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# WINDY CITY TIMES

THE VOICE OF CHICAGO'S GAY, LESBIAN,  
BI AND TRANS COMMUNITY SINCE 1985

NOV. 24, 2010  
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**CHARLOTTE NEWFELD:  
LGBT ALLY TURNS 80**

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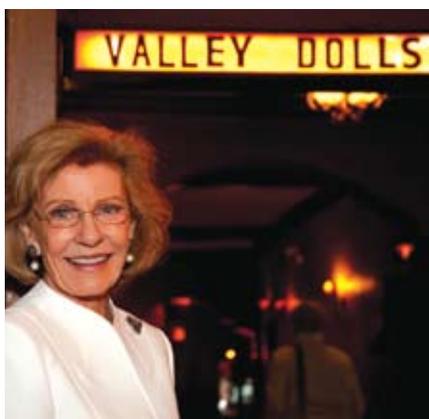
# Illinois civil-union bill vote expected

BY JOSEPH ERBENTRAUT

With the Illinois General Assembly temporarily back on the clock for its six-day veto session as of Nov. 16, LGBT activists across the state have ramped up their efforts urging the passage of Senate Bill (SB) 1718, legislation that would legalize civil unions and grant much-needed legal protections similar to marriage to the state's committed same-sex couples.

Though lawmakers did not yet take action on the three-year-old bill—called the Religious Freedom Protection and Civil Union Act—in the session's first week, advocates for its passage are hopeful as they look toward its vote, which could take place very soon. Some advocates say they are feeling the 60 votes needed to pass SB 1718 are there, while others say their work remains a daunting battle as opposing groups have redoubled their efforts to block the legislation.

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**PATTY DUKE IN TOWN**

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## Cher on 'Burlesque'

In separate interviews, the legendary actress-singer Cher (right) and pop icon Christina Aguilera talked with Chris Azzopardi about co-starring in the movie *Burlesque* and being gay icons. See page 35. Photo by Stephen Vaughan

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# Making 50

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Longtime couple Ed Buzinski and Dick Beck are nearing their 50th anniversary together in the Far Northwest suburbs of Chicago. See this week's "A Gay in the Life" *Windy City Times* feature on Ed and Dick, who are major horse and dog lovers. See page 20. Photo by Hal Baim

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### IN TUNE

Readers get a double dose of Bent Nights this week, as Vern Hester looks at Bob Mould (left) and The Tubes, among others.

Photo by Vern Hester



Brian Weed, CEO of the Tricoci University of Beauty Culture, talks about the new campus in Rogers Park.

Photo from C. Dodge



The Chicago Force held its annual banquet. See photos from that event.

Photo from the Force

### FIVE BY FIVE

The movie Tell No One and the acrobatic show Traces are among Five Worth Finding.

### CHILI NIGHTS

Amuse Bouche turns to comfort food: chili.

### THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT

This week's entertainment round-up includes bits on Adam Lambert and The Wizard of Oz.

plus **DAILY BREAKING NEWS**

AFC's World of Chocolate  
TPAN's Bar-lesque  
Downtown's grand opening  
Berlin's 27th anniversary

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# Feds support LGBT suicide-prevention task force

BY DANA RUDOLPH  
KEEN NEWS SERVICE

A national task force dedicated to suicide prevention among LGBT youth will be part of the new National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention. The alliance, launched by Secretary of Health Kathleen Sebelius and Secretary of Defense Robert Gates in September, is a public-private partnership supported by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

Pamela S. Hyde, administrator of SAMHSA, revealed the plan for an LGBT youth task force in a five-page letter sent Nov. 5 in response to an inquiry from leaders of the U.S. House's LGBT Equality Caucus.

The task force will be led by Charles Robbins, head of The Trevor Project, which operates an LGBT youth suicide prevention program nationwide, and Kevin Jennings, the Department of Education's Assistant Deputy Secretary for the Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools. Jennings, an openly gay appointee, founded the Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network (GLSEN).

Robbins said in an interview that he thinks the alliance could have a "broad impact" and "provide greater awareness and greater funding opportunities specifically for the LGBT community." He said he participated in a similar effort in California and was able to ensure that LGBT youth were included in the plans and that county grants were LGBT inclusive.

The alliance will, however, act as a coordinating body and not have independent grant-making authority, said Dr. Richard McKeon, suicide



Pamela Hyde. Photo from SAMHSA website

ONLINE AT  
WINDYCITYMEDIAGROUP.COM  
NATIONAL NEWS

—Gay Texas couple gets married via Skype

—HRC to Sarah Palin: 'Come out against bullying'

—OUT 100 includes Ricky Martin (left), Nate Berkus

prevention branch chief at SAMHSA, in an interview Oct. 19.

Hyde's letter was in response to an Oct. 26 letter from U.S. Reps. Jerrold Nadler, D-N.Y., Barney Frank, D-Mass., Tammy Baldwin, D-Wis. and Jared Polis, D-Colo. They had written to Hyde to urge the agency to take "immediate action... to better protect LGBT youth and prevent further tragedies." Their letter also questioned SAMHSA's recent draft plan, Leading Change, and asked whether the agency is putting enough emphasis on "specific suicide prevention efforts" aimed at LGBT youth. They asked to be informed of SAMHSA's current and planned activities in this regard.

In her response, Hyde, another of President Obama's openly LGBT appointees, said SAMHSA "recognizes that LGBT youth face unique risk factors that make them vulnerable to suicide" and that the agency "will use its programs and initiatives to ensure a focus on LGBT youth."

Specific SAMHSA efforts for helping LGBT youth, Hyde wrote, include the SAMHSA-funded Suicide Prevention Resource Center, which "includes LGBT youth as one of its priority populations." The agency has also "produced publications and trainings geared toward improving awareness and capacity for suicide prevention for LGBT youth."

SAMHSA's National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, Hyde noted, "routinely refers youth to The Trevor Project." The agency also directs funds to state, tribal, and campus suicide prevention programs through its Garrett Lee Smith grants, Hyde wrote, noting that currently nearly half of the 32 state grantees and nearly a third of the 68 campus grantees reported activities focused on LGBT youth.

Hyde said materials from the Human Rights Campaign's Welcoming Schools program—designed to address family diversity, gender stereotyping, and bullying in elementary education—are included in resources given to grantees of SAMHSA's Child, Adolescent, and Family Branch.

SAMHSA's Annual Children's Mental Health Conference will hold a workshop in March 2011 using the Welcoming Schools materials as well as anti-bullying resources developed by GLSEN. Moreover, a toolkit being developed by SAMHSA to help schools create suicide prevention programs will include materials from the Trevor Project.

Additionally, Trevor Project officials will be invited to participate in SAMHSA's National Workgroup on the behavioral health of LGBT youth and their families. The YES Institute—a Miami, Fla.-based organization that trains providers, families and others about suicide-related behavior in LGBT youth—is already taking part. The workgroup, according to its website, will "help identify specific strategies and interventions" for caregivers and communities.

SAMHSA has also disseminated to staff and grantees recommendations from the Family Acceptance Project, a major academic study showing the connections between family rejection of LGBT youth and mental health problems, including depression and suicidal behavior.

Answering the representatives' question about



Charles Robbins. Photo by Denver Smith

SAMHSA's immediate next steps, Hyde wrote that she and leaders of the agency's Sexual Gender Minority Interest Group recently met representatives of the National Coalition for LGBT Health, including Trevor, to plan ways of working together and including Trevor in some federal anti-bullying efforts.

To the representatives' question about whether SAMHSA might need additional resources or legal authority to help with its efforts around LGBT youth, Hyde said no. She noted, however, that the attention on LGBT youth suicides has "mobilized SAMHSA staff and leadership across multiple Federal agencies to renew their commitment to these youth."

