in August 2010, with the possibility of an extension if the project proves successful. In addition to ALMA, the principal partners in the coalition—called Strength in Unity—are *Latinos Progresando*, Corazon Community Services and *Salud Latina*.

Among other things, the grant allows for the hiring of a staff member. The coalition hired Edwin Corbin-Gutierrez, an experienced social-justice organizer.

Rodriguez said that the partners coalesced around three objectives: first, the need to "build a real coalition" that is effectively able to address issues of common concern, including health care, HIV/AIDS and immigration. ALMA is currently involved, for instance, in efforts to support the passage of the Uniting American Families Act—currently pending in the U.S. Congress—which would allow LGBT people to more easily sponsor foreign-born same-sex partners for citizenship.

A second goal, Rodriguez said, is to educate all organizations involved on LGBT issues—"How do you create an inclusive environment and agenda?"—and to reach out to LGBT organizations regarding issues important to the Latino community. Very few LGBT groups, he said, are doing work on immigration, though it is an issue that affects the lives of many queer people.

Out of those two points come the coalition's *raison d'être*: "What is a joint agenda?" asked Rodriguez. "What are three or four key policy agenda items to put forward?"

By way of example, Rodriguez referenced a recent public-health survey that found disproportionately high rates of HIV/AIDS infection among Puerto Rican people—a demographic, he

said, that tends to be "invisible to the larger issue of AIDS advocacy."

Rodriguez pointed out that the intersection of Latino politics and LGBT politics has been highlighted by several events recently, for instance, the community response to the possibility of the appointment of an anti-gay minister to fill a seat on the Chicago City Council. That minister, Wilfredo De Jesus, was ultimately passed over—but not before LGBT and Latino community groups exerted pressure on the Mayor to do so.

He also mentioned LGBT pressure on Alderman Daniel Solis, a representative of the Pilsen and Little Village neighborhoods who co-sponsored a resolution supporting the Uniting American Families Act. Rodriguez said that in a later stage in the coalition process, the group plans to work with the pertinent public agencies in order to further its agenda—but, he said, the coalition needs to develop its strategy.

"If you don't have a cohesive message," said Rodriguez, "they don't know what you want."

More information on ALMA can be found at www.almachicago.org. The Chicago Community Trust's Web site is www.cct.org.

ALMA reaching new 'Heights'

The Association of Latino Men for Action (ALMA) is hosting a special evening Sunday, Dec. 20, starting with attending the production *In the Heights* at the Cadillac Palace Theater, 151 W. Randolph. There will then be a reception at Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted, and an after-party at Circuit, 3641 N. Halsted.

Tickets are \$75 and \$90. See www.almachicago.org.

QUOTELINES

BY REX WOCKNER

"MANY OF US IN THE PROGRESSIVE MOVEMENT just want to throw up. Democrats put one hand out to ask for money, and with the other they stab you in the back." — Steve Goldstein of the New Jersey LGBT organization *Garden State Equality* to *The Star-Ledger* newspaper, Nov. 30. The paper reported that "support for gay marriage in Trenton is draining away like water from a tub as nervous legislators scurry towards safer political ground."

"IF YOU WANT TO HAVE A MARRIAGE WITH SOME BAD-TEMPERED COW from Camden Council officiating, then you must have that, and I think it's nice that you can have it. But I liked being a poof when it was illegal, frankly; it gave me a sense of being outside." — Gay actor Rupert Everett to *Britain's The Guardian*, Nov. 29.

"THIS STATE OR A POLITICAL SUBDIVISION OF THIS STATE MAY NOT CREATE or recognize any legal status identical or similar to marriage." — *The Texas Constitution*. Texas attorney-general candidate Barbara Ann Radnofsky says the 2005 amendment passed by voters actually bans all marriages in Texas, not just gay ones.

"I INCREASINGLY SEE ORGANIZED RELIGION AS ACTUALLY MY ENEMY. They treat me as their enemy. Not all Christians, of course. Not all Jews, not all Muslims. But the leaders. ... Why should I take the judgment of a declared celibate about my sexual needs? He's basing his judgment on laws that would fit life in the Bronze Age. So if I'm lost to God, organized religion is to blame." — Gay actor Sir Ian McKellen to the *Los Angeles Times*, Nov. 14.

"IT'S (BEING A 'SIR') ACTUALLY MORE OF AN ANNOYANCE, that title. And I don't think I'm a saint. It's all nonsense really, but if you live in a society where there are civilian awards, it seems a little bit churlish to say 'I don't want it.' I'm just trying to think of one

advantage and I don't think there is one." — Openly gay actor Sir Ian McKellen to *Details* magazine, Oct. 29.

"'GOING ROGUE' IS SUCH A POSTMODERN BOOK THAT TREATING IT as some kind of factual narrative to check (as I began to), or comparing its version of events with her previous versions of the same events (as I have), and comparing all those versions with what we know is empirical reality (so many lies, so little time) is just a dizzying task. The lies and truths and half-truths and the facts and non-facts are all blurred together in a pious puree



—Sir Ian McKellen

Photo courtesy of 20th Century Fox

I increasingly see organized religion as actually my enemy.

of such ghastly prose that, in the end, the book can only really be read as some kind of chapter in a cheap nineteenth century edition of 'Lives of the Saints.' But as autobiography." — Gay blogger Andrew Sullivan on Nov. 19 after reading Sarah Palin's book.

"WHEN YOU PRESS PEOPLE ON THEIR OPPOSITION to gay marriage and gay rights, very often it reverts to anal sex. They look at gay men and that's all they see. They look at Ellen and they don't know what she does with Portia." — Gay writer Dan Savage to *The New York Times*, Nov. 14.

"LEVI JOHNSTON HAS CHOSEN to leave certain bits to the imagination (in *Playgirl*). Booo. Hisssssss." — Gay über-blogger Andy Towle (*Towleroad.com*), Nov. 17.

—Assistance: Bill Kelley



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**REV.
IRENE
MONROE**

Lesbian priest re-ignites church storm

Since the 2003 consecration of the Bishop V. Gene Robinson of New Hampshire, the church's first openly gay bishop, that set off a worldwide firestorm of reactions, both positive and negative, the recent election of an openly lesbian candidate, the Rev. Mary Douglas Glasspool of Baltimore, as bishop suffragan of the Diocese of Los Angeles will re-ignite the storm once again. And her election hangs in the balance.

Under the canons of the Episcopal Church a majority of bishops must consent to Glasspool's ordination for the selection process to be complete.

A graduate of Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, Mass., and the former rector of St. Luke's and St. Margaret's in Boston, Glasspool, 55, if approved will be the eighth suffragan bishop in the history of the Diocese of Los Angeles.

Glasspool's election has already brought immediate concerns to the Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams. Issuing a cautionary statement in response to the Diocese of Los Angeles' election of Glasspool Williams stated the following:

"The election of Mary Glasspool by the Diocese of Los Angeles as suffragan bishop-elect raises very serious questions not just for the Episcopal Church and its place in the Anglican Communion, but for the Communion as a whole. The process of selection however is only part complete. The election has to be confirmed, or could be rejected, by diocesan bishops and diocesan

standing committees. That decision will have very important implications."

Although Williams denounces anti-gay prejudice in the church Glasspool's election is the prism through which we see the Episcopal Church's long-time struggle and history with homosexuality.

Williams candidly told the Episcopal News Service "changing the Anglican theological position on homosexuality would have to be based on the most painstaking biblical exegesis and on a wide acceptance of the results within the Communion."

And that acceptance won't come easy.

Since Robinson's consecration, the Anglican Communion Network (ACN), also known as the "Breakaway Conservatives, is a theologically conservative network of dioceses and parishes that has been working toward a realignment in U.S. Episcopal Church. These Breakaway Conservatives feel liberal bishops have hijacked the church by both "accommodate[ing] and incorporate[ing] un-Biblical, un-Anglican practices and teaching."

But "authority of Scripture" doesn't hold weight in the argument against homosexuality because the Episcopal Church has always challenged controversial issues of the day.

In the 1970s, the argument for authority of Scripture came up with the ordination of women—and so, too, did the threat of a schism. But in 1989, the Church consecrated its first female bishop—Barbara C. Harris. And conservatives were not only theologically outraged, but also racially challenged because Harris is African-American.

And in 2006, gasps of both exhilaration and exasperation reverberated throughout the Anglican Communion when it was announced that Katharine Jefferts Schori would be the presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church USA. Schori not only supports gay unions, but she also backed the holy consecration of Robinson.

All this is no surprise, however, since the Episcopal Church has a history of taking the moral

high ground on social justice issues.

On the theological rift concerning American slavery, the Episcopal Church rebuked the Bible's literal interpretation, arguing that slavery violated the spirit of the Bible.

Boston's Old North Church, built in 1723 that played an active role in the American Revolution, served as a beacon for Paul Revere's "midnight ride."

The Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Cumberland, Maryland was a major stop on the Underground Railroad, and both Trinity Parish on Wall Street, and St. Paul's Chapel, that George Washington attended, has become the spiritual center of Ground Zero since 9/11.

The Episcopal Church prides itself as being an inclusive worshiping body. And it is drumming up a new national ads campaigns stating "The Episcopal Church Welcomes You" with specific examples of the Church's beliefs.

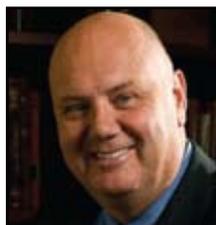
"We want to herald and share our welcoming message," explained Anne Rudig, Episcopal Church director of communication, told the Episcopal News Service. "We are bringing our identity, our core beliefs and our heritage to life in a manner that invites all to share."

With the changing demographics, both nationally and globally, of this ecclesial body, the Church's once-upon-a-time ruling "Frozen Chosen," whose anti-gay initiatives had a stranglehold on the Church's governing future is beginning to wane.

While many LGBTQ Episcopalians and their allies are jumping for joy over Glasspool's election the battle isn't over.

For me, however, the joy in this moment in the history of the Episcopal Church is that the Church continues to crawl toward inclusiveness, albeit haltingly and in spite of opposition.

And for those of us on the margins in our churches and faith communities, Harris, Robinson, Jefferts Schori and now Glasspool show us the church's steadfast principle of justice in action.



**BRIAN
MAHANY**

Death penalty for gays? Uganda may join the list

According to press reports, Uganda is poised to join the list of nations imposing the death penalty for being gay. The Ugandan parliament is expected to pass the Anti-Homosexuality Bill 2009, which creates a new crime of "aggravated homosexuality" and makes such a crime punishable by the death penalty. Even the mere participation of a single homosexual act mandates life imprisonment.

Family members and friends who refuse to "out" those engaging in homosexual activities could face seven years in prison.

The law is so strict that even landlords and priests could be punished. A landlord that knowingly rents to homosexuals could face seven years in prison and religious leaders who fail to report could face three years behind bars.

The bill is so broad in its scope that aid workers trying to fight the African HIV/AIDS epidemic are expected to leave Uganda.

And what does the bill's sponsor say about this? MP David Bahati was quoted saying that the bill was designed to protect "traditional" Ugandan families. He directly targeted human rights groups and even the United Nations as promoting homosexuality and recruiting school children to become gay.

Unfortunately, Uganda is not alone in its homophobia. A number of African countries have passed or are also considering stringent anti-gay legislation. Nigeria, where homosexuality is already a capital offense, has proposed new legislation aimed at those who "promote" gay lifestyles. Burundi recently outlawed same sex relationships, although stopping short of executions and Rwanda is considering its own anti-gay legislation.

Although Africa is currently suffering from this wave of homophobic paranoia, the rest of the world is united against Uganda. Even very conservative Christian churches in the United States have criticized the Ugandan efforts.

At a time when AIDS is responsible for the deaths of millions of African men, women and children, those currently in power have seized the banner of "family values" to drive aid workers from their countries. AIDS is a problem but simply executing gay men and women will only make the AIDS epidemic worse.

What can we do? Unfortunately, much like the recent genocide in Rwanda, the main stream media has done little to report this story. The first step is to expose the truth and let the world know what is happening. And make sure that our elected officials do not sit idly while thousands of men and women are executed in the name of family values.

Brian Mahany is an attorney in Milwaukee, Wis., with a national practice concentrating in defending victims of discrimination and recovering monies for victims of frauds. He welcomes comments; write him at brian@mahanyertl.com.

Letter

Supporting Steans

As the February 2010 primary election approaches, we see a large field of candidates seeking our attention, support and votes. One candidate who will make a difference in the Illinois State Senate is Heather Steans in the 7th District.

I support her not only because she supports same-sex marriage, but because she has been committed to the environment.

In fact, Sen. Steans has worked to become one of the strongest voices in Springfield for clean water and the protection of Lake Michigan. During her first term, she:

- Passed a bill that would allow food scraps to be composted commercially in Illinois. This bill (SB99) allows restaurants, businesses and even individuals to have food scraps picked up and transported off-site to be turned into compost—a valuable soil amendment;

- Encouraged green building in the capital construction bill (which will also promote green-collar jobs in our state); and

- Worked on legislation with the Safer Pest Control Project (SB1769) that creates new notice provisions when a school or day care center applies pesticides on areas where children will be present.

Sen. Steans has accomplished all of this and more in just 18 months. By re-electing her to office, we can be sure she will continue as one of the environment's strongest advocates.

Debra Shore

Commissioner, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

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"Windy City Media Group generated enormous interest among their readers in this year's LGBT Consumer Index Survey. Out of approximately 100 print and online media partners who participated in the survey, Windy City was the best performing regional media in the U.S. Only survey partners with a nationwide footprint were able to generate a greater number of responses." —David Marshall, Research Director, Community Marketing, Inc.



Alderman Tom Tunney.

City committee supports inclusive immigration measure

BY SAMUEL WORLEY

The Chicago City Council's Committee on Human Relations passed a resolution last week supporting the inclusion of LGBT people in comprehensive immigration-reform legislation. Specifically, the committee lent its support to the passage of the Uniting American Families Act (UAF)—currently pending in the U.S. Congress—which would allow same-sex partners to sponsor one another for immigration, on par with married heterosexual couples.

The vote was unanimous, and now goes to the full council for approval.

The text of the resolution, which was introduced by Aldermen Tom Tunney (44th Ward) and Daniel Solis (25th Ward) reads, in part, "The limited legal options for same-sex partners to keep their relationships unified exacts an enormous emotional, financial, and mental toll, disproportionate to opposite-sex couples in binational relationships..."

"The City of Chicago fully supports the measures of Congress to allow gay and lesbian partners to access immigration benefits in an equal and fair manner, equivalent to opposite sex partners who currently enjoy such legal rights[.]"