Nadler, in a statement about Hyde's reply, thanked SAMHSA for its "comprehensive response." He called the agency's "recommitment" and "increased focus" on suicide prevention among LGBT youth "encouraging." He said he looked forward to seeing the "concrete steps" SAMHSA will take, and to working together with SAMHSA and other partners in the Obama Administration to ensure that they "achieve results."

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## Levin ready to strip DADT repeal from defense bill

BY LISA KEEN  
KEEN NEWS SERVICE

A key supporter of repealing "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" (DADT) is poised to deal the legislation a significant setback.

Sen. Carl Levin, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee and a strong supporter of repealing the law which bars openly gay people from serving in the military, said Tuesday he will hold hearings on the upcoming Pentagon study about implementation of repeal.

That study is due Dec. 1 and Pentagon spokesman Geoff Morrell said last Friday that "no one at the Pentagon will comment" on the study's contents until that date.

Levin indicated, in his remarks to reporters Nov. 16, that he is open to staging separate votes on DADT repeal and on the annual Defense Authorization bill, which currently contains the repeal language.

"The [defense spending] bill has 849 pages and only two of them are 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell,'" said Levin to reporters, according to a Washington Post account. "The rest have to do with our troops, they have to do with a whole lot of critically important things."

Levin has hinted before that he might pull DADT repeal from the defense bill for standalone consideration and, following Tuesday's comments, many now expect that is what he will do.

Passage, as a standalone measure, weakens the repeal's chances in several ways. It puts it in a long line of pressing issues that are competing for Congress' attention during the final weeks of the lame-duck Congress. And, even if Congress does take it up, the standalone measure leaves repeal vulnerable to many more amendments from opponents who will likely seek to damage or undermine its intent.

On an optimistic note, Rep. Patrick Murphy, who championed the addition of DADT repeal language to the House defense authorization bill last spring, has told the Washington Blade that he believes the Obama White House and Defense Department will deliver a "full spectrum of engagement" to pass DADT repeal.

But Levin's apparent readiness to acquiesce to Republican pressure—particularly from Sen. John McCain, the ranking minority leader on the Armed Services Committee—is clearly a blow.



U.S. Sen. Carl Levin.

"This is no time to lose our resolve," said Human Rights Campaign President Joe Solmonese, in a statement Nov. 16. "Chairman Levin has been our advocate and we have every reason to believe that he will continue to push to end this unjust and discriminatory law. DADT came into being by way of the [defense spending bill] and it should be removed by the [defense spending bill]. This can and must get done."

Levin's comments came just one day after two relatively small and obscure groups that support repeal of the military's ban on gays issued a statement urging the Senate to pass the annual defense authorization bill "whether or not the repeal of 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' is included." A coalition of larger and better known LGBT groups issued a counter-statement saying, "Under no circumstances should DADT repeal be stripped from the underlying defense authorization bill."

The Palm Center, a think tank which has been vigorously promoting repeal of DADT, initially supported the notion of allowing the defense spending bill to go through, even without DADT repeal language. But on Nov. 17, it issued a statement suggesting Levin is being manipulated by McCain.

"Senator McCain is holding all military spending hostage in order to force Senator Levin to cut the repeal of DADT from the Defense Authorization bill," said Palm Center Executive Director Aaron Belkin. Belkin called the defense spending bill the "best legislative vehicle for repeal" and said McCain's goal is "continued discrimination of gay and lesbian service members. ... If repeal is not accomplished now, we could be looking at years of continued discrimination against loyal Americans serving their country."

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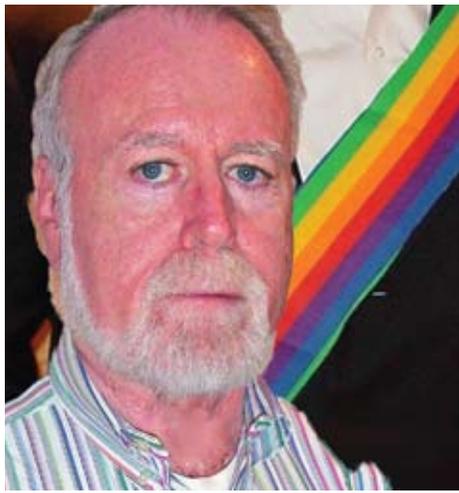


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Joe Murray. Photo courtesy of Murray

## Bishops elect new president; LGBTs, nuns respond

BY CHUCK COLBERT

The executive director of the National Organization for Marriage wasted no time in soliciting funds for the nation's leading anti gay-marriage group at also trumpeting recent developments at a gathering of Catholic Church hierarchy.

The reason for Brian Brown's delight: Meeting in Baltimore, Md., Nov. 15-18, Catholic bishops elected new leadership, elevated their Ad Hoc Committee on the Defense of Marriage to a permanent subcommittee and pledged a full-time staff advisor on marriage and the family.

But pro-LGBT Catholic groups and an organization of nuns were just as quick to voice their displeasure.

And there was some drama and a surprise as the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) elected New York Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan to lead the official organization of Church hierarchy in America.

Dolan's surprise win over Tucson Bishop Gerald F. Kicanas by a close vote of 123-111 represented a departure from a long-standing tradition of selecting a sitting vice president.

Dolan will succeed Chicago's Cardinal Francis E. George as USCCB president.

The Chicago-based Rainbow Sash Movement (RSM), an LGBT advocacy group, claimed its endorsement of Kicanas was perhaps his undoing.

"We endorsed a shoo-in candidate," wrote Joe Murray, executive director of RSM. "As soon as the endorsement was placed on our web page, the hit count reached over 20,000 inside of two hours, and was reported in many far right Catholic online blogs," he explained. "The drama surrounding this issue would put drama queens to shame."

No matter what ultimately influenced the election, leaders from gay Catholic organizations agreed: The election of Dolan as president and Louisville, Ky., Archbishop Joseph Kurtz as the new vice president signals a Church hierarchy ready to continue, if not escalate, its secular politicking against same-sex marriage and homosexuality.

Kurtz served as chairman of the defense of marriage ad hoc committee.

During the recent bishops' meeting Kurtz compared the current legal and political advances of marriage equality to the time before the United States Supreme Court's 1973 landmark decision in *Roe v. Wade*, which legalized abortion.

"Today is like 1970 for marriage," Kurtz told his fellow bishops, according to Catholic News Service. "If you had seen *Roe v. Wade* coming three years out, what would you have done differently?"

Kurtz also said that 4,500 copies of a traditional marriage DVD, "Made for Each Other," have been distributed nationwide and that other

teaching materials, aimed at teaching children, are in development.

Reaction from pro-LGBT Catholic advocacy groups was immediate.

"The election of archbishops Dolan and Kurtz to head the USCCB signals a particularly virulent anti-gay agenda by the Catholic hierarchy on a national level. Distorting the truth about gay persons and denying civil rights by their so-called 'Defense of Marriage campaign' will continue to be at the forefront of their efforts to convince Americans that gays don't deserve equal treatment under our Constitution," said Charles Martel, a board member of Catholics for Equality, a national advocacy group.

"The selection of these two men as leaders bishops means it is more important than ever for Catholics who want our Church and world to be more welcoming and just for LGBT people to speak out and to act for justice," said Marianne Duddy-Burke of DignityUSA, a spokesperson for Equally Blessed, a national pro-LGBT Catholic coalition group. "The majority of Catholics in the pews are supportive of LGBT people and issues, so this election is another example of how the hierarchy is out of step with the faith experience and ideas of Catholic people."