Testifying in support of the resolution were two immigration lawyers—Eric Berndt and Michael Jarecki—as well as local activists Marcelina Gonzalez, from Latinos Progresando, and Ruben Feliciano and Julio Rodriguez, both of the Association of Latino Men for Action (ALMA).

"Our purpose as immigration advocates," said Gonzalez, "is to keep families together. We want loved ones to stay with loved ones, and children to stay with parents."

Jarecki said that same-sex couples seeking to stay together in the United States would be required to demonstrate that theirs is a "good faith relationship," including showing to the appropriate authorities proof of "intermingling of finances," joint leases and insurance, and affirming affidavits from friends and families—"things that normal, everyday people do," said Jarecki.

"The checks will continue to be the same," he said, "whether it is a heterosexual couple or a gay or lesbian couple."

The committee also discussed, and included in the text of the resolution, the notion that forcing people to live illegally in the United States or forcing them to leave the country exacts a toll on the U.S. economy. Tunney said that putting more people to work in the U.S.—and incorporating them into the tax system—could have a "positive economic impact on our community."

Ald. Helen Shiller (46th Ward), who chairs the committee, echoed Tunney's comments. "It's important to acknowledge that there's a material benefit to eliminating fear" of LGBT people, she said.

POLITICAL RACES

Steans' husband confronts Madigan in bar

BY ANDREW DAVIS

One of the most intriguing political races in Illinois took a strange turn after the husband of Democratic state Sen. Heather Steans confronted challenger Jim Madigan in an Andersonville nightclub Dec. 10.

According to a press release, lobbyist Leo Smith, Steans' husband, went to a pro-Madigan fundraiser held at The Call, 1547 W. Bryn Mawr, an LGBT dance bar. (Madigan is openly gay.) The press release stated, "Leo Smith came to the bar, passed by the check-in table, and hid in the back corner of the bar. Smith sat at the bar for an hour drinking and appeared disheveled. ... Madigan quietly mentioned to his campaign manager that the man at the bar was staring at him strangely and looked a lot like Senator Steans' husband. At one point, Smith arose from the bar and disappeared into the men's room for about [10] minutes."

The release then stated that Smith approached Madigan as the latter was speaking with U.S. Senate candidate Jacob Meister. After Smith introduced himself and Madigan acknowledged him, Smith then said, "I'm not here for your event! I know you think you're gonna get famous with all your BULLSHIT! But those things are about me!" After Madigan said, "I don't want to be famous," Smith responded, "I was in Iowa for two weeks!" Smith then said a series of fragments: "I was in Iowa for Barack Obama! I've helped kids. I'm a progressive, and I've believed in those things. And you're attacking my wife!"

Then, according to the release, Smith and Madigan talked about everything from Gov. Rod Blagojevich to gay rights. About the latter issue, Smith allegedly taunted Madigan, saying, "You've done so much for gay rights. You need to spend a little more time working. You can't even get the endorsement of the ones you worked for!" (In response to that, Madigan said, "You're right. I can't afford to sponsor every gay organization's gala and buy tables at them like you.")

Eventually, Madigan's staffers moved in and separated the two. Smith eventually left the bar.

Madigan was characteristically candid with Windy City Times Dec. 13, describing the situation as "tacky." He said that "the part of it that gets me a little annoyed is that these folks are not rogue [people] who interrupt other people; they live in high society and go to every sort of elite function around. The fact that they're willing to come to our little event, camp out there and cause a little scene show some type of mentality—like they couldn't give the common decency you'd give someone else. ... You know they'd never do that to anyone of any social significance."

"This is not what progressive, liberal Democrats do, in terms of how they interact with competition and challenge. This is what old-



Leo Smith at a pro-Madigan rally at The Call Dec. 10. Photo by Lauren Peters

style, machine, intimidation-type politics is about. I hope this is actually a little revealing to [people]. They feel they're entitled to their seat; this is their approach."

Madigan also talked about the veracity of his own claims: "Everything we're saying is documented; it's all available on public record. Thousands of dollars to Blagojevich. I'm not making up Carol Ronen retiring two weeks before a deadline so Heather could walk right into that seat. They don't like that someone questions them."

Madigan said that he was momentarily concerned about his own safety, but there are no lingering worries. (The following day, Madigan added that neither Steans nor Smith had contacted him to apologize.)

When asked for her reaction, Steans e-mailed Windy City Times, "While chivalry may not be dead, in this case it surely looks stupid. Leo should not have been at the back of the room of Jim Madigan's event, even if it was in a public place, and had no business talking to Jim at this event. I will continue to focus on presenting my legislative record and discussing the many critical issues facing the 7th District."

Stonewall Dems announce endorsements

The Stonewall Democrats of Illinois (SDI) have announced their endorsement of candidates for state, federal and county offices.

SDI is the only state-wide grassroots organization focused on electing LGBT and issues-friendly candidates to public office. "Some of these candidates are openly gay or lesbian, while others are our allies," said Andy Shapero of SDI in a statement. "What they have in common is that they not only support equality for LGBT citizens, but have expressed a firm commitment to fight for issues so important to the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered community."

SDI's full slate of endorsed candidates for the 2010 cycle consists of:

- Jacob Meister: U.S. Senate
- Julie Hamos: U.S. Congress, IL-10th District
- Dan Hynes: Illinois Governor
- Robin Kelly: Illinois Treasurer
- Linda Pael: Cook County Circuit Court Judge
- John Dalton: Kane County Resident Judge
- Jim Madigan: Illinois Senate, 7th District
- Greg Harris: Illinois Rep, 13th District
- Ed Mullen: Illinois Rep, 11th District
- David Schroeder: Illinois Rep, 5th District
- Patrick Keenan-Devlin: Illinois Rep, 18th District
- Toni Preckwinkle: Cook County Board President
- Todd Connor: Metropolitan Water Reclamation District

Laiacona drops challenge against Mell

Joe Laiacona, candidate for 40th District state representative, has decided not to appeal the ruling made by the Illinois State Board of Elections earlier this month, according to a press release. Laiacona challenged the validity of the ballot petitions of his opponent, incumbent state Rep. Deb Mell, alleging that she was not a registered voter at the address on the petition.

The board held that, although state law does require petition signers be registered voters, no such requirement explicitly exists for candidates.

Laiacona cited a lack of adequate resources as a primary reason he is not pursuing the matter: "[A]lthough an appeal to the Circuit Court may have resulted in a more favorable ruling, one that would have removed Mell from the ballot, it would have also depleted ... campaign resources."

Both Laiacona and Mell are openly gay. Primary elections will be held Feb. 2, 2010.

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FOR STATE SENATE
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Paid for by Friends of Jim Madigan

Guide to the Gays

The Feb. 2, 2010, primary elections have taken on added significance for Cook County's LGBT community, as no fewer than 10 openly gay and lesbian individuals are vying for various posts. Below are gay and lesbian candidates for office. (All of the candidates are in the Democratic party.)

Deb Mell

Race: Illinois State Representative (40th District)
Web site: DebMell.org
The skinny: Deb Mell started her first term making history as the first open lesbian in the Illinois General Assembly—and then did something historic in being the only representative to vote against impeachment of then-Gov. Rod Blagojevich, her brother-in-law. (She told Windy City Times, "The day I made that vote, the Rod I knew and the Rod they were talking about didn't match up," adding that people told her afterwards that they were happy she voted that way.) A staunch advocate for marriage equality, Mell is locked in a contentious primary race with openly gay Joe Laiacona, marking the only race between two out candidates in the state.



Joe Laiacona

Race: Illinois State Representative (40th District)
Web site: FriendsForJoeLaiacona.org
The skinny: A part-time instructor at Columbia College Chicago for almost 17 years, Laiacona told Windy City Times (in an interview that ran Oct. 21) that he is a better candidate than incumbent Rep. Deb Mell because "I have 62 years of experience in living, I'm better educated, I solidly represent the middle-class people in my district—and I'm better able to speak on their behalf." Laiacona might be known to some in the LGBT community as "Jack Rinella," his pseudonym when he wrote "Leather Views" for Gay Chicago Magazine. Laiacona recently dropped a petition challenge against Mell, citing a lack of funds.



Jim Madigan

Race: Illinois State Senate (7th District)
Web site: JimMadigan.com
The skinny: This race is probably one of the most competitive in Illinois, as challenger Madigan is pitted against Democratic incumbent state Sen. Heather Steans, who recently introduced a marriage-equality measure. (The primary winner would then compete against Republican Adam Robinson, who is for same-sex marriage.) Madigan has spoken on a slew of issues ranging from women's equality to preventing video gambling in the district. Last week, the contest became even more contentious when Steans' husband, Leo Smith, confronted Madigan at a pro-Madigan rally in an Andersonville gay nightspot.



Linda J. Pael

Race: Cook County Judge, Dolan vacancy
Web site: LindaJPael.com
The skinny: A 1991 summa cum laude graduate of Chicago-Kent Law School, Pael has been an attorney for the City of Chicago's Law Department since 1994. Among the organizations that have endorsed Pael are the Victory Fund, AFL-CIO and the Cook County Democratic Party. In a recent interview with Windy City Times, Pael commented, "It's important to the community to see that we are viable candidates and that we can win despite that fact that people know that we're gay." She was born in Jamaica to parents of mixed heritage (Chinese, Jamaican and Dutch).



Greg Harris

Race: Illinois State Representative (13th District)
Web site: GregHarris.org
The skinny: Harris, who is openly HIV-positive as well as being openly gay, has represented his district (which includes Uptown, Ravenswood, Lincoln Square, North Center and Bowmanville) since being elected in 2006. Although his name has appeared most prominently in LGBT publications in connection with the issue of marriage equality (introducing a civil-marriage bill), he is intimately involved with a host of other issues, such as the state budget, foreclosure mediation, children of incarcerated parents and insurance reform. He is currently running unopposed.



Ed Mullen

Race: Illinois State Representative (11th District)
Web site: VoteEdMullen.com
The skinny: This district—which includes parts of Lakeview, Lincoln Park and Ravenswood—is up for grabs because incumbent rep John Fritchey is running for a seat on the Cook County Board of Commissioners. On his Web site, Mullen describes himself as "an independent and progressive Democrat" who strongly believes "in political reform, economic development, and social justice." Fun fact: Mullen is a founding member of the D.C. Cowboys, a gay country/western dance group that has appeared on America's Got Talent.



Joanne Fehn

Race: Cook County Judge, Kelley vacancy
Web site: JoanneFehn.com
The skinny: Although she entered the race relatively late (in August), Fehn has been making up for lost time with a slew of fundraisers and personal appearances, including hosting a Dec. 13 event at La Villa Restaurant, 3632 N. Pulaski, that benefited several organizations, including New Moms and Tabitha House. Fehn has practiced transactional law for 15 years, and counts lesbian state Rep. Deb Mell among her supporters.



Todd Connor

Race: Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD) commissioner
Web site: ToddConnor.org
The skinny: A military veteran, Connor was commissioned as a U.S. Navy officer, quickly becoming lieutenant and serving two tours of duty. As a candidate, his platform includes competitive bidding; investing in a green infrastructure; and bringing transparency and accountability to the MWRD with an inspector general. Considering his background (earning an MBA at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business), it should surprise no one that Connor, 31, wants to bring more of a business perspective to the commission.



David Schroeder

Race: Illinois State Representative (5th District)
Web site: PeopleForSchroeder.com
The skinny: Schroeder is another challenger who faces a strong opponent; this time it is incumbent Ken Dunkin (who Schroeder calls "the ultimate Blagojevich enabler" on his Web site). Among the issues he supports are marriage equality, campaign-contribution limits and reproductive choice (adding that he advocates "measures that will lower the number of abortions," such as "medically accurate sex education").



Jacob Meister

Race: U.S. Senate
Web site: MeisterForSenate.com
The skinny: Being in a contest for Roland Burris' U.S. Senate seat (and the one occupied by one-time U.S. Sen. Barack Obama), Meister finds himself in a battle with heavy-hitters such as current Illinois Treasurer Alexi Giannoulias, former City of Chicago Inspector General David Hoffman and Chicago Urban League President Cheryl Jackson. In an interview with Windy City Times that ran in its Sept. 16 issue, Meister said that he felt "almost compelled to jump into this race. There are a number of good people who could have run; unfortunately, they didn't."

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Joanne Fehn: Here comes the judge?

BY BLAIR MISHLEAU

Although she started late in the game, Joanne Fehn, known as Joey by her friends, has been working hard to gain a position as Cook County Judge. Recently she spoke with the Windy City Times by the fireplace in her northwest Chicago home. She discussed her life, why she's running and what it's like as an out lesbian running for office.

Windy City Times: Could you tell our readers a little bit about your employment history and what qualifies you as a judge?

Joanne Fehn: I've been a practicing lawyer in Cook County 15 years. I started out with a real-estate developer and his wife. [We] did a lot of building violation cases and license cases, and then invariably a lot real estate work and a lot of corporate work. From there, I was hired by Chicago Title Insurance Company. I was a title person; I worked on major commercial transactions. I worked on a lot of complex real estate deals during my tenure there. From there I was hired as general council of Anchor Companies, I've been there ever since. We do a lot of intervention with distressed real estate and we do a lot of litigation.

WCT: How long have you been in that position?

JF: Since 2001.

WCT: How does this give you experience as a judge?

JF: It doesn't necessarily give me experience as a judge. I'm not a sitting judge. What it does give me is an extremely broad range of legal experience. I'm not tied to one area. We're involved in a lot of federal statutory issues, we're involved in a lot of state issues. In the practice that I engage in, I have to be able to see both sides and be able to have an expansive view of both sides to be able to get to the end result.

WCT: How do you think that being a lesbian is going to affect your candidacy?

JF: That never even entered my mind. It's just part of who I am. I don't know if it's going to affect it negatively or positively. As a gay person I've suffered and experienced discrimination. I am who I am today because of my life experiences. But when you want to be a judge and serve the public, and that means all the public, my issues have to stay in my office. Once I step into the courtroom I'm a public servant, and I'm there to hear each side of the story and review evidence. That's my goal, that's my commitment to the people of Cook County.

WCT: In [judicial] elections, very few people come out to vote compared to, say, Obama's election. How do you think that makes it more challenging for you to run?

JF: A lot of people say, "Why do we elect judge when we don't really know who judges are?" The other side of the coin is "How can we not elect them, we have to elect judges because that's our checks and balances of the system." The process has its benefits, but it also has some negativity because there's not a lot of attention paid to judicial candidates. There's not a lot of coverage in the media for judicial candidates. If you want to find out about candidates you have to sort of do your own research.



Joanne Fehn.

WCT: Is there any one community you are hoping to pull votes from or is it more spread out demographic wise?