The bishops' meeting came at time of profound economic uncertainty. In one analysis,

Jesuit priest Thomas Reese noted the bishops said nothing about the economic state or the 10-percent employment among some parishioners.

Just as concerns regarding social and economic justice escaped the bishops, pastoral sensitivity to the recent spate of youth bullying and teen suicides eluded the hierarchy.

The Detroit-based National Coalition of American Nuns (NCAN), an organization of 500 Catholic sisters from various congregations of women religious, was "appalled" by the omission. NCAN has historical ties to Chicago, where it was founded in 1969.

"More than a month has gone by since the media broke the news about a series of gay suicides. During that time, the US Catholic Bishops failed to make a single statement regarding these tragic, preventable deaths," the sisters wrote in a statement.

"Not one bishop's voice was raised to condemn a culture where youths are bullied for being who God created them to be and are sometimes pushed by society's judgments to attempt suicide. Many people have accused certain segments of organized religion, including the Catholic hierarchy, of fueling these attacks and contributing to suicides," the nuns wrote, adding, "This week offered an opportunity to decry

these horrendous events. Instead, the bishops have chosen to discuss 'the defense of marriage,' their well funded attack on same-gender couples."

### Pope: Condoms OK in some situations

In the book *Light of the World: The Pope, the Church and the Signs of the Times*, Pope Benedict XVI has deemed the use of condoms acceptable "in certain cases," according to BBC News.

In a series of interviews he gave to journalist Peter Sewall, the pope said that condoms could reduce HIV infection for a prostitute, for example. The pope did also reiterate, however, that the Catholic Church still bans condoms for contraception.

Several AIDS organizations praised what the pope had to say. Michel Sidibé, the executive director of UNAIDS, the United Nations HIV/AIDS program, called the pope's statement "a significant and positive step," according to SwissInfo.ch.

The book came out Nov. 23.

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# Mass. transgender group launches awareness campaign

BY CHUCK COLBERT

The message is as all-American as the 14th Amendment.

"The country was built on equal opportunity," a new multimedia public education campaign begins. "As transgender people we are asking for the opportunity to take care of our families and be free from discrimination."

No big surprise: "I AM: Trans People Speak," the nation's first-ever public awareness initiative, springs from navy blue Massachusetts. But the brief personal stories—in video, audio, written essay and photo format—hold the same message even for crimson red localities and purple ones, too.

"We want to explain to people who we are, the issues we face from our own voices, not from a medical model," said Gunner Scott, executive director of the Massachusetts Transgender Political Coalition (MTPC), an advocacy organization.

At a recent launch party, held this month at a popular Boston eatery, Scott said his "crazy idea" for the project came from National Public Radio when he heard about immigrants telling their stories through the "We Are America" multimedia program.

Scott floated his idea at a staff meeting this past summer. "No one said, 'Gunner, are you absolutely out of your mind?'" he explained.

Voilà: MTPC fast tracked the project. The Coalition received a \$35,000 grant from the State Equality Fund, assembled a team, and within three months were up and running with the project (<http://www.TransPeopleSpeak.org>).

Scott said that another \$20,000 would enable MTPC to place ads on local subway trains and busses. "This is not the end, but the beginning," he said.

It may well be a model for other states and



Michelle Figueiredo. Photo by Jesse Begenyi

localities to adopt, Scott said.

Transgender people are widely misunderstood by the general public and the media, transgender-rights advocates say.

"Much of the media is negative," explained Jesse Begenyi. A documentary filmmaker, she serves as MTPC clerk, as well as on the trans speak team.

"We feel boxed in," Begenyi said. "Trans people are so much more than their trans experience," she said, referring to the story told by Cohasset, Mass., resident Michelle Figueiredo, whose video is one of eight posted on the "I AM: Trans People Speak" web site.

"Her whole video is about how she ran a mara-

thon; there's nothing about being transgender," said Begenyi, who is also a videographer for the project.

And yet Figueiredo's experience transitioning from male to female while on the job at State Street cuts to the heart of the public education efforts. During a short interview at the launch party, Figueiredo, a manager, spoke about the support she received from human resources and her boss.

"I went to an HR person who said, 'Let's explore how we do this. We support you,'" she said.

Figueiredo went on to praise her boss, a "guy's guy," she said, who told her point blank: "I don't care what you look like as long as you do the great job you do," she said. "Talk about a huge weight off my shoulders."

"He actually went on the Internet to find out more information," Figueiredo added. "He knew staff would ask questions."

Her boss genuinely cared, she said. From time to time, "He asked me: 'How are you feeling? How are the hormones treating you?'"

"I put him up for a diversity award and he won."

Still, Figueiredo's positive experience at one of the Boston's venerable financial institutions is not always the case.

In dozens of states, transgender people face not only employment discrimination, but also encounter discrimination in housing, credit, education and public accommodations. Transgender persons are also victims of violent hate crimes.

In some states—even Massachusetts—where activists have fallen short in adding "gender identity" and "gender expression" to the state's anti-discrimination and hate crimes statutes, social conservatives have succeeded so far in blocking transgender civil-rights legislation by hijacking the debate's language, dubbing the proposed legislation a "bathroom bill," an ugly smear pro-trans advocates consider fear mongering and scare tactics all about imaginary transgender bogeymen in restrooms and locker rooms.

And yet the power of personal story telling continues.

"It's not just about us," said Ty, a Northampton transgender man who is the biological mother of two teenage sons, during his video clip. "It's about our families."

For Mick—a licensed clinical social worker, a feminist and queer transman who resides in Boston—it is all about being true to self, he said on video. "I can finally look in the mirror, and I finally know who I am."

## Immigration reform: Scrambling for a chance

BY LISA KEEN  
KEEN NEWS SERVICE

Hope springs eternal in a lame-duck Congress—or maybe it is desperation. Democrats and their supporters, bracing for a more conservative Congress starting in January, are rushing to push legislation through during the few days left in the remaining session.

Immigration Equality is pushing for legislation to enable gay foreigners whose partners are American citizens to stay in this country.

"We're gearing up," said Steve Ralls, a spokesman for the group.

They are motivated, he said, by comments from Sen. Robert Menendez, D-N.J., sponsor of S. 3932, a comprehensive immigration-reform bill introduced Oct. 1. The bill seeks to address a number of issues, such as stronger border control and a means by which non-citizens in this country can achieve citizenship. Among those issues, too, is the language of the "Uniting American Families Act," sponsored by Senator Patrick Leahy, D-Vt. The Leahy language would amend existing law to allow a U.S. citizen to gain citizenship for his or her "permanent partner." Current law allows for recognition only of a spouse, and the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) prevents recognition of same-sex spouses.

A similar bill exists in the House (HR 4321),

but none of the bills have had hearings or committee votes. Ralls doesn't believe the immigration legislation is a candidate for attachment to some other legislation. So, what drives his optimism?

"My understanding is that, if Senator Menendez can line up bipartisan support the White House is willing to push for it," said Ralls.

Menendez told reporters Nov. 15 that the White House is "ready and willing" to move on the bill but he added that the president "made it clear that he is willing to move forward if there is bipartisan support."

On Nov. 16, President Obama indicated only that he wanted action during the lame-duck session on a smaller piece of immigration legislation known as the DREAM Act, which provides for a way certain foreigners under the age of 36 to obtain citizenship. But Ralls said that, while the gay-related language is not part of DREAM, "Menendez has said that Obama's commitment is much larger."

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid tried to include consideration of the DREAM Act in September, along with repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" (DADT) in the annual defense-authorization bill. But Republicans—some of whom were opposed to the immigration language, some opposed to DADT repeal—filibustered the defense-spending bill.