JF: Obviously I live on the northwest side, and I am community-based person. I do a lot of community work, so this being my home base I would hope to garner a lot of votes from the communities I've assisted and worked with. I am certainly hoping to get the gay and lesbian vote. It is an entire countywide race, so we're working very diligently on getting a good cross-section of voters involved.

WCT: What inspired you to run for this position?

JF: Well, I have a lot of friends, and we get around and we talk and we try to save the world. [Chuckles] We say what, if we were doing the job, could be done better. I've had a lot of [court] cases where I just could not fathom the rulings. I used to be able to say that I can see how the judge came to their conclusion. But there have been a few in the last few years where I was thinking to myself, 'These rulings are goofy.' [I was inspired to run because I was] tired of just sitting on the sofa just complaining about what's going on in life.

WCT: When did you enter the race?

JF: I announced my candidacy in late August.

WCT: Why so late?

JF: I had always wanted to be a judge since I took my attorney's oath. I was talking with colleagues of mine, [and they] said that there were seven vacancies. This was probably in May. I thought about it, and I went to my alderman and said I was really interested. I got a call from him in August, to say, "Can you come down to Cook County democratic organization office and announce your candidacy?" It was like then and there. [That day] I marched downtown and announced my candidacy and presented my credentials. It ended up that I was not the slated [Democratic] candidate. The issue then became in order to run I had to have a required number of signatures on petitions. We were required to get 3,268 signatures. The committee ended up coming back with just under 6,000 signatures. It was all very methodical.

WCT: Is there anything else you'd like to add?

JF: I've had a very good life. I'm very blessed. Life is difficult, bad things happen. Even in spite of all of that, we pick up the mantle and fight the good fight every day.

Linda Pael: Hoping to hold court

BY BLAIR MISHLEAU

As the current election cycle nears, Windy City Times sat down with Linda Pael, a Democratic candidate for Cook County Circuit Court Judge. Pael discussed her outlook on being a good judge, her family and how being an out lesbian affects her candidacy.

Windy City Times: What inspired you to run for office?

Linda Pael: A few different things. I've been practicing for 18 years now, and I've been before many different courtrooms. After having sat on a selection committee for one of the justices and seeing some of the candidates that came before her and some of the judges on the bench, and the encouragement of my friends, I decided that I should run for judge. I think there's a need to have more qualified judges. I was also inspired by the last election cycle. Obama and Kennedy and everybody else have said, "What are you doing to make the change," and everybody's counting [on Obama] or other leaders to make change. If we don't do something ourselves we can't really sit back and complain.

WCT: How does your experience as an attorney relate to the position that you're going up for?

LP: I think that judges need to have a vast range of experience. I've had an opportunity to work in a variety of different areas. I've practiced before many different courtrooms and I've had the experience in a variety of different areas of law myself.

WCT: What experience as an activist do you have outside of the courtroom?

LP: My activism really started when I was in college. At the time, our school, Cornell College, had investments in South Africa. We fought to try and divest at the time because they still were an oppressive regime. When I left college I went to New York and worked for the National Organization for Women, and that was at a time when there were these major anti-abortion riots all over the state. I became one of the trained escorts to help women get in [clinics]. That kind of moved on to gay rights and marriage equality. There are so many things that need correcting, and you can only do so much. These were the ones that I was very passionate about.

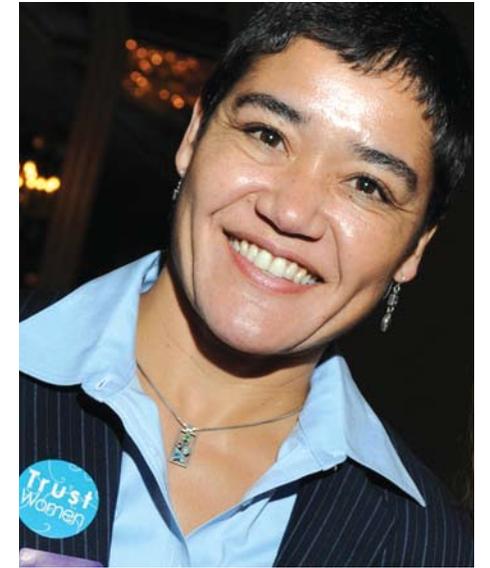
WCT: You were born in Jamaica. When did you come to the States?

LP: We came to the States in 1979. We came here because Jamaica was going through a violent political and social upheaval at the time. My father is Dutch, and he's Caucasian, and in Jamaica he really stood out at the time. Like many other families we had to pack up and come here. We moved to Houston, Texas at the time. It was a difficult transition from Jamaica to Houston.

WCT: How do you feel that being a member

of the LGBT community will affect your candidacy?

LP: I don't really think that it has had much affect. Being LGBT is not what qualifies me to be a judge. I am very passionate about telling people that they shouldn't vote for me just because I'm gay. They need to vote for me because I am the most qualified person in my race. Being LGBT just happens to be another aspect of who I am. I have experienced different prejudices that perhaps other people haven't, and that would make me perhaps a little bit more uniquely aware of issues that may come before the court. You have to put aside your personal experiences in life and listen to the facts, but I think there is a certain aspect of compassion that sometimes is lacking in the courtrooms. People need to be treated well. Win or lose, they need to feel like they came in court and were treated right and had an opportunity to have their case heard.



Linda Pael.

WCT: Do you have any concerns that people from a conservative viewpoint will not vote for you simply because of the fact that you're a lesbian?

LP: When I decided to run, I decided that I was going to run as an out lesbian. I think this is the first time that we actually have two out lesbians running for judge countywide. It's important to the community to see that we are viable candidates and that we can win despite that fact that people know that we're gay. In this day and age, why would anybody care what my orientation is? It seems so irrelevant to the qualifications.

It's not just judges, we have so many open candidates running this election cycle. Todd Connor is running for water reclamation, Jim Madigan is running for senator. The list goes on. We have candidates in almost every race. There are so many gay candidates running.

Read what else Linda Pael has to say—including when she was asked if she'd run again if she lost this particular race—online at www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com.



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Linda J. PAUEL
FOR JUDGE

**WINDY CITY TIMES
PRIMARY ELECTION GUIDE:
Look for it next month!
Also, read other interviews
in upcoming issues.**



INDICATIONS

ISENTRESS is an anti-HIV medicine used for the treatment of HIV. **ISENTRESS must be used with other anti-HIV medicines**, which may increase the likelihood of response to treatment.

The safety and effectiveness of ISENTRESS in children has not been studied.

It is important that you remain under your doctor's care.

ISENTRESS will NOT cure HIV infection or reduce your chance of passing HIV to others through sexual contact, sharing needles, or being exposed to your blood.

IMPORTANT RISK INFORMATION

A condition called Immune Reconstitution Syndrome can happen in some patients with advanced HIV infection (AIDS) when anti-HIV treatment is started. Signs and symptoms of inflammation from opportunistic infections may occur as the medicines work to treat the HIV infection and strengthen the immune system. Call your doctor right away if you notice any signs or symptoms of an infection after starting ISENTRESS.

Contact your doctor immediately if you experience unexplained muscle pain, tenderness, or weakness while taking ISENTRESS. This is because on rare occasions muscle problems can be serious and can lead to kidney damage.

When ISENTRESS has been given with other anti-HIV drugs, the most common side effects included nausea, headache, tiredness, weakness, and trouble sleeping.

I am determined. I am disciplined. I am a new puppy owner. I am HIV positive.

You are special, unique, and different from anyone else. And so is your path to managing HIV. When you're ready to start HIV therapy, talk to your doctor about a medication that may fit your needs and lifestyle.

In clinical studies lasting 48 weeks, patients being treated with HIV medication for the first time who took ISENTRESS plus *Truvada*:

- ◆ Had a low rate of side effects
 - In 4% of patients taking ISENTRESS plus *Truvada* versus 3% taking *Sustiva* plus *Truvada*, the most commonly reported side effect of moderate to severe intensity (that interfered with or kept patients from performing daily activities) was trouble sleeping
- ◆ Experienced less effect on LDL cholesterol ("bad" cholesterol)
 - Cholesterol increased an average of 6 mg/dL with ISENTRESS plus *Truvada* versus 16 mg/dL with *Sustiva* plus *Truvada*

Ask your doctor about ISENTRESS.

isentress.com

People taking ISENTRESS may still develop infections, including opportunistic infections or other conditions that occur with HIV infection.

Tell your doctor about all of your medical conditions, including if you have any allergies, are pregnant or plan to become pregnant, or are breast-feeding or plan to breast-feed. ISENTRESS is not recommended for use during pregnancy. Women with HIV should not breast-feed because their babies could be infected with HIV through their breast milk.

Tell your doctor about all the medicines you take, including prescription medicines like rifampin (a medicine used to treat infections such as tuberculosis), non-prescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements.

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

For more information about ISENTRESS, please read the Patient Information on the following page.

Need help paying for ISENTRESS? Call 1-866-350-9232



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raltegravir tablets

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Patient Information
ISENTRESS® (eye sen tris)
(raltegravir) Tablets



Read the patient information that comes with ISENTRESS¹ before you start taking it and each time you get a refill. There may be new information. This leaflet is a summary of the information for patients. Your doctor or pharmacist can give you additional information. This leaflet does not take the place of talking with your doctor about your medical condition or your treatment.

What is ISENTRESS?

- ISENTRESS is an anti-HIV (antiretroviral) medicine used for the treatment of HIV. The term HIV stands for Human Immunodeficiency Virus. It is the virus that causes AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome). ISENTRESS is used along with other anti-HIV medicines. ISENTRESS will NOT cure HIV infection.
- People taking ISENTRESS may still develop infections, including opportunistic infections or other conditions that happen with HIV infection.
- Stay under the care of your doctor during treatment with ISENTRESS.
- The safety and effectiveness of ISENTRESS in children has not been studied.

ISENTRESS must be used with other anti-HIV medicines.

How does ISENTRESS work?

- ISENTRESS blocks an enzyme which the virus (HIV) needs in order to make more virus. The enzyme that ISENTRESS blocks is called HIV integrase.
- When used with other anti-HIV medicines, ISENTRESS may do two things:
 1. Reduce the amount of HIV in your blood. This is called your "viral load".
 2. Increase the number of white blood cells called CD4 (T) cells.
- ISENTRESS may not have these effects in all patients.

Does ISENTRESS lower the chance of passing HIV to other people?

No. ISENTRESS does not reduce the chance of passing HIV to others through sexual contact, sharing needles, or being exposed to your blood.

- Continue to practice safer sex.
- Use latex or polyurethane condoms or other barrier methods to lower the chance of sexual contact with any body fluids. This includes semen from a man, vaginal secretions from a woman, or blood.
- Never re-use or share needles.

Ask your doctor if you have any questions about safer sex or how to prevent passing HIV to other people.

What should I tell my doctor before and during treatment with ISENTRESS?

Tell your doctor about all of your medical conditions. Include any of the following that applies to you:

- You have any allergies.
- You are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.
 - ISENTRESS is not recommended for use during pregnancy. ISENTRESS has not been studied in pregnant women. If you take ISENTRESS while you are pregnant, talk to your doctor about how you can be included in the Antiretroviral Pregnancy Registry.
- You are breast-feeding or plan to breast-feed.
 - It is recommended that HIV-infected women should not breast-feed their infants. This is because their babies could be infected with HIV through their breast milk.
 - Talk with your doctor about the best way to feed your baby.

Tell your doctor about all the medicines you take. Include the following:

- prescription medicines, including rifampin (a medicine used to treat some infections such as tuberculosis)
- non-prescription medicines
- vitamins
- herbal supplements

Know the medicines you take.

- Keep a list of your medicines. Show the list to your doctor and pharmacist when you get a new medicine.

How should I take ISENTRESS?

Take ISENTRESS exactly as your doctor has prescribed. The recommended dose is as follows:

- Take only one 400-mg tablet at a time.
- Take it twice a day.
- Take it by mouth.
- Take it with or without food.

Do not change your dose or stop taking ISENTRESS or your other anti-HIV medicines without first talking with your doctor.

IMPORTANT: Take ISENTRESS exactly as your doctor prescribed and at the right times of day because if you don't:

- The amount of virus (HIV) in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short period of time.
- The virus may develop resistance to ISENTRESS and become harder to treat.
- Your medicines may stop working to fight HIV.
- The activity of ISENTRESS may be reduced (due to resistance).

If you fail to take ISENTRESS the way you should, here's what to do:

- If you miss a dose, take it as soon as you remember. If you do not remember until it is time for your next dose, skip the missed dose and go back to your regular schedule. Do NOT take two tablets of ISENTRESS at the same time. In other words, do NOT take a double dose.
- If you take too much ISENTRESS, call your doctor or local Poison Control Center.

Be sure to keep a supply of your anti-HIV medicines.

- When your ISENTRESS supply starts to run low, get more from your doctor or pharmacy.
- Do not wait until your medicine runs out to get more.

What are the possible side effects of ISENTRESS?

When ISENTRESS has been given with other anti-HIV drugs, the most common side effects included:

- nausea
- headache
- tiredness
- weakness
- trouble sleeping

Other side effects include rash, severe skin reactions, feeling anxious, depression, suicidal thoughts and actions, paranoia, low blood platelet count.

A condition called Immune Reconstitution Syndrome can happen in some patients with advanced HIV infection (AIDS) when combination antiretroviral treatment is started. Signs and symptoms of inflammation from opportunistic infections that a person has or had may occur as the medicines work to treat the HIV infection and help to strengthen the immune system. Call your doctor right away if you notice any signs or symptoms of an infection after starting ISENTRESS with other anti-HIV medicines.

Contact your doctor promptly if you experience unexplained muscle pain, tenderness, or weakness while taking ISENTRESS. This is because on rare occasions, muscle problems can be serious and can lead to kidney damage.

Tell your doctor if you have any side effects that bother you.

These are not all the side effects of ISENTRESS. For more information, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

How should I store ISENTRESS?

- Store ISENTRESS at room temperature (68 to 77°F).
- **Keep ISENTRESS and all medicines out of the reach of children.**

General information about the use of ISENTRESS

Medicines are sometimes prescribed for conditions that are not mentioned in patient information leaflets.

- Do not use ISENTRESS for a condition for which it was not prescribed.
- Do not give ISENTRESS to other people, even if they have the same symptoms you have. It may harm them.

This leaflet gives you the most important information about ISENTRESS.

- If you would like to know more, talk with your doctor.
- You can ask your doctor or pharmacist for additional information about ISENTRESS that is written for health professionals.
- For more information go to www.ISENTRESS.com or call 1-800-622-4477.

What are the ingredients in ISENTRESS?

Active ingredient: Each film-coated tablet contains 400 mg of raltegravir.