"Everyone understands the window here is very short, and there's already a very full schedule," said Ralls.

"Passage of inclusive reform [bill] offers a very significant leap forward for LGBT rights in general," said Ralls. "If approved, it would mark the first time that LGBT couples receive federal recognition as a family."

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U.S. Sen. Robert Menendez; Steve Ralls.



# Fred Karger: Gay GOP candidate with presidential aspirations

BY ROSS FORMAN

Fred Karger went on a trip last February to Washington D.C., New York and New Hampshire. He wanted to see and hear first-hand the responses to his plan to run for president of the United States.

Karger, a Republican, got favorable responses in the nation's capitol and in New York, though nothing overwhelming either way, pro or con.

"I was planning to drop out," Karger admits months later.

Then he went to the key political state of New Hampshire, including a meeting with about 35 students from the University of New Hampshire's Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA). They were sitting on the floor at the university's student center, and Karger spoke, almost ad lib.

"These kids convinced me, without saying anything," that I should run, Karger said. "The look and the feel of these students was as if to say, 'A gay man can run for president, that's great!'"

"They seemed enthralled," and Karger has stayed in contact with many from that meeting via social media.

The next night, he met with nine students at Dartmouth—and got the same, uplifting response.

"Those two meetings are what did it," Karger said. "As I've said since day one, the reason I'm doing this is, I want to do this for the younger generation; I don't want them to have to go through the hell that so many of us have [while] growing up."

"The positive reinforcement [I received] from these college students ... I knew then that I was on the right track and I knew it was something I wanted to do."

So yes, Fred Karger the fighter, Fred Karger the activist, Fred Karger the Chicagoan is also, potentially, Fred Karger the candidate for the highest elected office in this country.

Well, he might be a candidate.

At the end of the summer of 2010, he officially established the Fred Karger Presidential Exploratory Committee.

Fred Karger wants a shot at Washington.

"I'm very seriously considering [running] and trying to position myself to be competitive, which is very difficult for a first-time, unknown candidate," he said. "I've got some things going for me and things have been exceeding my expectations at this point."

"When I started this process, I didn't know if I would catch on at all."

But he has.

His campaign includes a catchy "Fred Who?" slogan, but he's getting his word out.



Fred Karger. Photo by Adam Bouska

Karger, who now lives in southern California, has adopted a two-state strategy, looking at Iowa and New Hampshire, where he has spent the bulk of his time and where he is focused for the foreseeable future.

"I wanted to meet a lot of the critical establishments [in those two states], go to a lot of the colleges and universities [in those states], and talk to the media," Karger said. "I've been treated more seriously [in Iowa and New Hampshire] than I would have in other states because, in those two states, they are so focused on the presidential campaign, even two years early."

"If I'm in a restaurant in Los Angeles and tell the waiter that I'm thinking of running for President and give them a sticker or t-shirt, they may look at me and think I'm crazy. But if I do that same thing in, say, Manchester, N.H., or Des Moines, Iowa, they will stop in their tracks and engage in serious conversation. And then when I meet with political people or the press in Manchester or Des Moines, it's truly magnified. They are far more interested."

Yes, Karger would be the first openly gay candidate in history.

"As out of left field as I'm coming, it's not as crazy [as it may sound] if you look at my resume and see that I've been involved in politics,

starting with Charles Percy in 1966. I've been involved [in politics] for 44 years, though not full-time," Karger said.

Karger graduated from New Trier High School in Winnetka in 1968, then spent four years at the University of Denver. His resume includes experience in politics and governmental affairs for 35 years. As a partner of the Dolphin Group, Karger managed numerous federal, state and local campaigns. He ran several successful opposition campaigns, including heavy involvement in three Presidential races.

In 2006, Karger founded Save the Boom, a grassroots campaign to save the oldest gay bar in the Western United States: the landmark Boom Boom Room and Coast Inn in Laguna Beach, Calif. He then started Californians Against Hate, created to bring public attention to the major donors to the Yes on Proposition 8 campaign. Karger organized boycotts against four mega-donors to Proposition 8.

"I started looking into the idea of running for president during the summer of 2009," Karger said. "I've seen one very substantial poll state that the majority of Americans would support an openly gay candidate for president much more than they are for gay marriage."

"In my life, we certainly have seen a change in the acceptance of/for gay people, including candidates, actors, businessmen, neighbors, etc."

Karger came out to some at 18 in 1968, the year before Stonewall.

"I think people are more comfortable with gay people today; I think my timing is excellent," he said.

Karger spent time in the 1970s as an actor in commercials, television and film, including an appearance in Airport 1975.

Now his life is centered on Iowa and New Hampshire, where he is renting a home. Karger will travel New Hampshire repeatedly and extensively to cultivate voters, especially the 18- to 29-year-olds. He plans extensive walking campaigns across the state, introducing himself door to door.

His goal is to give away one campaign frisbee to every household in New Hampshire. "I want to make it fun, social," said Karger, who recently hired his first college coordinator—at the University of New Hampshire. Ultimately, he will have five college coordinators, "to help make this political [machine] go."

"There are times when I get these moments when I cannot believe I am going through this effort. I thought for so long that, being openly gay, I could never run for any [political] office, let alone president of the United States. That weighs very heavy on me."

Just being able to go into the New Hampshire Republican party office and speak with the executive director as an openly gay Republican ... and yet I never, ever in my wildest dreams thought that would happen."

Karger has been self-funding his drive so far, and will for the rest of 2010. Next year, the fundraising truly starts. "There's a huge amount of work to do," Karger said. "The reporters who I have spoken to, and I'm talking about reporters who have covered politics for years or decades, are taking me very serious. That's encouraging."

Karger, who came out publicly a little over four years ago, still returns to Chicago several times annually. And he still calls Chicago home.

"It's always home, and always will be home," he said. "I have a great pride in the city. Chicago was an ideal place for me to grow up. I still have a lot of close friends living in Chicago."

Karger came out to family and some friends during the summer between high school and college. He found his first true love in 1971, and quickly fell in love, "and knew then that [being gay] was OK because he was a wonderful role model and he got me over all of my angst and fear."

Karger added: "Chicago is a very special place. I feel comfortable in Chicago; it's where a big part of me was shaped. I've had a lot of happy times in Chicago, and also a lot of difficult times struggling with my sexual orientation."



Fred Karger. Photo courtesy of Karger

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## ATRIPLA Important Safety Information and Indication

### INDICATION

ATRIPLA® (efavirenz 600 mg/emtricitabine 200 mg/tenofovir disoproxil fumarate [DF] 300 mg) is a prescription medication used alone as a complete regimen or with other medicines to treat HIV-1 infection in adults.

**ATRIPLA does not cure HIV-1 and has not been shown to prevent passing HIV-1 to others.** The long-term effects of ATRIPLA are not known at this time. People taking ATRIPLA may still get infections that develop because the immune system is weak or other conditions that happen with HIV-1 infection.

**Do not stop taking ATRIPLA unless directed by your healthcare provider. See your healthcare provider regularly.**

### IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

**Contact your healthcare provider right away if you get the following side effects or conditions associated with ATRIPLA:**

- **Nausea, vomiting, unusual muscle pain, and/or weakness. These may be signs of a buildup of acid in the blood (lactic acidosis), which is a serious medical condition.**
- **Light-colored stools, dark-colored urine, and/or if your skin or the whites of your eyes turn yellow. These may be signs of serious liver problems.**
- **If you have HIV-1 and hepatitis B virus (HBV), your liver disease may suddenly get worse if you stop taking ATRIPLA.**

**Do not take ATRIPLA if you are taking the following medicines because serious and life-threatening side effects may occur when taken together:** Vascor® (bepidil), Propulsid® (cisapride), Versed® (midazolam), Orap® (pimozide), Halcion® (triazolam), or ergot medications (for example, Wigraine® and Cafegot®).