Inactive ingredients: Microcrystalline cellulose, lactose monohydrate, calcium phosphate dibasic anhydrous, hypromellose 2208, poloxamer 407 (contains 0.01% butylated hydroxytoluene as antioxidant), sodium stearyl fumarate, magnesium stearate. In addition, the film coating contains the following inactive ingredients: polyvinyl alcohol, titanium dioxide, polyethylene glycol 3350, talc, red iron oxide and black iron oxide.

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GOINGS-ON

WINDY CITY TIMES' ENTERTAINMENT SECTION

Photo by
Joan
Marcus

'FAMILY' TIES

Bebe Neuwirth and openly gay Nathan Lane star in *The Addams Family: A New Musical*. Read page 18.

PERFORMANCE

Funny girl.
Page 19.



MOVIES

'Young' love.
Page 20.



SPORTS

Kickin' it.
Page 26.

Photo courtesy of
Nils Sundin



Scottish Play Scott: Have a campy, vampy Christmas

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

Live entertainment choices abound over the holidays. There are the traditional seasonal choices of *The Nutcracker* and *A Christmas Carol* (well, maybe not the star-studded one that cancelled its engagement at the Civic Opera House). There's also counter-programming that have nothing to do with Christmas (like *American Buffalo* at Steppenwolf or the national tour of the Tony Award-winning musical *In the Heights*).

Then there are the quirky little shows that can spoof, smirk at or sex up the season (sometimes all three). They can even become long-running traditions in their own right. So check out these shows by scrappy storefront troupes and bodacious burlesque collectives:

Camping through the snow

Another Year Without a Witty Title Chicago Christmas Spectacular comes courtesy of a troupe with a similarly long-winded name, A Reasonable Facsimile Theatre Company. Each evening features a different set of comedy sketches, ranging from *The Snuggie Incident* to *A Very Vegan Christmas*. The lineup alternates on Fridays and Saturdays through Jan. 9 at the Conservatory, 4210 N. Lincoln. Tickets are \$12-\$15; call 773-418-4475 or visit www.arftco.com.

It took so long to say the title of **The David Bowie Hepzikat Funky Velvet Flarney Solstice Spectacular, Live... From Space! (David Bowie's Christmas Special 1977 Network Edit)** that New Millennium Theatre Company decided to revive this musical spoof with celebrity rock stars like Iggy Pop, Mick Jagger and more for a second time at the National Pastime Theater, 4139 N. Broadway. Performances continue through Dec. 19. Tickets are \$15. Call 773-327-7077 or visit



Another Year Without a Witty Title Chicago Christmas Spectacular. Photo by Michael Buino

www.nmtchicago.org.

Hell in a Handbag Productions may do other holiday works now and then, but David Cerda and Scott Lambert's homegrown gay musical spoof *Rudolph, The Red-Hosed Reindeer* still remains its Christmas calling card. See it this year in the more intimate atmosphere of *Mary's Attic*, 5400 N. Clark, through Jan. 2. Tickets are \$10-\$15. Call 800-838-3006 or visit www.handbagproductions.org.

Here's something truly odd: A family-friendly production at the Annoyance Theatre. But then again, there are sure to be some quirks in the Annoyance's take on **Rudolph, The Red Nosed Reindeer**, playing through Dec. 18 at 4830 N. Broadway. Tickets are \$10-\$15; call 773-561-4665 or visit www.TheAnnoyance.com.

With a title like **A Silent Night: Grandma Got Run Over Without Healthcare**, expect Shantz Theatre to inject plenty of current politics into its holiday comedy revue. It plays until Dec. 20 at Gorilla Tango Theatre, 1919 N. Milwaukee. Tickets are \$12; call 773-598-4549 or visit www.gorillatango.com.

Silent Nightmare is a very dark comedy involving murderous elves, an escaped mass murderer and much more. Check to see if that's blood on your candy cane through Dec. 26 at the Annoyance Theatre, 4830 N. Broadway. Tickets are \$15. Call 773-561-4665 or visit www.TheAnnoyance.com.

The Santaland Diaries used to over-produced, but this year Theater Wit appears to be the only local company sharing David Sedaris' sardonic tale about his time working as a Macy's Santaland Elf. It continues through Jan. 2 at Theatre Building Chicago, 1225 W. Belmont. Tickets are \$24; call 773-327-5252 or visit www.theaterwit.com.

Next Theatre may be producing **A Very Merry Unauthorized Scientology Pageant** this year, but it was A Red Orchid Theatre that first locally introduced this musical of merry children who tell the story of Scientology founder and hero L. Ron Hubbard. It continues through Jan. 3 at 1531 N. Wells. Tickets are \$25 with student/senior discounts available; call 312-943-8722 or visit www.aredorchidtheatre.org.

New gifts

With Redmoon Theatre, it's best to expect the unexpected. See what Redmoon has dreamed up for its **2009 Winter Pageant**, playing now through Dec. 27 at 1463 W. Hubbard. Tickets are \$10-\$15. Call 312-850-8440 or visit www.redmoon.org.

What's a fading TV star to do as his holiday show heads for broadcast in 1968? Find out in **Chad Morton's TV Christmas Miracle**, a new show by Jack Crowe and Jim Keating playing until Dec. 20 at Village Players Theatre, 1010 W. Madison St., Oak Park. Tickets are \$20-\$25. Call 866-764-1010 or visit www.village-players.org.

Breathing on Cougarness and *Holiday Hunger Pains* are the two plays featured in the Annoyance Theatre's **Holiday Short Shorts**, playing now through Dec. 17 at 4830 N. Broadway. Tickets are \$10; call 773-561-4665 or visit www.TheAnnoyance.com.

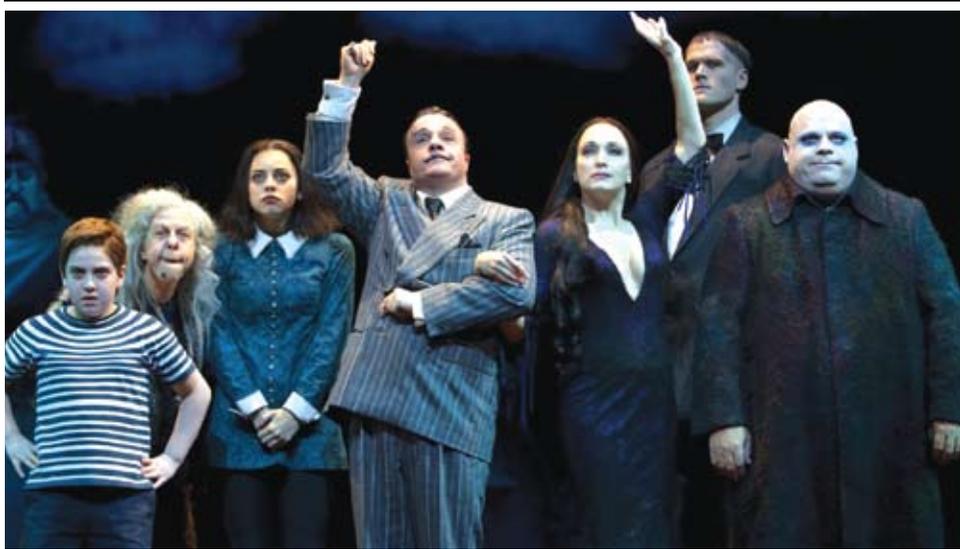
Shawn Pfausch's *The Birthday of the Unconquered Sun*, Scott T. Barsotti's *Holiday Parade* and Andrew Burden Swanson's *An Eve at McTavish's* are all featured in **The 2nd Annual Holiday Special** at EP Theater, 1820 S. Halsted, now through Dec. 21. Tickets are \$15. Call 312-850-4299 or visit www.eptheater.com.

Santa's sexy helpers

The dynamic Cockettes celebrate the season in **Cockettes: The Christmas Spectacular** through Dec. 20 at the Annoyance Theatre, 4830 N. Broadway. Tickets are \$10. Call 773-561-4665 or visit www.TheAnnoyance.com.

Girlie-Q Productions promises to be naughty with a queer burlesque holiday revue called **Delight Before Christmas**. It strips until Dec. 19 at Theatre Building Chicago, 1225 W. Belmont. Tickets are \$15-\$20. Call 773-327-5252 or visit www.Theatrebuildingchicago.org.

Expect more this season from **The Flaming Dames in Naughtier & Nicer**, now shedding their stuff until Dec. 19 at The Spot, 4437 N. Broadway. Tickets are \$15. Call 312-458-9083 or visit www.nmtchicago.org.



The Addams Family. Photo by Joan Marcus

THEATER REVIEW

The Addams Family

Authors: Marshall Brickman & Rick Elice (book), Andrew Lipka (music/lyrics)

At: Ford Center/Oriental Theatre, 24 W. Randolph

Tickets: 800-775-2000;

BroadwayInChicago.com; \$28-\$105

Runs through: Jan. 10

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

With a fabulous cast and topnotch creative team, The Addams Family is all but sold out on its march to Broadway where everyone smells a hit. Even if Big Apple reviewers selectively find details to disapprove, audiences won't care about their critical nits.

This isn't the Addams Family of TV-sitcom fame, although the character names and the louvered mansion setting are about the same. But the authors revisited the 150 or so original Charles Addams cartoons—not the TV show or its movie spinoffs—in order to create more fully fleshed-out characters who embrace darkness and sex in both words and music. They espouse a philosophy which is familiar and simple but nonetheless profound: the cup is half-full and half-empty; one can love and hate a person; happiness and sadness co-exist; the yin and yang.

To unveil its philosophy, The Addams Family turns daughter Wednesday into a hormonal goth princess of 18. When she falls in love with Lucas, a "normal" boy, her parents—Gomez and Morticia—are horrified. In the tradition of You Can't Take It With You, Lucas and his uptight,

sex-starved parents come for dinner and stay for a transforming night helped by a potion, a tango and a giant squid. Meanwhile, Uncle Fester serves as narrator, then falls in love with the moon and dances with her in one of the show's most visually appealing scenes. This very traditional book-and-number show boasts a score and libretto of equal weight and strength. The book is fairly complex and more about wit than punchlines, but nonetheless it provides some big laughs and a few probably-unnecessary slightly raunchy gags. Adolescents will love it.

Composer Andrew Lipka has inched towards Broadway success for 15 years; now he'll finally have it. His tuneful pastiche of tangos, ballads, anthems and songs-and-dances even includes homage to the Addams TV theme song, to the audience's delight. There's a dash of John Williams action music here, a touch of John Kander strut there and some soft rock in between. Nathan Lane (Gomez) gets a ballad that will have legs, "Happy/Sad," but every principal has a big number, with certifiable show-stoppers in "Waiting," "The Moon and Me" and "The Swordfight/Tango."

Co-directors/designers Pheline McDermott and Julian Crouch are famous visualists who've made drafty Chez Addams into a dark but oddly beautiful dreamscape, especially as bathed in moonlight or outlined against New York's Central Park West skyline by lighting designer Natasha Katz. The mansion is filled with unexpected creatures supplied by Basil Twist's wonderful puppets.

Stars Nathan Lane and Bebe Neuwirth as Gomez and Morticia are generous talents and pitch-perfect casting who could carry the show themselves. Fortunately, the entire ensemble is rock-solid. Krysta Rodriguez (Wednesday) and

Carolee Carmello (Lucas's mom) have astonishing pipes, while Kevin Chamberlain (Uncle Fester) ranges from patter song to operatic flourish with ease.

The Addams Family needs very little pre-Broadway tweaking: a bit more substance for Morticia, a minute or two less of the "Swordfight/Tango," a couple more big laughs and this one's good to go.

THEATER REVIEW

Bright Star

Playwright: Adapted by Frank Farrell
from the novel by Joan Rees

At: North Lakeside Players at the North Lakeside Cultural Center, 6219 N. Sheridan

Phone: 773-293-1358; \$7-\$20

Runs through: Dec. 20

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

It was a great loss, of course, when John Keats—destined to be one of England's greatest poets of all time—died in 1821 at the age of 26, but it was scarcely surprising: Before a vaccine for tuberculosis was discovered nearly a century later, the disease was endemic throughout countries whose chill, damp climate promoted the growth and spread of the lung infection then called "consumption," its fatality exacerbated by the prevalent medical practice of blood-letting, purgatives and opium-based laudanum as remedies for whatever ailed you. Keats—himself trained as a surgeon and apothecary, but constrained by filial duty to care for his sickly brother—could see his own demise approaching.

The literary movement now known as Romanticism, occurring concurrently with the "White

Plague" (as it was dubbed), elevated its wasting symptoms to proof of heightened sensitivity, with untimely death providing the final stamp of divine esteem—all of which should render Keats' unfulfilled courtship of girl-next-door Fanny Brawne all the more melancholy. But since the focus of Joan Rees' Bright Star, adapted for the stage by Frank Farrell, is the latter, its initial tone emerges as more Jane Austen than Dumas fils.

To be sure, Keats' bereft sweetheart can hardly be blamed for recovering from her grief—after six years of mourning—and living to a proper old age with a husband tolerant of his wife's celebrity status. Whether this was indicative of her inexorable vitality, shallow temperament, or an inadvertent blessing arising from her fiancé's frequent absences, is up to the individual playgoer, but it makes for a greater proportion of how-will-he-support-a-family discussions than of hankie-wringing bedside farewells.

Long before the current fashion for "promenade staging", Farrell—in his capacity as a director—was orchestrating plays to take advantage of his 1914 vintage performing space in the Gunder mansion (aka North Lakeside Cultural Center). The physical migration of both dramatic action and audience from one room to the other does no harm in itself, but coupled with the re-orientation mandated by actors' double-casting, as well as the suspension of disbelief required to envision the singularly robust Joe Ciresi as a frail disease-racked aesthete, this device tends to render the narrative perplexingly nebulous, despite the earnest and wholly capable skills of an ensemble whose concentration never wavers under our intimate scrutiny.

SPOTLIGHT



Burlesque is a booming art form in Chicago, so it only makes sense that someone would try to make it into a competition. That's where **Oosha Boom's Burlesk Idol** comes in with a one-night-only contest open to men and women (G-strings and pasties required), plus routines by four burlesque veterans. See who wins "Chicago's Best New Ecdysiast" at Burlesk Idol, 10:30 p.m. Dec. 17 at the National Pastime Theater, 4139 N. Broadway. Tickets are \$15. Call 773-327-7077 or visit www.npt2.com. Photo courtesy of Oosha Boom

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THEATER REVIEW

A Very Merry Unauthorized Children's Scientology Pageant

Book, music and lyrics by
Kyle Jarrow, concept by Alex Timbers

At: Next Theatre Company at Noyes Cultural Arts Center, 927 Noyes, Evanston
Tickets: 847-475-1875, ext. 2; \$20-\$25
Runs through: Jan. 3

BY STEVEN CHAITMAN

Children's Christmas pageants are often the only performances to which both "adorable" and "excruciating" simultaneously apply. Every year, immense effort goes into lavishly re-producing the story of Jesus' birth so that children can stumble through sacred material to the amusement of their camcorder-wielding parents and maybe start to develop a religious identity. It's in that spirit that Kyle Jarrow not so subtly pokes fun at the Church of Scientology in *A Very Merry Unauthorized Children's Scientology Pageant*, now running at the Next Theatre Company in Evanston through Jan. 3.