**In addition, ATRIPLA should not be taken with:**

Combivir® (lamivudine/zidovudine), EMTRIVA® (emtricitabine), Epivir® or Epivir-HBV® (lamivudine), Epzicom® (abacavir sulfate/lamivudine), SUSTIVA® (efavirenz), Trizivir® (abacavir sulfate/lamivudine/zidovudine), TRUVADA® (emtricitabine/tenofovir DF), or VIREAD® (tenofovir DF), because they contain the same or similar active ingredients as ATRIPLA. ATRIPLA should not be used with HEPSERA® (adefovir dipivoxil).

Vfend® (voriconazole) or REYATAZ® (atazanavir sulfate) with or without Norvir® (ritonavir) should not be taken with ATRIPLA since they may lose their effect and may also increase the chance of having side effects from ATRIPLA. Fortovase® or Invirase® (saquinavir) should not be used as the only protease inhibitor in combination with ATRIPLA.

Taking ATRIPLA with St. John's wort or products containing St. John's wort is not recommended as it may cause decreased levels of ATRIPLA, increased viral load, and possible resistance to ATRIPLA or cross-resistance to other anti-HIV drugs.

**This list of medicines is not complete. Discuss with your healthcare provider all prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, or herbal supplements you are taking or plan to take.**

**Tell your healthcare provider if you:**

- **Are pregnant: Women should not become pregnant while taking ATRIPLA and for 12 weeks after stopping ATRIPLA.** Serious birth defects have been seen in children of women treated during pregnancy with one of the medicines in ATRIPLA. Women must use a reliable form of barrier contraception, such as a condom or diaphragm, even if they also use other methods of birth control, while on ATRIPLA and for 12 weeks after stopping ATRIPLA.
- **Are breastfeeding: Women with HIV should not breastfeed** because they can pass HIV through their milk to the baby. Also, ATRIPLA may pass through breast milk and cause serious harm to the baby.
- **Have liver problems, including hepatitis B or C virus infection.**

- **Have ever had seizures:** Seizures have occurred in patients taking a component of ATRIPLA, usually in those with a history of seizures. If you have ever had seizures, or take medicine for seizures, your healthcare provider may want to switch you to another medicine or monitor you.

- **Have ever had mental illness or use drugs or alcohol.**

**Contact your healthcare provider right away if you experience any of the following serious or common side effects:**

**Serious side effects associated with ATRIPLA:**

- **Severe depression, strange thoughts, or angry behavior** have been reported by a small number of patients. Some patients have had thoughts of suicide, and a few have actually committed suicide. These problems may occur more often in patients who have had mental illness.
- **Kidney problems** (including decline or failure of kidney function). If you have had kidney problems, or take other medicines that may cause kidney problems, your healthcare provider should do regular blood tests. Symptoms that may be related to kidney problems include a high volume of urine, thirst, muscle pain, and muscle weakness.
- **Other serious liver problems.** Some patients have experienced serious liver problems, including liver failure resulting in transplantation or death. Most of these serious side effects occurred in patients with a chronic liver disease such as hepatitis infection, but there have also been a few reports in patients without any existing liver disease.
- **Bone changes.** Lab tests show changes in the bones of patients treated with tenofovir DF, a component of ATRIPLA. Some HIV patients treated with tenofovir DF developed thinning of the bones (osteopenia), which could lead to fractures. Also, bone pain and softening of the bone (which may lead to fractures) may occur as a consequence of kidney problems. If you have had bone problems in the past, your healthcare provider may want to check your bones.

**Common side effects:**

- **Dizziness, headache, trouble sleeping, drowsiness, trouble concentrating, and/or unusual dreams.** These side effects tend to go away after taking ATRIPLA for a few weeks. These symptoms may be more severe with the use of alcohol and/or mood-altering (street) drugs. If you are dizzy, have trouble concentrating, and/or are drowsy, avoid activities that may be dangerous, such as driving or operating machinery.
- **Rash** is a common side effect that usually goes away without any change in treatment, but may be serious in a small number of patients.
- **Other common side effects include:** tiredness, upset stomach, vomiting, gas, and diarrhea.

**Other possible side effects:**

- Changes in body fat have been seen in some people taking anti-HIV-1 medicines. The cause and long-term health effects are not known.
- Skin discoloration (small spots or freckles) may also happen.
- If you notice any symptoms of infection, contact your healthcare provider right away.
- Additional side effects are inflammation of the pancreas, allergic reaction (including swelling of the face, lips, tongue, or throat), shortness of breath, pain, stomach pain, weakness, and indigestion.

You should take ATRIPLA once daily on an empty stomach. Taking ATRIPLA at bedtime may make some side effects less bothersome.

ATRIPLA is one of several treatment options your doctor may consider.

**You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit [www.fda.gov/medwatch](http://www.fda.gov/medwatch) or call 1-800-FDA-1088.**

**Please see Patient Information on the following pages.**

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**ATRIPLA is the #1 prescribed HIV regimen.\***

**About ATRIPLA:**

- Only ATRIPLA combines 3 HIV medications in 1 pill daily.
- Proven to lower viral load to undetectable<sup>†</sup> in approximately 7 out of 10 patients new to therapy, and also raise T-cell<sup>‡</sup> (CD4+) count to help control HIV through 3 years of a clinical study.<sup>§</sup>
- **ATRIPLA does not cure HIV-1 and has not been shown to prevent passing HIV-1 to others.**

**Selected Important Safety Information:**

Some people who have taken medicine like ATRIPLA have developed the following: **a serious condition of acid buildup in the blood (lactic acidosis), and serious liver problems (hepatotoxicity).** For patients with both HIV-1 and hepatitis B virus (HBV), hepatitis may suddenly worsen if ATRIPLA is discontinued.

Please see detailed and additional Important Safety Information, including the bolded information to the left.

<sup>†</sup> Defined as a viral load of less than 400 copies/mL.

<sup>‡</sup> Average increase of 312 cells/mm<sup>3</sup>.

<sup>§</sup> In this study, 227 patients took the meds in ATRIPLA.

Patient model. Individual results may vary.

**Your doctor may prescribe ATRIPLA alone  
or with other HIV medications.**

**Talk to your doctor to see if ATRIPLA is right for you.**

**ATRIPLA**<sup>®</sup>  
(efavirenz 600 mg/emtricitabine 200 mg/  
tenofovir disoproxil fumarate 300 mg) Tablets

To learn more, visit  
[www.ATRIPLA.com](http://www.ATRIPLA.com)

\* Synovate Healthcare Data; US HIV Monitor, Q1 2010.

**FDA-Approved Patient Labeling****Patient Information****ATRIPLA® (uh TRIP luh) Tablets****ALERT: Find out about medicines that should NOT be taken with ATRIPLA.**

Please also read the section **“MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH ATRIPLA.”**

Generic name: efavirenz, emtricitabine and tenofovir disoproxil fumarate (eh FAH vih renz, em tri SIT uh bean and te NOE' fo veer dye soe PROX il FYOU mar ate)

Read the Patient Information that comes with ATRIPLA® (efavirenz/emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil fumarate) before you start taking it and each time you get a refill since there may be new information. This information does not take the place of talking to your healthcare provider about your medical condition or treatment. You should stay under a healthcare provider's care when taking ATRIPLA. **Do not change or stop your medicine without first talking with your healthcare provider.** Talk to your healthcare provider or pharmacist if you have any questions about ATRIPLA.

**What is the most important information I should know about ATRIPLA?**

- **Some people who have taken medicine like ATRIPLA (which contains nucleoside analogs) have developed a serious condition called lactic acidosis** (buildup of an acid in the blood). Lactic acidosis can be a medical emergency and may need to be treated in the hospital. **Call your healthcare provider right away if you get the following signs or symptoms of lactic acidosis:**
  - You feel very weak or tired.
  - You have unusual (not normal) muscle pain.
  - You have trouble breathing.
  - You have stomach pain with nausea and vomiting.
  - You feel cold, especially in your arms and legs.
  - You feel dizzy or lightheaded.
  - You have a fast or irregular heartbeat.
- **Some people who have taken medicines like ATRIPLA have developed serious liver problems called hepatotoxicity**, with liver enlargement (hepatomegaly) and fat in the liver (steatosis). **Call your healthcare provider right away if you get the following signs or symptoms of liver problems:**
  - Your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice).
  - Your urine turns dark.
  - Your bowel movements (stools) turn light in color.
  - You don't feel like eating food for several days or longer.
  - You feel sick to your stomach (nausea).
  - You have lower stomach area (abdominal) pain.
- **You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or liver problems** if you are female, very overweight (obese), or have been taking nucleoside analog-containing medicines, like ATRIPLA, for a long time.
- **If you also have hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection and you stop taking ATRIPLA, you may get a “flare-up” of your hepatitis. A “flare-up” is when the disease suddenly returns in a worse way than before.** Patients with HBV who stop taking ATRIPLA need close medical follow-up for several months, including medical exams and blood tests to check for hepatitis that could be getting worse. ATRIPLA is not approved for the treatment of HBV, so you must discuss your HBV therapy with your healthcare provider.

**What is ATRIPLA?**

ATRIPLA contains 3 medicines, SUSTIVA® (efavirenz), EMTRIVA® (emtricitabine) and VIREAD® (tenofovir disoproxil fumarate also called tenofovir DF) combined in one pill. EMTRIVA and VIREAD are HIV-1 (human immunodeficiency virus) nucleoside analog reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NRTIs) and SUSTIVA is an HIV-1 non-nucleoside analog reverse transcriptase inhibitor (NNRTI). VIREAD and EMTRIVA are the components of TRUVADA®. ATRIPLA can be used alone as a complete regimen, or in combination with other anti-HIV-1 medicines to treat people with HIV-1 infection. ATRIPLA is for adults age 18 and over. ATRIPLA has not been studied in children under age 18 or adults over age 65.

HIV infection destroys CD4+ T cells, which are important to the immune system. The immune system helps fight infection. After a large number of T cells are destroyed, acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) develops.

ATRIPLA helps block HIV-1 reverse transcriptase, a viral chemical in your body (enzyme) that is needed for HIV-1 to multiply. ATRIPLA lowers the amount of HIV-1 in the blood (viral load). ATRIPLA may also help to increase the number of T cells (CD4+ cells), allowing your immune system to improve. Lowering the amount of HIV-1 in the blood lowers the chance of death or infections that happen when your immune system is weak (opportunistic infections).

**Does ATRIPLA cure HIV-1 or AIDS?**

**ATRIPLA does not cure HIV-1 infection or AIDS.** The long-term effects of ATRIPLA are not known at this time. People taking ATRIPLA may still get opportunistic infections or other conditions that happen with HIV-1 infection. Opportunistic infections are infections that develop because the immune system is weak. Some of these conditions are pneumonia, herpes virus infections, and *Mycobacterium avium complex* (MAC) infection. **It is very important that you see your healthcare provider regularly while taking ATRIPLA.**

**Does ATRIPLA reduce the risk of passing HIV-1 to others?**

**ATRIPLA has not been shown to lower your chance of passing HIV-1 to other people through sexual contact, sharing needles, or being exposed to your blood.**

- **Do not share needles or other injection equipment.**
- **Do not share personal items that can have blood or body fluids on them, like toothbrushes or razor blades.**

**ATRIPLA® (efavirenz/emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil fumarate)**

- **Do not have any kind of sex without protection.** Always practice safer sex by using a latex or polyurethane condom or other barrier to reduce the chance of sexual contact with semen, vaginal secretions, or blood.

**Who should not take ATRIPLA?**

Together with your healthcare provider, you need to decide whether ATRIPLA is right for you.

Do not take ATRIPLA if you are allergic to ATRIPLA or any of its ingredients. The active ingredients of ATRIPLA are efavirenz, emtricitabine, and tenofovir DF. See the end of this leaflet for a complete list of ingredients.

**What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking ATRIPLA? Tell your healthcare provider if you:**

- **Are pregnant or planning to become pregnant** (see “What should I avoid while taking ATRIPLA?”).
- **Are breast-feeding** (see “What should I avoid while taking ATRIPLA?”).
- **Have kidney problems or are undergoing kidney dialysis treatment.**
- **Have bone problems.**
- **Have liver problems, including hepatitis B virus infection.** Your healthcare provider may want to do tests to check your liver while you take ATRIPLA.
- **Have ever had mental illness or are using drugs or alcohol.**
- **Have ever had seizures or are taking medicine for seizures.**

**What important information should I know about taking other medicines with ATRIPLA?**

**ATRIPLA may change the effect of other medicines, including the ones for HIV-1, and may cause serious side effects.** Your healthcare provider may change your other medicines or change their doses. Other medicines, including herbal products, may affect ATRIPLA. For this reason, **it is very important to let all your healthcare providers and pharmacists know what medications, herbal supplements, or vitamins you are taking.**

**MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH ATRIPLA**

- The following medicines may cause serious and life-threatening side effects when taken with ATRIPLA. You should not take any of these medicines while taking ATRIPLA: Vascor (bepridil), Propulsid (cisapride), Versed (midazolam), Orap (pimozide), Halcion (triazolam), ergot medications (for example, Wigraine and Cafergot).
- ATRIPLA also should not be used with Combivir (lamivudine/zidovudine), EMTRIVA, Eпивir, Eпивir-HBV (lamivudine), Epzicom (abacavir sulfate/lamivudine), Trizivir (abacavir sulfate/lamivudine/zidovudine), SUSTIVA, TRUVADA, or VIREAD.
- Vfend (voriconazole) should not be taken with ATRIPLA since it may lose its effect or may increase the chance of having side effects from ATRIPLA.
- **Do not take St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*), or products containing St. John's wort with ATRIPLA.** St. John's wort is an herbal product sold as a dietary supplement. Talk with your healthcare provider if you are taking or are planning to take St. John's wort. Taking St. John's wort may decrease ATRIPLA levels and lead to increased viral load and possible resistance to ATRIPLA or cross-resistance to other anti-HIV-1 drugs.
- ATRIPLA should not be used with HEPSERA® (adefovir dipivoxil).