One of two productions of the 2004 Obie-winning music in the Chicago area (the other at A Red Orchid Theatre downtown), Next's "Pageant" is an upbeat and non-traditional alternative for family-focused entertainment during the holiday season and one that's just as sharp as it is cute.

Although it's hard to speculate the extent to which the cast of eight North Shore children un-



...Scientology Pageant. Photo by Michael Brosilow

derstands the biting social criticism and satire it's performing, it's that youthful and naïve energy also found in Christmas pageants that powers Jarrow's musical spoof.

Written by Jarrow—book, music and lyrics—and based on a concept by Alex Timbers, *A Very Merry Unauthorized Children's Scientology Pageant* tells the life story of Scientology founder L. Ron Hubbard: triumphs, criticisms, tax auditors and all. Next Artistic Director Jason Southerland worked with Jarrow, his friend and colleague, on revising and updating the show after its Off-Broadway run. His production contains all the revisions including new musical numbers and an appearance by Tom Cruise.

Fitted with a soundtrack of simplistic '80s-style synth-pop that includes a couple catchy numbers, the show features aliens, boat rides across the world and an abundance of costume changes featuring cleverly recycled items true to the homemade pageant concept. Some might say, "My, what a cute and inventive kids musical," but this is indeed (with obvious embellishments) the story of Scientology; it's merely coincidence that the historical narrative contains many elements that also serve to amuse children.

Most family productions or films master two planes of entertainment: one for the kids and

one for their parents. "Pageant" is merely a more explicit practice of this concept. And even if children leave unable to summarize what it was they saw, they're likely to be inspired by the hard-working and talented cast made entirely of their peers.

Without any adults to stand in their spotlight, these kids see their opportunity to shine as does their director, Kathryn Walsh. Walsh has supplied them with the clever staging—and confidence—to inspire laughs from the audience rather than achieve them by incident.

A quick 80 minutes long, Next has found its ideal production for the holidays: one that provides family entertainment while still serving its mission to produce socially conscious theater.

Online This Week:

—The Merry Widow

—Taming of the Flu

www.windycitymediagroup.com

NUNN ON ONE

Funny girl Jackie Hoffman

BY JERRY NUNN



Jackie Hoffman.

Jackie Hoffman, or Grandma in the new *Addams Family* musical, is a scream to watch as usual whether she is a-musing us in Xanadu the musical or cracking jokes in her stand-up act.

Windy City Times: So you were with *Second City* for eight years?

JH: Jackie Hoffman: Yes, I was. It was pretty fabulous. It was not what I expected, a schoolyard nightmare boys club comedy hell! It was a great gig and I wouldn't trade it for anything. I worked with the funniest people in the world.

WCT: You lived in Chicago then, but where are you now?

JH: I am a New York girl. I never did the L.A. thing. Which is why I probably do not have a career in television and film. But I am on Broadway!

WCT: Exactly! How did you get involved in the show?

JH: I auditioned once and they didn't like me. Then they called me back in and I got it.

WCT: Are you excited?

JH: Yeah, It's going to be a huge show.

WCT: You also have one-woman show. Let's talk about that.

JH: Let's! I am calling it "Whining in the Windy City: the Holiday Edition." It's a Hanukkah gay Hebrew filth fest! Everything that I am not able to get out in a performance of the *Addams Family* comes spewing out of every orifice at the Royal George Theater.

WCT: Oh, at the Royal George. That's a great space. Your performances are throughout the run of *Addams Family*?

JH: Yeah. [It runs through] all the Mondays in December.

WCT: You played *Calliope* in *Xanadu* the Musical.

JH: Yes. The Broadway version, I heard, was better than the version here. Ours was fabulous.

WCT: I did like the one here but there was a lookalike who played your part in the show.

JH: No, that was not me. You would remember me if you saw me.

WCT: You did *Hairspray* the Musical, too?

JH: I was in the original cast.

WCT: I just interviewed Mink Stole. Don't you know her?

JH: I worked with her in the John Waters film *A Dirty Shame*. I was the chronic masturbator. She is a doll. I love her!

WCT: I heard that you hate kids.

JH: I kind of hate them, yeah. Here's payback because I have like one scene in the show and it's with a kid. It's all coming back to me.

WCT: You should work in a restaurant like me and have to wait on them.

JH: That's when they are the worst—when they are in a fucking restaurant! That's when you want to kill them.

WCT: What projects do you have after the show?

JH: There are producers in New York who really want to get my one-person stuff out there. It has been very successful. We have all the great stuff from Joe's Pub and I also have the album *Jackie Hoffman Live* that I will be pushing that at my show. I want the gays to go there.

WCT: That's what I am here for!

JH: Bless you.

See Hoffman at *The Addams Family* musical at the Ford Oriental Theatre, 24 W. Randolph, through Jan. 10, 2010, or catch her stand-up act at the Royal George Theatre, 1642 N. Halsted, Dec. 21 and Jan. 4. Tickets to both shows may be purchased at www.TicketMaster.com.

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KNIGHT AT THE MOVIES



The Young Victoria.

The Young Victoria; Avatar note; film notes

BY RICHARD KNIGHT, JR.

Jean-Marc Vallée, the French-Canadian director of 2005's gay film festival fave *C.R.A.Z.Y.*, a moving dramedy that centered on the coming out of the teenage son and its effect on his dysfunctional family, returns with his sophomore effort, **The Young Victoria**. The film, which stars British actress Emily Blunt (who got her start in the hot lesbian romance *My Summer of Love* and broke through with *The Devil Wears Prada* and *Sunshine Cleaning*), also focuses on the plight of a teenager stuck in a dysfunctional family—this one of the royal stripe.

Victoria, who's 17, is up for the throne but her widowed mother (Miranda Richardson) is under the spell of her conniving but sexy brother-in-law (Mark Strong, playing yet another baddie) who covets the throne for himself; he has placed so many constraints on Victoria that she's not even allowed to walk down the stairs unescorted. Everyone's scheming behind the polite smiles and stifling social rituals of life at court—especially about who will win Vicky's hand in marriage and whether or not the old, cantankerous king (Jim Broadbent, having a whale of a good time chewing up the scenery) will name her as his next in line. The German Prince Albert (handsome Rupert Friend), coached at length by his presenter (Thomas Kretschmann), seems to have the inside track.

But we quickly learn that though she's not much more than a royal Rapunzel Victoria is a high-spirited lass and nobody's fool. She's initially resistant to meeting Albert but from the moment it's finally arranged their chemistry is apparent. "Do you ever feel like a chess piece?" she whispers to him as the two play the game of strategy under the watchful, oppressive eye of

their elders as he nods. (It's the perfect analogy for all the behind-the-scenes machinations swirling about Victoria.) "I know what it's like to live inside your head," he tells her at the conclusion of their first meeting and then asks casually if he might write. Albert's made all the right moves but she's not about to "walk straight into another jail" and there are still a few more bumps (the biggest being Victoria's wolf-in-sheep's clothing advisor, played by Paul Bettany) to overcome on this road to royal love and happiness.

The Young Victoria offers the expected gorgeous spectacle such a story promises (sets, costumes, locations, *et al.*); nice acting by Blunt and Friend in the title roles; top-flight supporting actors (such as Richardson, Broadbent and Bettany); and even the inclusion of the Duchess of York, Sarah Ferguson, onboard as one of the film's producers. But the early scenes of royal intrigue have prepared viewers for some theatrical fireworks—none of which happen. Though the film has Cate Blanchett's Elizabeth beat in the visual splendor department, there's nothing quite as dramatically thrilling here (or brutal, for that matter) and the obstacles, once identified, are easily sidestepped. By the time of Victoria's reign, apparently, intrigue was limited to whispers behind closed doors—no one gets sent to the Tower or stretched on the rack, killed by a poisoned dress, nearly assassinated by bow and arrow while barging down the Thames or sent to the chopping block.

Instead, *The Young Victoria* gives us a fairly diverting portrait of the young queen in the making as we are taken on an insider's scenic tour of England's breathtaking historical sites. Like Victoria herself, this first of what may be three or four movies (she ruled the Monarchy for a really long time) is a veddy proper film that wouldn't presume to misbehave with an ounce of unnecessary melodrama and abandon. We are amused and entertained—but not terribly so.

You may have heard that James Cameron—the director of *The Terminator*, *The Terminator 2*, *Aliens* and a certain multi-Oscar winning picture called *Titanic*, the director's last epic feature 12 years ago—is returning to movie theatres this week. **Avatar**, the picture in question, is rumored to have cost \$300 million with an additional estimated \$150 million to promote it, making it easily one of the most expensive movies ever made. Will this highly touted 3-D sci-fi epic (running close to three hours) live up to its hype? Though I've seen the movie and a smattering of reviews from brave—or foolhardy (take your pick)—film critics are appearing online, once again anxious studio publicists have forbidden reviews until the film's opening date, Friday, Dec. 18. That's the day you can read my review at www.windycitytimes.com and www.knightatthemovies.com.

Film notes:

—The Nightingale, 1048 N. Milwaukee, will host **Threat Level: An Evening of Queer Shorts** on Wed., Dec. 16, with doors at 7 p.m. and screenings beginning at 7:30 p.m. This quarterly

screening event has been ongoing for two years and the evening, in addition to showcasing a variety of queer themed films (including 575 Castro by Paris Is Burning documentarian Jenni Olsen), offers patrons a bonus: a simultaneous live video feed connecting audience members with those attending a Brooklyn edition of the event. Tickets are \$5-10. Further info at www.myspace.com/theatlevelqueershorts or www.facebook.com/threatlevel

—The holiday edition of the monthly LGBTQ social group **The Rainbow Café** will host a screening of the queer-themed documentary *13 Love Stories*, which focuses on the fallout from Prop 8. The event will be held at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 70 Sycamore, Forest Park, Saturday, Dec. 19, with doors open at 7:30 p.m. Admission is free (and door prizes will be awarded) but those attending are encouraged to bring non-alcoholic beverages, holiday foods or dessert to pass or make a financial donation. Phone 708-481-5339, ext. 2, for further information.

—First Warning: My alter ego Dick O'Day is once again hosting a New Year's Eve camptacular screening of the 1972 disaster flick **The Poseidon Adventure**. For the second year in a row, I'm teaming up with David Cerda and his crew of Handbag Production players and the Music Box Theatre, 3733 N. Southport. We'll have a jam-packed pre-show, complete with contests, surprise performances, prizes and more beginning at 11 p.m. followed by the screening. And get this: When the ship flips onscreen at midnight we'll be doing the exact same thing in the theatre. Tickets, which include a champagne toast, party favors and interactive screening guide, are \$20 in advance (now on sale). See www.musicboxtheatre.com.

Check out my archived reviews at www.windycitytimes.com or www.knightatthemovies.com. Readers can leave feedback at the latter Web site.

DVD REVIEW

Shank

BY STEVE WARREN

Different strokes and all that, but Shank gave me enough wood to get through a long, cold winter. Directed by Simon Pearce, the English drama divides neatly into three acts. The first is sexy, the second romantic and the third somewhat dramatically confusing.

Cal (Wayne Virgo), whose barely glimpsed screen name provides the film's title, hooks up online with Scott (Garry Summers), an older, nervous man, and drives him to the woods for sex. Afterwards Cal gives Scott a head-banging that leaves him black-eyed and bleeding, and abandons him there.

Back in his own element, Cal is a member of a teenage gang. He has a crush on his best friend, Jonno (Tom Bott), who seems to return it but not acknowledge it; and is crushed in turn by Nessa (Alice Payne), whom he avoids as much as possible.

This being the 21st century, these kids video everything, from brutal beatings to furtive sexual encounters, with their mobile phones. Cal uses his own sex tapes for J/O material.

Worlds collide when the gang spots Olivier

(Marc Laurent) on the street with bags from high-end stores. He's not only gay and wealthy, but French. Jonno and Nessa jump him, steal his packages and beat him mercilessly, while Cal tries to stop them. As Olivier limps away Cal grabs his stolen possessions and goes after him, leaving his friends behind. It's not exactly "meet cute" by movie standards, but it brings them warily together.

Afraid to return home Cal spends the night parked outside Olivier's. It's the beginning of a beautiful friendship; but after a couple of weeks, despite having loosened up a lot and learned to dress somewhat fashionably, Cal can't admit that he's gay.

Olivier is taking a class taught by—wait for it!—Scott, bringing things into some kind of weird-ass ellipse, if not full circle. The gang finds out about Cal and exacts revenge for what they see as his betrayal.

The climax is vicious and suspenseful because anything can happen, especially since logic has long since gone out the window. The ending ties things up a little too neatly.

Had Pearce and his writers been able to maintain the excellence of the first two-thirds to the end, Shank would have been the best gay film since *Mysterious Skin*. It's still worth seeing but be prepared for a bit of a letdown.



Shank.

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Paul Rudnick's 'Shudder' Delight

RICHARD KNIGHT, JR.

Openly gay writer Paul Rudnick has written for the stage ("I Hate Hamlet," "Jeffrey," "The Most Fabulous Story Ever Told," etc.), screen (Sister Act, In & Out, Addams Family Values, The Stepford Wives, etc.) and for various publications (most hilariously in the guise of Libby Gelman-Waxner, the "film critic" for the late Premiere magazine). Now Rudnick has released "I Shudder," a collection of autobiographical essays and pieces about his writing experiences in Hollywood and for the stage. The title of the book refers to Rudnick's new fictional character: a 63-year-old Manhattanite named Elyot Vionnet, a fussy budget with impossibly high standards.

Windy City Times: Does The Addams Family stage musical now running in Chicago have anything to do with the movies you worked on?

Paul Rudnick: Not really. The Charles Addams estate is very complicated and you get either the rights to the original cartoons, the TV show or the movies—three separate things and I believe that the show has only the rights to the original cartoons so they've had to create a completely original story which is great. I wish them only the best. I'm not particularly connected to that show—only I'm kind of a first cousin.

WCT: Elyot Vionnet, your new character in the book is a delight—instantly recognizable.