It is also important to tell your healthcare provider if you are taking any of the following:

- Fortovase, Invirase (saquinavir), Biaxin (clarithromycin), Noxafil (posaconazole), or Sporanox (itraconazole); **these medicines may need to be replaced with another medicine when taken with ATRIPLA.**
- Calcium channel blockers such as Cardizem or Tiazac (diltiazem), Covera HS or Isoptin (verapamil) and others; Crixivan (indinavir), Selzentry (maraviroc); the immunosuppressant medicines cyclosporine (Gengraf, Neoral, Sandimmune, and others), Prograf (tacrolimus), or Rapamune (sirolimus); Methadone; Mycobutin (rifabutin); Rifampin; cholesterol-lowering medicines such as Lipitor (atorvastatin), Pravachol (pravastatin sodium), and Zocor (simvastatin); or Zolof (sertraline); **these medicines may need to have their dose changed when taken with ATRIPLA.**
- Videx, Videx EC (didanosine); tenofovir DF (a component of ATRIPLA) may increase the amount of didanosine in your blood, which could result in more side effects. **You may need to be monitored more carefully** if you are taking ATRIPLA and didanosine together. Also, the dose of didanosine may need to be changed.
- Reyataz (atazanavir sulfate) or Kaletra (lopinavir/ritonavir); these medicines may increase the amount of tenofovir DF (a component of ATRIPLA) in your blood, which could result in more side effects. Reyataz is not recommended with ATRIPLA. **You may need to be monitored more carefully** if you are taking ATRIPLA and Kaletra together. Also, the dose of Kaletra may need to be changed.
- Medicine for seizures [for example, Dilantin (phenytoin), Tegretol (carbamazepine), or phenobarbital]; your healthcare provider may want to switch you to another medicine or check drug levels in your blood from time to time.

**These are not all the medicines that may cause problems if you take ATRIPLA. Be sure to tell your healthcare provider about all medicines that you take.**

Keep a complete list of all the prescription and nonprescription medicines as well as any herbal remedies that you are taking, how much you take, and how often you take them. Make a new list when medicines or herbal remedies are added or stopped, or if the dose changes. Give copies of this list to all of your healthcare providers and pharmacists **every** time you visit your healthcare provider or fill a prescription. This will give your healthcare provider a complete picture of the medicines you use. Then he or she can decide the best approach for your situation.

**ATRIPLA® (efavirenz/emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil fumarate)****How should I take ATRIPLA?**

- Take the exact amount of ATRIPLA your healthcare provider prescribes. Never change the dose on your own. Do not stop this medicine unless your healthcare provider tells you to stop.
- You should take ATRIPLA on an empty stomach.
- Swallow ATRIPLA with water.
- Taking ATRIPLA at bedtime may make some side effects less bothersome.
- Do not miss a dose of ATRIPLA. If you forget to take ATRIPLA, take the missed dose right away, unless it is almost time for your next dose. Do not double the next dose. Carry on with your regular dosing schedule. If you need help in planning the best times to take your medicine, ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist.
- If you believe you took more than the prescribed amount of ATRIPLA, contact your local poison control center or emergency room right away.
- Tell your healthcare provider if you start any new medicine or change how you take old ones. Your doses may need adjustment.
- When your ATRIPLA supply starts to run low, get more from your healthcare provider or pharmacy. This is very important because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. The virus may develop resistance to ATRIPLA and become harder to treat.
- Your healthcare provider may want to do blood tests to check for certain side effects while you take ATRIPLA.

**What should I avoid while taking ATRIPLA?**

- **Women should not become pregnant while taking ATRIPLA and for 12 weeks after stopping it.** Serious birth defects have been seen in the babies of animals and women treated with efavirenz (a component of ATRIPLA) during pregnancy. It is not known whether efavirenz caused these defects. **Tell your healthcare provider right away if you are pregnant.** Also talk with your healthcare provider if you want to become pregnant.
- Women should not rely only on hormone-based birth control, such as pills, injections, or implants, because ATRIPLA may make these contraceptives ineffective. Women must use a reliable form of barrier contraception, such as a condom or diaphragm, even if they also use other methods of birth control. Efavirenz, a component of ATRIPLA, may remain in your blood for a time after therapy is stopped. Therefore, you should continue to use contraceptive measures for 12 weeks after you stop taking ATRIPLA.
- **Do not breast-feed if you are taking ATRIPLA.** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend that mothers with HIV not breast-feed because they can pass the HIV through their milk to the baby. Also, ATRIPLA may pass through breast milk and cause serious harm to the baby. Talk with your healthcare provider if you are breast-feeding. You should stop breast-feeding or may need to use a different medicine.
- Taking ATRIPLA with alcohol or other medicines causing similar side effects as ATRIPLA, such as drowsiness, may increase those side effects.
- Do not take any other medicines, including prescription and nonprescription medicines and herbal products, without checking with your healthcare provider.
- **Avoid doing things that can spread HIV-1 infection** since ATRIPLA does not stop you from passing the HIV-1 infection to others.

**What are the possible side effects of ATRIPLA?****ATRIPLA may cause the following serious side effects:**

- **Lactic acidosis** (buildup of an acid in the blood). Lactic acidosis can be a medical emergency and may need to be treated in the hospital. **Call your healthcare provider right away if you get signs of lactic acidosis.** (See "What is the most important information I should know about ATRIPLA?")
- **Serious liver problems (hepatotoxicity)**, with liver enlargement (hepatomegaly) and fat in the liver (steatosis). Call your healthcare provider right away if you get any signs of liver problems. (See "What is the most important information I should know about ATRIPLA?")
- **"Flare-ups" of hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection**, in which the disease suddenly returns in a worse way than before, can occur if you have HBV and you stop taking ATRIPLA. Your healthcare provider will monitor your condition for several months after stopping ATRIPLA if you have both HIV-1 and HBV infection and may recommend treatment for your HBV. ATRIPLA is not approved for the treatment of hepatitis B virus infection. If you have advanced liver disease and stop treatment with ATRIPLA, the "flare-up" of hepatitis B may cause your liver function to decline.
- **Serious psychiatric problems.** A small number of patients may experience severe depression, strange thoughts, or angry behavior while taking ATRIPLA. Some patients have thoughts of suicide and a few have actually committed suicide. These problems may occur more often in patients who have had mental illness. Contact your healthcare provider right away if you think you are having these psychiatric symptoms, so your healthcare provider can decide if you should continue to take ATRIPLA.
- **Kidney problems** (including decline or failure of kidney function). If you have had kidney problems in the past or take other medicines that can cause kidney problems, your healthcare provider should do regular blood tests to check your kidneys. Symptoms that may be related to kidney problems include a high volume of urine, thirst, muscle pain, and muscle weakness.
- **Other serious liver problems.** Some patients have experienced serious liver problems including liver failure resulting in transplantation or death. Most of these serious side effects occurred in patients with a chronic liver disease such as hepatitis infection, but there have also been a few reports in patients without any existing liver disease.

**ATRIPLA® (efavirenz/emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil fumarate)**

- **Changes in bone mineral density (thinning bones).** Laboratory tests show changes in the bones of patients treated with tenofovir DF, a component of ATRIPLA. Some HIV patients treated with tenofovir DF developed thinning of the bones (osteopenia) which could lead to fractures. If you have had bone problems in the past, your healthcare provider may need to do tests to check your bone mineral density or may prescribe medicines to help your bone mineral density. Additionally, bone pain and softening of the bone (which may contribute to fractures) may occur as a consequence of kidney problems.

**Common side effects:**

Patients may have dizziness, headache, trouble sleeping, drowsiness, trouble concentrating, and/or unusual dreams during treatment with ATRIPLA. These side effects may be reduced if you take ATRIPLA at bedtime on an empty stomach. They also tend to go away after you have taken the medicine for a few weeks. If you have these common side effects, such as dizziness, it does not mean that you will also have serious psychiatric problems, such as severe depression, strange thoughts, or angry behavior. Tell your healthcare provider right away if any of these side effects continue or if they bother you. It is possible that these symptoms may be more severe if ATRIPLA is used with alcohol or mood altering (street) drugs.

If you are dizzy, have trouble concentrating, or are drowsy, avoid activities that may be dangerous, such as driving or operating machinery.

Rash may be common. Rashes usually go away without any change in treatment. In a small number of patients, rash may be serious. If you develop a rash, call your healthcare provider right away.