PR: I like to think there's a little bit of Elyot in anyone who's ever been so aggravated that they start to have extremely violent fantasies that they will never, thank God, act upon. I think we all carry a certain level of simmering, irrational rage at the people with the cell phones and the taxi cab radios that won't turn off and the triple strollers.

WCT: I love that Elyot refuses to identify as gay though he clearly is of, shall we say, that stripe.

PR: He judges people so completely on how much they either please him or get in his way that gender becomes small change. But there is a boyfriend in Elyot's future that, of course, as do all his relationships, ends tragically bizarre. [Laughs] Elyot will meet someone with even higher standards than his own. You can get to that point, you know, where your taste is so good that you can no longer breathe. [Laughs hard]

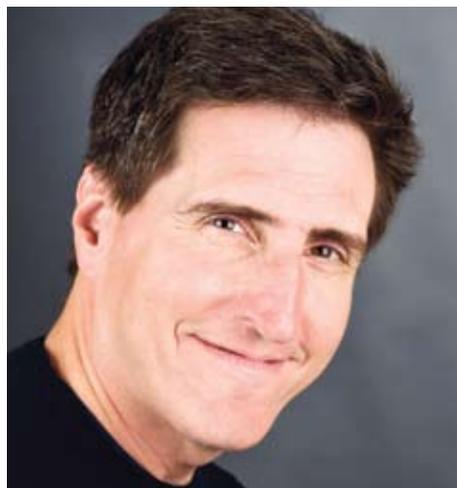
WCT: In & Out is a very funny comedy—one of the few gay-themed releases to make money.

PR: Thank you. One of the insane things about it is that it was set in the Midwest in Indiana and it was shot entirely on the east coast in New Jersey and on Long Island and we just always had to be careful not to turn the cameras around to reveal the ocean.

WCT: You have worked as a script doctor on several comedies, including The First Wives Club.

PR: Yes, that was a lunatic project. When I came onboard it was actually not intended to be a comedy. It was quite serious and the Diane Keaton character had a troubled marriage partially due to the fact that the couple were raising a retarded child and I was told to make the retarded child into a lesbian daughter. And of course my initial reaction was, "A retarded lesbian would cover every political base" and they said, "We don't think so" so she became a lesbian and everything got funnier and funnier after that.

WCT: Bette Midler has said many times that when they went back to make a sequel it was turned down. Do you know anything about that?



Paul Rudnick.

PR: Well, there were several attempts. I actually worked on one idea for a sequel that sadly became very inappropriate after 9/11 because it was very New York-based and about the mayoral race.

WCT: I Shudder has a very telling portrait of gay producer Scott Rudin who is famous for his legendary temper but also has a heart of gold.

PR: Absolutely. He's the kind of person which fascinates me and who I often adore because they are these outsized personalities—they're sort of helplessly who they are—and you can both enjoy them, you can be terrified by them and you can learn an enormous amount from them. Because especially if you're going to be the kind of guy who actually gets movies made or plays produced you can't be a shrinking violet. Look at his track record—it speaks for itself.

WCT: Have you worked on any movies since The Stepford Wives which you've said was a heartbreaking experience for you?

PR: I did a rewrite on The Devil Wears Prada—one of many writers.

WCT: Have you thought about writing another film after your bad experience on The Stepford Wives?

PR: I may but that was a little daunting. It did make me think, "Okay, I'm not going to get involved in a situation like that again until I'm far more sure of my work and of the material." I'm sure I'll work on more in the future. It was also time to take a break—I'd been working kind of nonstop for a few years there and that's why it was so nice to return to the theatre and to write my book and ground myself a little more.

WCT: I loved your appearance in The Celluloid Closet—it was the first movie I reviewed—and now I see that you're in Making the Boys about The Boys in the Band which I'm dying to see. Can you talk about that for a moment and the importance of being aware of our gay history when it comes to the arts?

PR: Oh, absolutely, because both The Celluloid Closet and Making the Boys are wildly entertaining movies on top of being wonderfully educational. Certainly, if you're feeling depressed after Maine or California or any of these desperately awful voting situations and you want to feel a little better about gay lives and the representation of gay lives you can see how little was even permitted a relatively short time ago and things are getting marginally better. I think it's important to remember and it's important to have a sense of gay history and gay forebears; to honor the people who got the ball rolling. They can also give you a certain hope for the future. Remember that wonderful line in Angels in America about "the world only spinning forward" and that applies even to of all places Hollywood.

BOOK REVIEW

My Diva: 65 Gay Men on the Women Who Inspire Them
edited by Michael Montlack
\$24.95; Terrace Books;
304 pages

REVIEW BY TERRI SCHLICHMEYER

You're not a painter.

You've never, in fact, had any desire to pick up a brush other than one for your hair. But still, the second you gazed upon that picture, it strangely, suddenly felt like everything in your life shifted into place.

Or maybe it's music that inspires you, or a poem or story that makes certain emotions hit you hard. Perhaps it's a film or play that you could watch over and over and over and never see the same thing. Whatever it is, there might not be anyone else who understands, but you've found something that makes life somehow right.

Who's your muse?

In the new book *My Diva*, edited by Michael Montlack, you'll read about the women who changed the lives of 65 gay men.

In his introduction, Michael Montlack says that he always felt a book like this was waiting to be written. "The book just seemed to make sense on so many levels," he writes. "Gay men and divas—like Gertrude and Alice, smoke and mirrors, Patsy and Edina. It was sure to be organic...."

So he asked around and within two weeks, forty contributors had responded. Eventually, 65 gay men ages "twenty-something to eighty-something" from various places around the world shared their love; most of them, for women they'd never met.

Writer Patrick Letellier writes about his muse, Elizabeth I. "I told myself that if Elizabeth could withstand the Spanish invasion with grace and grit, surely I could survive the loss of a dear friend [to AIDS]."

Musicians and singers are highly represented in this book, including Cher and Cyndi Lauper; Bessie Smith ("defiant, strong, and dominant"); Eartha Kitt; and Montlack's own Stevie Nicks ("an adopted fairy godmother").

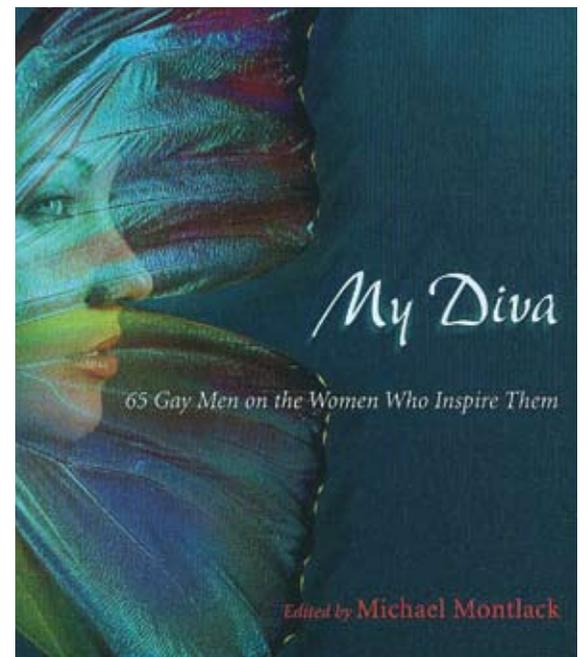
And then, there are the divas of TV and screen: Jessica Lange, with the laugh that poet Allen Smith can never forget; Auntie Mame, who made author Lewis DeSimone feel protected; and TV's Endora, whose witchy powers were there for a young boy who needed them.

The interesting thing about *My Diva* is that, individually, the stories feel rather voyeuristically weird. Many of the authors admit to having spent all their money on music, watching movies dozens of times, never missing a TV show that starred the diva. The tales border on a fan's obsession times ten and if you were only to read one of them, you probably wouldn't much like it.

But collectively, these stories blossom into a full-fledged love letter to women who inspired, written by men who were once boys that badly needed encouragement. Filled with short chapters of thoughtful sentiment, they capture sadness and joy, confusion and wishing, friendship and adolescent longing, as well as a sort of "thank you" to women who were supportive, even if they didn't know they were.

My Diva is not the kind of book you'll want to rush through. It demands to be savored, begs to be identified with. This is the kind of book you take to the sofa with a blanket, for a quiet afternoon's worth of a-muse-ment.

Read about more divas by looking for Get Happy: The Life of Judy Garland by Gerald Clarke; or Bette Midler: Still Divine by Mark Bego.



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-Lou Lumenick, NEW YORK POST

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calendar

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WINDY CITY TIMES



Wed., Dec. 16

Champagne Wrapture 2009 8th Annual Champagne Wrapture cocktail party and art auction featuring Veuve Clicquot Champagne and Belvedere vodka, silent auction & raffle, and live music from cabaret duo Amy Armstrong and Freddy Allen; 5:30p.m., Hotel Sax, 333 N. Dearborn, http://www.chicagohouse.org/event_4.html

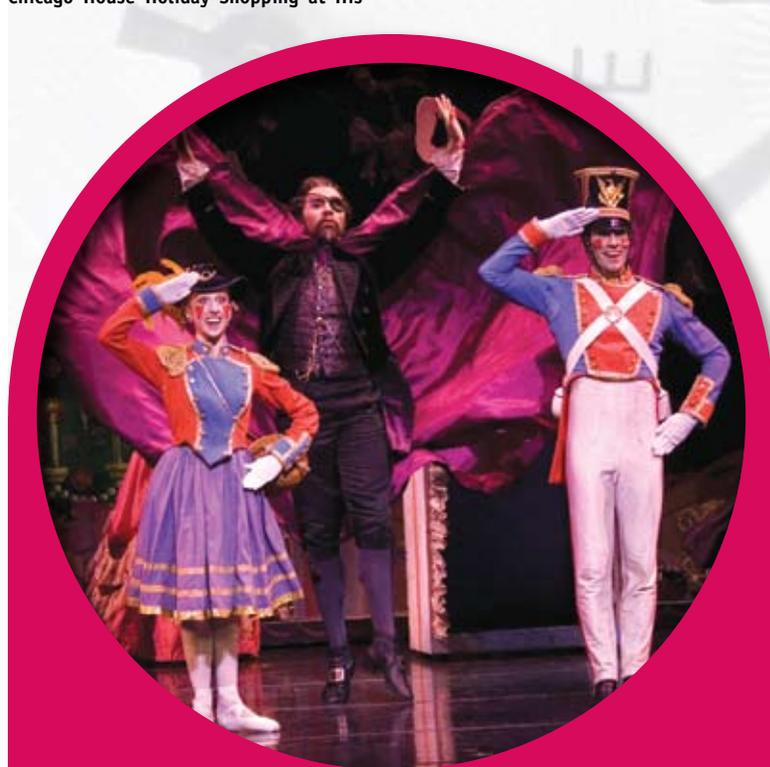
South Side PFLAG Monthly Meeting The mission of Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) is to promote the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender persons, their families and friends through: support, to cope with an adverse society; education, to enlighten an ill-informed public; and advocacy, to end discrimination and to secure equal civil rights. 6p.m., Affinity Community Services, 5650 S Woodlawn Ave, <http://www.affinity95.org>

Amy Armstrong and Freddy Allen Holiday concert Nationally-acclaimed cabaret duo Amy Armstrong and Freddy Allen concert, featuring holiday favorites sung in jazz, r&b, contemporary and show tunes! Amy & Freddy perform every Wednesday night at Pops until end of the year. \$12 cover; no reservations necessary. Full drink & food menu available for purchase. 9p.m., 312-943-6900, Pops For Champagne, 601 N State, www.popsforchampagne.com.

Thursday, Dec. 17

Chicago Black Gay Men's Caucus Open Mic A Chicagoland World AIDS Day Event; 6p.m., 312-566-0285 ext 12

Chicago House Holiday Shopping at His



TOY STORY

Through Sunday, Dec. 27

Joffrey Ballet's Nutcracker is taking place at the Auditorium Theatre, 50 E. Congress.

Photo courtesy of the Joffrey Ballet

HERO EFFECT Through March 5

Danny Sotomayor and his work are featured in "A Hero Comes Home" at the Institute of Puerto Rican Arts & Culture, 3015 W. Division, through March 5, 2010.



Stuff Enjoy complimentary champagne and appetizers while you get the guys on your list something special. For one day only, 10% of proceeds will be donated to Chicago House, AND you'll receive 10% off everything in the store. 6p.m., 773-248-5200, His Stuff, 3162 N Broadway; www.chicagohouse.org/hisstuffholiday09.html

T-OUT MIC A Trans-focused casual open-mic night welcoming all members of the LGBT and ally community, co-hosted by Jami Bantry of the Center and Lars Von Keitz (OutMusic) open to musicians, poets, speakers, and artists. Donations are encouraged to support community programs at COH. This event occurs every third Thursday of the month. For more information, contact transgender@centeronhalsted.org or call 773.472.6469 x 495. 7:30p.m., 773.472.6469 x 495, Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted, <http://www.centeronhalsted.org>

Friday, Dec. 18

"A Hero Comes Home" exhibit on the life and times of Daniel Sotomayor Sotomayor, an inductee in the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame, was a cartoonist and one of Chicago's most explosive AIDS activists. The exhibit includes cartoons by Sotomayor, photos, T-shirts, the AIDS Quilt panel created in Sotomayor's honor, and more. On display until March 5, 2010, from 9am to 5p.m. on Mon, Tue, Thur, and Fri; 11am to 3p.m. on Sat. Closed Wed and Sun. 1p.m.; at the Institute of Puerto Rican Arts & Culture, 3015 W. Division

The Joffrey Ballet's Nutcracker The Joffrey's Nutcracker - performed all over the U.S. and seen by thousands. Tchaikovsky's masterpiece, featuring the full Joffrey company, local children's choruses, and more than 120 young dancers, creates a winter wonderland of beauty, magic and sugarplum delight! Through 27, 2009; 7p.m., Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University, 50 E Congress Pkwy, <http://www.ticketmaster.com>

Rudolph the Red Hosed Reindeer Hell in a Handbag Productions is proud to remount David Cerdas parody of the classic children's television special 'Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer'. Book and Lyrics by David Cerda, Handbag ensemble member Derek Czaplewski is directing this year. Show runs Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30p.m. through Jan. 2 (excluding Dec. 24, 25 and 31). Admission: \$10-\$15; 7:30p.m., Mary's Attic, 5400 N Clark, www.handbagproductions.org

Circuit Christmas Party Celebrate the magic of the holidays together at Circuit Night Club. Music, food, drinks and dancing plus a Holiday Show featuring Paula Sinclair, Miss Ketty, Veronica Zaid, Rico, Dice, Naysha Lopez & Eddie Couture. Evening Attire: Blue & white. 9p.m., Circuit Night Club, 3641 N Halsted

Saturday, Dec. 19

Center on Halsted Holiday Food Drive, Stocking Making with GLBT families All LGBT families are welcome and encouraged to bring non-perishable food items and to join in creating lovely and decorative holiday stockings for their loved ones. Throughout the day, we will be sharing thoughts and ideas on planning monthly events for the coming year, 2010. LGBT families interested in participating in or volunteering for family programming at the Center are strongly encouraged to attend. RSVP for this free event to Cathy Jones (Recreation Health and Wellness Coordinator) at 773-472-6469

x265 or email cjones@centeronhalsted.org. 10am, 773-472-6469 x265, Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted, <http://www.centeronhalsted.org>

Holidaze Book Sale Gerber/Hart's annual holiday book sale from Fri, Dec 4 until Wed, Dec. 23, with a great selection of over 50 categories of books, including LGBT and non-LGBT, gift books, and ribbon-wrapped gift sets. Also, movies and music in a variety of formats. Days and hours of the sale vary. 12p.m., Gerber/Hart Library, 1127 W Granville Ave, <http://www.gerberhart.org>

It's a Bitch to Quit Howard Brown Health Center is offering Chicago's only LGBT smoking cessation program to support community member's in kicking the habit! The eight-week session will be lead by a trained smoking cessation counselor. Space is limited, so call today to reserve your place! 773-388-8682; 12:15p.m., 773-388-8682, <http://www.howardbrown.org/bitchtoquit>

The Northalsted Naughty Elves Pub Crawl The Northalsted Naughty Elves Pub Crawl starting at Roscoe's then going to Buck's Saloon, Circuit, Cocktail, Halsted's, Hydrate, The Lucky Horseshoe Lounge, Minibar, The North End, Roscoe's & Scarlet. Buy tickets \$10 advance at any participating location or \$15 the day of the event. A GREAT way to meet people! 2p.m., Roscoe's Tavern, 3356 N Halsted St

Amigas Latinas & Affinity Community Services Family Holiday Party Family-friendly event features arts and crafts activities,amal, and maybe an appearance from Santa. We want to give every child a toy and will accept gender-neutral gifts that are appropriate for children 3-12 through Dec. 12. We're also looking for volunteers to help wrap gifts. Email rosayadira@gmail.com to express interest. 2p.m., Affinity Community Services, 5650 S Woodlawn Ave, www.amigaslatinas.org

House of Divas Drag Show The House of Divas is returning for their monthly drag show at the Velvet Rope Ultra Lounge. Bellini Reception at 8 p.m. and Show starts at 9:30 p.m. sharp. Performances by Cee-Cee LaRouge, Francheska Friskey, Myka Myleah, Keisha Foxx, and Mercedes Andrews with special guest Patty Paige. 8 p.m., 708-358-8840, Velvet Rope, 728 West Lake Street, <http://http://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=205885854776#/event.php?eid=205885854776&ref=ts>

Sunday, Dec. 20

Mean Girls Unlimited Mimosa Brunch Come see the Biggest & Best Divas perform live while you enjoy the best food in town. 11am, 708-358-8840, Velvet Rope, 728 West Lake Street, <http://velvetropoakpark.com>

PFLAG Chicago Chapter Parents Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) monthly meeting is on Sunday 19 from 2-4p.m.. We meet every third Sunday of the month. We have guest speakers and an open discussion group. All are invited. Meetings are at Howard Brown Health Center, 4025 N. Sheridan, Chicago, IL 60613. Our helpline is 630-415-0622, our email is pflamtrochicago@pflagillinois.org, our website is www.pflagillinois.org. 2p.m., <http://pflagillinois.org>

SNOWBALL Tea-Dance with DJ Matthew Harvat Join DJ Matthew Harvat (AKA Circuit Mom) this Sunday from 5-10p.m. for SNOWBALL! 5p.m., Spin Nightclub, 800 W. Belmont Ave, <http://www.spin-nightclub.com>

Roman Catholic Mass Dignity-Chicago celebrates a Roman Catholic Mass every Sunday, 5PM, at Broadway United Methodist Church 3338 N Broadway St, Chicago, IL 60657; 5p.m., <http://dignitychicago.org/current.htm>

Monday, Dec. 21

Whining in the Windy City: Holiday Edi-



Thursday, Dec. 17

Chicago House (headed by the Rev. Stan Sloan, above) will benefit when you shop at His Stuff, 3162 N. Broadway.

Photo courtesy of Sloan

tion Acclaimed New York comedic actress (and hilarious holiday-hating Hebrew) Jackie Hoffman will debut her Whining in the Windy City: Holiday Edition, a no-holds-barred original musical comedy rant about showbiz, not-so-chamng children, and of course the holidays, in four performances only at the Royal George Cabaret. 7:30p.m., (312) 988-9000, Royal George Theatre, 1641 N Halsted

Essay Fiesta Essay Fiesta is a monthly, first-person reading series and benefit that features some of the best writers, comedians and journalists in Chicago. 7p.m., www.facebook.com

Tuesday, Dec. 22

Gerber/Hart Library Men's Book Group Assisted Loving: True Tales of Double Dating with My Dad by Bob Morris; 7:30 p.m., Gerber/Hart Library, 1127 W Granville, www.gerberhart.org

Decade Tuesdays with DJ Heather Doble at Scarlet DJ Heather Doble brings you a new decade each week. Always a good time and some great specials! 9p.m., Scarlet, 3320 N Halsted, www.scarletbar-chicago.com

Wed., Dec. 23

Rudolph the Red Hosed Reindeer Hell in a Handbag Productions is proud to remount David Cerdas parody of the classic children's television special 'Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer'. Book and Lyrics by David Cerda, Handbag ensemble member Derek Czaplewski is directing this year. Show runs Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30p.m. through Jan. 2 (excluding Dec. 24, 25 and 31). Admission: \$10-\$15; 7:30p.m., Mary's Attic, 5400 N Clark, <http://www.handbagproductions.org>

Thursday, Dec. 24

Fabulous Christmas Eve Come and celebrate Christmas Eve at the Kit Kat Lounge. 5:30p.m., Kit Kat Lounge and Supperclub, 3700 N Halsted, www.kitkatchicago.com

Friday, Dec. 25

It Came Upon a Midnight Queen Chemically Imbalanced Comedy presents their fifth Seasonal Disorder Series "It Came Upon a Midnight Queen" written by Founder Angie McMahon and Directed by Artistic Associate Brian Kash. Tickets \$15. Chemical Imbalanced Theatre, 1420 W. Irving Park Road. 8p.m., 800-838-3006, www.cicomedy.com

Saturday, Jan. 23

Equality Illinois "Justice For All" Gala Equality Illinois "Justice For All" fundraising Gala! 7p.m., 773-477-7173, Chicago Hilton and Towers, 720 S Michigan, www.eqil.org

BILLY MASTERS

"We only know each other from seeing each other at awards ceremonies or those kinds of events. But whenever I see her, I always go up to her and start kissing her. I don't even say anything—I just kiss her. She must think I'm some crazy person."—Penelope Cruz talks about her obsession with Meryl Streep. Now I feel completely comfortable kissing Penelope when I see her.

The holidays are upon us, and some folks may be trying a variety of ways to slip into their festive garb. Whatever you do, steer clear of Slim-Fast. The manufacturer is recalling the popular diet product due to possible bacterial contamination, which could lead to nausea, vomiting and diarrhea—which, if I'm not mistaken, are possible side effects to all diet products. Hey, no one ever said losing weight would be pretty.

Colin Firth had to lose a bit of his "Mamma Mia" girth prior to shooting Tom Ford's oeuvre *A Single Man*, which is an adaptation of a Christopher Isherwood novel. After all, if you're playing a gay character, you better be in shape! When asked by an interviewer about his taut physique, Firth gave all the credit to the fashionista-turned-director: "He told me I looked good, but I'd look better if I had a personal trainer"—which seems a bit disingenuous. Who wouldn't look better if they had a personal trainer? But that's neither hither nor yon (whatever the hell that means). When asked if the story was true, Ford said, "I told him he was fat." Well, there ya go.

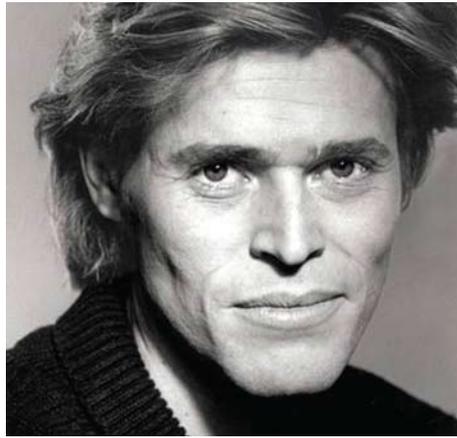
You know how straight men always fantasize about lesbians, but you never hear straight women say that watching two guys is hot? Well, now we have. On *Cougar Town*, Courteney Cox's character is kinda on a double date with a hot shirtless jeans model (played by a very sexy Aaron Blake—we'll run pics). After leaving the club early, she asks her friend how the rest of the evening went. "I went back to his apartment with him and his friend, and they spent most of the time making out with each other." Courteney's response? "Aww, I would have liked to have seen that." To which the friend said, "It was pretty hot!" Bravo.

Kellan Lutz was almost involved in yet another gay scandal—this time, at the hands of his own brother. It all happened while Lutz was filming in Portland, Oregon. His brother Randy was staying at the house (on Buffalo Street, according to Kellan) and wanted to find some housemates—which in itself makes no sense to me, but what do I know? The ad on Craigslist said, "We are the Buffalo boys. We are looking for very athletic guys for new blood. We are alcohol-friendly, we have a pool and a hot tub." Ironically enough, I have an ad that is eerily similar. Once Kellan started getting several provocative phone messages, he figured out what was going on and had the ad pulled. But he did end up with three male roommates, including one deep-voiced guy named Lance.

While presenting at the Gotham Independent Film Awards, Rosie Perez noticed Willem Dafoe in the audience. Referring to his nude scene in the indie film "Antichrist," she asked "Was that the real thing?" Dafoe sheepishly nodded, prompting Perez to say, "Well, hello Willem Dafoe." This prompted me to do some investigating. No surprise, we got ahold of Dafoe's penis and it is indeed something to behold. But it ain't the prettiest scene in the world. The female lead crushes Willem's testicles with a large piece of wood rendering him unconscious. She then jerks him off to the point that he ejaculates blood—which, if you ask me, is kinda gross, if not entirely unhygienic! Later, she cuts off her clitoris with a pair of scissors. Ah, so it's a comedy! On the positive side, John Waters has called the flick one of the 10 best movies of 2009. Going back to that unconscious penis—you can see

every inch of it (in stills and in motion) on BillyMasters.com.

The annual "Gypsy of the Year" competition is when all the Broadway shows get together to raise money for Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS. This year, they set an all-time record of \$4,630,695—that's over four and a half MILLION dollars. The Daniel Craig/Hugh Jackman play "A Steady Rain" was responsible for \$1,549,952, almost tripling the amount of the previous record holder—"The Boy from Oz," which also starred Jackman. Something about Hugh seems to make people wanna give money. Make a note...



Willem Dafoe's... um, talent is quite ample.

This week, "Billy's Holiday Gift Giving Suggestions" focuses on books—because clearly my fans enjoy reading. Since I know you love dishy gossip, I'm gonna recommend the latest from Mark Bego, *Elton John: The Bitch is Back*. Next, my buddy J. Randy Taraborrelli has updated and re-released what is likely the most authoritative biography about Michael Jackson, subtitled *The Magic, The Madness, The Whole Story, 1958-2009*. Sherri Shepherd's book *Permission Slips* might be marketed towards straight women, but, honey, as a gay man I completely identified with it and think you'll love it. You know how to make it even better? Buy the audio book on CD, which is read by Sherri ... now, that's funny!

Our "Ask Billy" question comes from Mike in Wisconsin: "Do you remember the Hall Twins? I asked you about them a while back when they both acted on "Passions," but after a few little acting and modeling jobs, they seem to have disappeared. Do you know what they're up to?"

I did some research and the last time we tackled the Hall boys was when Mike wrote us in 2000. In the intervening nine years, there has been little to report on their careers, such as they are. Bruce Michael Hall started on *Passions* in 1999 and left in 2003—at which point his twin Seth Hall took over the part (he stayed a year). Bruce transitioned to "One Life To Live" for a few months in 2003. Seth left acting, got a doctorate in pharmacy, and now works in research testing possible cancer treatments and cures. Bruce turned up on "Summerland" in 2005, and a flick in 2007 called "Fall of Night" (Seth played a minor part in the film). Thankfully, we still have those mega-hot homoerotic pics they did for Steve Underhill's book "Twins" back in 1999. In fact, that book is one that keeps on giving, and you might wanna track down as a gift. Or just check out BillyMasters.com.

When Dafoe getting wood is a bad thing, it's definitely time to end yet another column. Next week, I'll be in London and Milan. I know—none of you feel sorry for me! But even during my travels, I keep up with www.BillyMasters.com, the site that keeps on giving. If you need a little bit more Billy, just write me at Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before I knock on every door on Buffalo Street! So, until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible.

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Notice is hereby given, pursuant to "An Act in relation to the use of an Assumed Business Name in the conduct or transaction of Business in the State," as amended, that a certification was filed by the undersigned with the County Clerk of Cook County. File No. D09119964 on November 27, 2009, Under the Assumed Name of "Moulinet: An Action Quarterly" with the business located at Post Office Box 392, LaGrange, IL 60525. The true name(s) and residence address of the owner(s) is: Mary Shen Barnidge, 1030 W. Dakin Street, Chicago, IL, 60613. (12/23/09-3)

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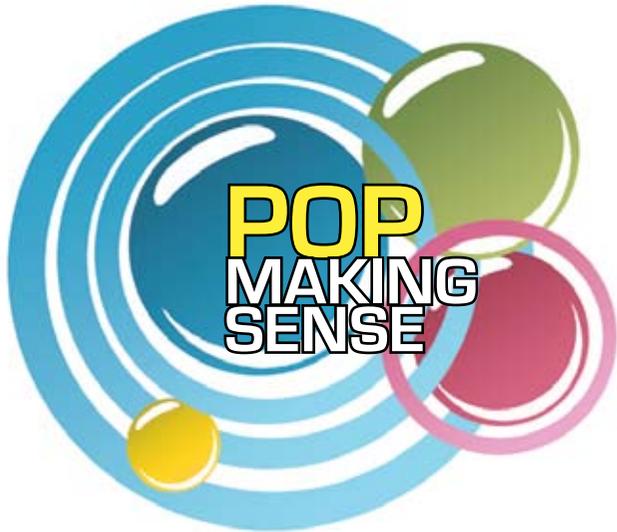
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BY DAVID BYRNE WITH TONY PEREGRIN

On his much-anticipated sophomore outing, *Electric Grids & Concrete Towers*, **Dylan Rice** delivers timeless pop rock. His rich, melodic voice recalls Morrissey. But unlike the Smiths' frontman, the Chicagoan freely sings about a relationship with a man, albeit a taken man, on the catchy "Homewrecker's Lament." It is easy to fall spellbound to the guitar on "Soon As I Get Back." Wilco bassist John Stirratt guests on "Motel Daughters." Other shining moments include the rocking "Abide by Love," the melodic "Rome" and "Emma Jane." Rice's welcomed return is available digitally now.

She might sing "It's Only Money," but Windy City singer-songwriter **Lisa Danielson** has her albums on sale. At concerts and through contacting the artist directly at londonrainn@gmail.com, Danielson's most recent *Beautiful Inside* has been lowered to \$7 and her debut *E.P. Bits and Pieces* is only \$4. Having performed at Columbia College's Gender Fusion events earlier this year, Danielson will be at Uncommon Ground, 3800 N. Clark, on Sunday, Dec. 27. Also on the bill are Lupe Carroll and Crystal Bowersox.

Warm Sun by **Susan Howard** marks the first album geared toward the children of same-sex parents. There already are plenty of books on the matter. *Warm Light* features a folky sing-along sound with "Hanging out with My Moms," "Daddy Papa and Me" and "I'm Adopting a Brother." *Warm Sun* is available now at nextfamily.com and will have a wider release in 2010.

In conjunction with World AIDS Day, **Sdia** (AIDS spelled backwards) has released the song "Going All the Way." Portions of all December sales will go to the charity AVERT to assist the global AIDS crisis. The upbeat '80s-flavored number can be downloaded solely from iTunes.

In 1997 **Sinead O'Connor** released the EP *Gospel Oak*. Included here is the beautiful lullaby "This Is to Mother You." This ditty recently has been re-recorded by the Celtic songbird along with Mary J. Blige and newcomer Martha B. to raise awareness on sex trafficking. Proceeds benefit Girls Educational and Mentoring Services. For more information about the cause, please visit gems-girls.org. "This Is to Mother You" is available now as an mp3.

Blige teamed with **George Michael** on a soulful remake of Stevie Wonder's "As"; however, it took nine years for it to get released stateside.

One of my friends said that she would travel abroad to see Michael's farewell tour again, if her finances allowed it. That's a fair claim.

During his concert series, the troubled singer performed classics he said he would swear off like "Careless Whisper" and "Wake Me up before You Go-Go," to the audience's delight. Combining the jazzy version of "Spinning the Wheel" with its dance remix is one of the show's highlights, as are the refreshing "Flawless (Go to the City)" and watching Dita Von Teese burlesque dance on screen during the remake of "Feeling Good."

The double-disc DVD Live from London has favorites from Michael's Wham! days, along with

his solo hits and a handful of covers to make for an unforgettable concert experience.

Michael knows he "gotta have faith." The openly gay crooner just released the holiday track "December Song (I Dreamed of Christmas)" overseas.

Ever find yourself nestled all snug in your beds, while "Visions of Love" danced in your heads? Those were the days when **Mariah Carey** still had vocal range. "All I Want for Christmas Is You," from the big-haired diva's 1994 holiday effort, Merry Christmas, has been

remixed by Low Sunday. With extra sleigh bells and more of a rhythm track, the new spins of "All I Want for Christmas Is You" are available now exclusively in digital format.

Per remembertheeighties.com, **Boy George** has joined the caroling with his new rendition of "White Xmas." Also on the digital EP are "Lousy Substitute" and "More Girls Just Like You." This is a perfect precursor to the former Culture Club singer's new material, due out next year.

This holiday season belongs to **The Pet Shop Boys**. The duo is releasing the EP *Christmas*. The five-track set includes a remix of the Tchaikovsky sampling "All over the World;" versions of Madness's "My Girl;" a medley of "Domino Dancing" and Coldplay's "Viva la Vida;" and a new take on their seasonal-themed gem "It Doesn't Often Snow at Christmas."

The pair also penned "The Performance of My Life" for **Dame Shirley Bassey**. Her album *The Performance* is the Welsh chanteuse's first collection of newly written material in over two decades.



George Michael.

I can tolerate having only a few openly gay artists being nominated for a Grammy, such as The Pet Shop Boys. At least vocal allies like Lady Gaga, P!nk, Beyonce and Kathy Griffin received nods this year. Although I support the first amendment, I cannot support musicians who are gay-bashing in their lyrics, yet receive such a prestigious recognition. Controversial singer Buju Banton's record, *Rasta Got Soul*, is up for Best Reggae Album.

Banton's "Boom Bye Bye" favors beating up gays, which has led to a series of stateside concerts being canceled by promoters according to OutNow Magazine. Furthermore, per pinknews.co.uk, Banton denied that he signed the Reggae Compassionate Act, a deal to cease making homophobic music and statements.

For more on Banton and to access the online petition to protest Banton's recent Grammy nomination, visit glaad.org/bujubantonpetition.

Hannah Free, Scott Free among OUTMusic winners

Chicagoans (such as local singer Scott Free) and musicians associated with the Chicago-produced film *Hannah Free* were winners at the OUTMusic awards held in New York City's Webster Hall Dec. 8.

Big-name stars including Adam Lambert and the cast of the TV show *Glee* attended the event, which was attended by thousands of people.

Following is a list of winners:

—Outstanding Rock Song: "Leather Daddy" by Chicago's Stewed Tomatoes

—Outstanding Pop Song: "Love is Love" by Athena Reich

—Outstanding Hip Hop/Rap Song: "Rocket" by Jasper James

—Outstanding R&B/Soul Song: "Love" by Nhojj

—Outstanding Electro/Dance Song: "Breathe Life" by Brian Kent

—Outstanding Folk/Country Song: "Break Away" by Blair Hansen & Vicci Martinez (from the *Hannah Free* soundtrack)

—Outstanding Jazz Song: "No Scrubs" by Avi Wisnia

—Outstanding Instrumental/Soundtrack Song: "Goodbye Rachel" from the *Hannah Free* soundtrack

—Outstanding Choral Song: "We Looked to the Future" by the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus

—Outstanding Contemporary Spiritual Song: "Stained Glass Window" by Levi Kreis

—Outstanding Theatre/ Cabaret/ Comedy Song: "The Man I Love" by Terese Genecco

—Outstanding International Song: "shorashim" by SONiA of disappear fear

—Outstanding Producer: "Vertigo" by Rachael Sage

—Outstanding Songwriter: Rachael Sage for "Chandelier"

—Outstanding Single Of The Year: "Courage of Our Convictions" by Julie Clark

—Outmusician of the Year (Music + Activism): Chicago's Scott Free for "Free"

—Outstanding Video: "The End of the World" by Matt Alber

—Outstanding Album Of The Year: *The Emergency Lane* by Dudley Saunders

Manilow at Rosemont Dec. 17-19

Musical legend Barry Manilow will be at the Rosemont Theatre, 5400 N. River, Rosemont, on Dec. 17-19.

The pop icon, 66, has written hundreds of songs and performed around the globe. (Among his many hits are "Mandy," "Copacabana" and "I Write the Songs.") In addition, he has snagged a Grammy, two Emmys, several Tony Awards and an Oscar nomination.

Tickets are \$12.37-\$261.62; see www.LiveNation.com, visit Ticketmaster outlets or call 800-745-3000.

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Kickin' it with soccer star Nils Sundin

BY ROSS FORMAN

Nils Sundin was a local standout high school soccer player, a four-year varsity starter who graduated from Marist in 2005 and then continued his athletic career at St. Ambrose University in Davenport, Iowa.

His stardom continued in college, too, playing sweeper and earning All-Conference honors in 2008 and the NAIA Champion of Character Award in 2007 and 2008.

"The soccer field is the one place I always felt comfortable," Sundin said. "It didn't matter that I was gay, it had no impact on whether or not I was getting that starting position or not. I loved that feeling. That is why I never wanted those two parts of my life to clash. I never felt like they could mix."

That changed before his final season at the small Iowa-based school; Sundin came out to his Fighting Bees teammates.

"I was very hesitant of coming out," said Sundin, a native of suburban Alsip. "I attempted to date girls and pretend I was straight for a large part of my adolescents. I was never completely comfortable with the idea of being gay because I always viewed myself as a 'normal' teen; being different was something that I didn't want."

Sundin might have been different because he's gay, but also because he was highly skilled in his sport. He was established and respected on his college team, within the school's soccer history annals. His best friends were his teammates.

"Playing [soccer] is one of my favorite things to do, partly because, my sexuality does not come into play. The only thing that changed [after coming out] was the social dynamic I had with my teammates. After coming out we could



Nils Sundin (right) and boyfriend Cory Sexson. Photo courtesy of Sundin

talk openly about my relationships and sexual endeavors, as we did theirs. It was a sigh of relief to finally be myself both on and off the field."

Sundin, 22, said he first realized he was, or might be, gay in eighth-grade, but didn't tell anyone until he was a sophomore at Marist. He dated girls throughout high school and even his first few years of college, but most of those relationships lacked quality, he said.

At the same time, Sundin was privately dating men.

"My coming out process was very drawn out, which caused a great deal of anxiety," Sundin said. "It caused me so much distress because I never wanted the secret to reach some circles of friends; mainly my guy friends and my teammates. I told a select group of people who I trusted, but I never knew when the secret would be unleashed and spread through my circle of friends."

"I was very lucky to have one of the most accepting environments [in college that] one could hope for. I was very close with my [college] soccer coach and I told him when I was a sophomore. He was spectacular in receiving and responding to the news in a positive way. He gave me the option of handling it in any way I thought was appropriate. He was optimistic in

my team's ability to seamlessly digest the news in a mature fashion; [however,] I was not. Although my teammates were some of my closest friends, it only takes one person on a team to make it a negative experience for everyone.

"I told two of my teammates, who were my roommates, during my sophomore year. Their responses were just as positive as my coaches. They told me that nothing was going to change, and basically shrugged off the news with a laugh and hug. When the rest of the team found out during my senior year season they had very similar responses. I was very surprised to realize how much of a non-issue it really was. For them it was just another day, nothing monumental. I was proud to be part of a group of friends/teammates/school program that was so forward thinking, especially for a group of athletes."

The only reason issue he faced when coming out was on the home front. His parents' initial reaction was not overwhelmingly positive, he said. His sexuality made them a little uncomfortable at first, Sundin said.

But time has patched that wound.

"Our relationship has grown [and now] they are completely supportive of my lifestyle and are proud of the person I have become," Sundin said.

Sundin went to the Chicago Pride Parade in June with a group of friends, "and had a great time," he said. Sundin, who is working as a life guard this summer, leaves for Seoul, South Korea in late August to teach English as a second language.

"I am very happy with where my life is, and where it is headed," Sundin said. "For that reason, I don't think that I would change anything. All of these experiences have shaped the person who I have/am becoming and I am excited to see where life takes me next."

More about Nils Sundin...

—**Birthdate:** Dec. 3, 1986

—**Parents:** Marie and Nils

—**Siblings:** Jennifer, 25; Elizabeth, 24; and Heather, 20

—**Status:** Has a boyfriend, Cory Sexson

—**Dating:** "I have never dated one of my teammates."

—**Favorite pro team(s):** Chelsea FC

—**Favorite pro athlete(s):** Carles Puyol

—**Favorite TV show(s):** "I don't really watch TV."

—**Favorite movie(s):** Seven

—**Hobbies:** Traveling, working out, running, going out with friends, reading

—**Soccer in Seoul:** "I plan on continuing my soccer career in Korea."

—**Marist High School teammates:** "I am only in contact with one of my high school teammates who also is on my college team. It gives us something to laugh about when we think of

the antics I went through during high school concerning the opposite sex."

—**Can you see a major college athlete (in football or basketball) being openly gay?**

"Yes. I truly believe our society is going through some very subtle, yet large shifts in perspective. Homosexuality, and its presence within our homes, schools, and daily lives is changing the way people, especially college students, see the issue. Although it would make the news for some reason or another, I believe the majority of it would be positive."

—How about a pro athlete in one of the big four sports? "I think the same holds true for a professional athlete. On such a large scale there would be some groups who would be lagging in their support, but they will always be there. All it takes is one brave individual to put a face on something we all know exists."

Gay Games fees to increase Jan. 1

Early-bird registration for the 2010 Gay Games in Cologne, Germany, ends Dec. 31.

After midnight on Jan. 1, the base registration fee will increase by 25 Euros (approximately \$37 U.S.). Registration fees include a ticket to Opening & Closing ceremonies; a week-long transit pass; sport and cultural event costs; a participation medal; welcome kit; and access to other special events. More than 2,800 have already registered to participate.

There is a registration party Saturday, Dec. 19, at Crew, 4804 N. Broadway, 2-4 p.m.

The Games will take place July 31-Aug. 7, 2010. Up to 10,000 athletes and artists are expected to participate. See www.games-cologne.com.

Howard Brown's sexy Santa run Dec. 19

Howard Brown Health Center is holding Santas on the Run for Healthcare at Sidetrack, 3349 N. Halsted, on Saturday, Dec. 19, 1-5 p.m.

People are asked to raise at least \$35 and come to Sidetrack in a sexy Santa costume. Attendees can register for the one-mile run, donate to a participating Santa and/or cheer. The run will start at 3 p.m. Those who do not plan on running can donate \$35 at the door and enjoy the festivities.

Awards will be given for best individual fundraiser, best-dressed team, best-dressed person (men and women) and best Santa belly. E-mail santafunrun@gmail.com or visit www.howard-brown.org/hb_news.asp?id=1006.

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You will be asked to sign a legal release. Optional will be a Q&A form that you will be emailed.

Questions?

Email info@chicagogayhistory.org

CHICAGO GAY HISTORY

Going for the pin



"Pins for a Cure"—hosted recently by Better Existence with HIV (BEHIV) at Waveland Bowl, 3700 N. Western—raised more than \$3,000 for the organization's various programs. "The results of this event were simply amazing," BEHIV Executive Director Eric Nelson said in a statement. "We are so grateful for everyone's support. It was a very fun afternoon and a great opportunity for people to get together, enjoy some bowling and help our clients." Photos courtesy of Nelson





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A widely published author and speaker, Ray is a legal authority on all of his practice areas, which include probate, trusts, guardianship, estate planning, and elder law, including the litigation of those areas.

He is a longtime advocate for and member of the LGBT community, and is involved in several charitable groups, community associations, and professional organizations.

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