Other common side effects include tiredness, upset stomach, vomiting, gas, and diarrhea.

**Other possible side effects with ATRIPLA:**

- Changes in body fat. Changes in body fat develop in some patients taking anti-HIV-1 medicine. These changes may include an increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), in the breasts, 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 fat changes are not known.
- Skin discoloration (small spots or freckles) may also happen with ATRIPLA.
- In some patients with advanced HIV infection (AIDS), signs and symptoms of inflammation from previous infections may occur soon after anti-HIV treatment is started. It is believed that these symptoms are due to an improvement in the body's immune response, enabling the body to fight infections that may have been present with no obvious symptoms. If you notice any symptoms of infection, please inform your doctor immediately.
- Additional side effects are inflammation of the pancreas, allergic reaction (including swelling of the face, lips, tongue, or throat), shortness of breath, pain, stomach pain, weakness and indigestion.

Tell your healthcare provider or pharmacist if you notice any side effects while taking ATRIPLA.

Contact your healthcare provider before stopping ATRIPLA because of side effects or for any other reason.

This is not a complete list of side effects possible with ATRIPLA. Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for a more complete list of side effects of ATRIPLA and all the medicines you will take.

**How do I store ATRIPLA?**

- **Keep ATRIPLA and all other medicines out of reach of children.**
- Store ATRIPLA at room temperature 77 °F (25 °C).
- Keep ATRIPLA in its original container and keep the container tightly closed.
- Do not keep medicine that is out of date or that you no longer need. If you throw any medicines away make sure that children will not find them.

**General information about ATRIPLA:**

Medicines are sometimes prescribed for conditions that are not mentioned in patient information leaflets. Do not use ATRIPLA for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give ATRIPLA to other people, even if they have the same symptoms you have. It may harm them.

This leaflet summarizes the most important information about ATRIPLA. If you would like more information, talk with your healthcare provider. You can ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for information about ATRIPLA that is written for health professionals.

Do not use ATRIPLA if the seal over bottle opening is broken or missing.

**What are the ingredients of ATRIPLA?**

**Active Ingredients:** efavirenz, emtricitabine, and tenofovir disoproxil fumarate

**Inactive Ingredients:** croscarmellose sodium, hydroxypropyl cellulose, microcrystalline cellulose, magnesium stearate, sodium lauryl sulfate. The film coating contains black iron oxide, polyethylene glycol, polyvinyl alcohol, red iron oxide, talc, and titanium dioxide.

**Rx ONLY**

May 2010

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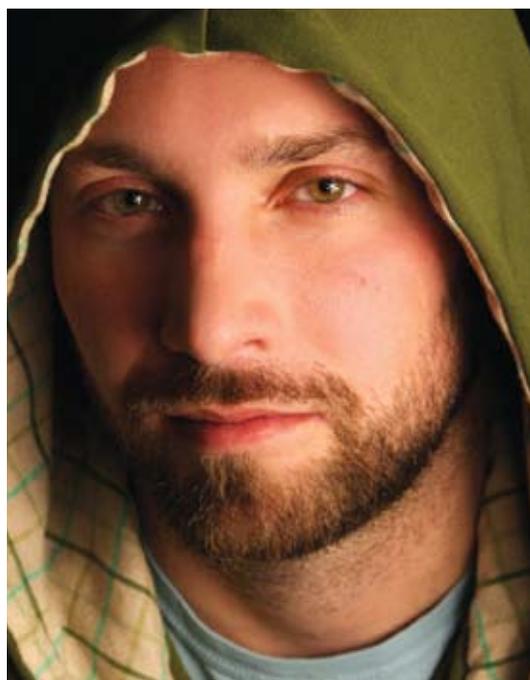
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Jamie Moravec. Photos courtesy of Bradford LeHew

## Uptown athlete dies of injuries from fall

BY ROSS FORMAN

Jamie Moravec, who played three sports in Chicago's gay leagues, died Sunday night, Nov. 14, from injuries sustained in a fall from his fifth-floor condominium in the Uptown neighborhood. He was 35.

Moravec played beach volleyball and flag football within the Chicago Metropolitan Sports Association (CMSA) umbrella and bowled in the Friday night Chicago Pride League. He was part of the Waveland Witches team in the current bowling season—and the league held a moment of silence in Moravec's honor Nov. 19.

Moravec played Nov. 13 in the CMSA flag-football playoffs.

"Jamie was always the tallest bowler in the league, and had a unique way of throwing, literally throwing his ball down the lane. Jamie was a bowler who always seemed to have fun without taking it too seriously," said Michael

Stricklin, 39, the president of the Chicago Pride Bowling League. "[He brought] lots of humor and great sportsmanship," to the league.

Moravec's current bowling teammates are Chris Wedig, Pat Ciara, Bradford LeHew, Jeffrey Wedig, Frank Batusic, Amy Jakubiak and Adam Sorkin. Moravec, who had a 140 bowling average, has participated in Chicago's gay bowling leagues since 2001. Moravec played beach volleyball and flag football for the last six years.

"He was always a nice guy, fun to be around," said Austin Baidas, who lives in Lakeview and was football teammates with Moravec. "Jamie really improved [as a football player] from the day he started [playing]. He helped our team win some [league] championships over the past six years.

"He will be missed."

Moravec was a blocker for the Halsted's team.

"Jamie had a lot of great, long-term friends," Baidas said. "He was a fun teammate to have, always enjoyable to be around."

Robert Hull, 36, who lives in Lakeview and works as a CPA, was football teammates with Moravec for five years. They also played together on a spring CMSA flag football team for Wilde. Plus, Hull and Moravec played volleyball

together both indoor and beach volleyball for Big Chicks.

Hull was the captain for both of Moravec's football and volleyball teams.

"As a teammate, Jamie always was encouraging, fun, loud [and] intense," Hull said. "As a person: Jamie loved those close to him with all his heart and he often let us know how important we were to him. His family meant the world to him. Jamie loved to eat. I think his happiest times were when food was on his plate. Food didn't last long on his plate as he would devour it in record speed, often resulting in stomach aches.

"Jamie would get so excited over the simplest joys of life. He was like a child and it was refreshing.

"As a friend, Jamie was such a warm and caring person. He would compliment me when I dressed well, looked nice or made a good play in football. He was there when you needed someone to talk to and listened with an open mind."

The Halsted's team honored Moravec this past weekend at the CMSA awards ceremony, held at Hydrate's, with a toast, led by Hull—and many of Moravec's close friends will be honoring him again with a tribute party in January.

"We were playing flag football and the pass was to go to Jamie," Hull said, reflecting on one of his favorite memories of Moravec. "It was a wet day out, and there were big spots of standing water on the field. As Jamie was running his route a puddle came upon him. He immediately stopped running to avoid the water and the pass fell incomplete just before him. At the time we were upset with him for not running through the puddle and catching the ball. But for years afterwards we affectionately would call him 'Puddles,' [even though] he didn't like the nickname.

"Jamie was a great blocker. He brought enthusiasm, fun and spirit [to the field]."

Moravec was born in Florida, raised in Illinois. He graduated from Loyola Academy High School in 1993 and Loyola University of Chicago in 1998. He was a senior buyer for Newark.

"Jamie was a very boisterous, fun-loving [man] who loved life," said Bradford LeHew, one of Moravec's closest friends. "It's hard to describe Jamie. He was this six-foot-six bearded guy who played football, but also collected antiques.

"He was the best friend anyone could ask for, fiercely loyal to his friends. Jamie was hilarious,

very smart. There's so much I could say about him; he was just a wonderful, wonderful human being, a life force who touched everything and everyone within a 10-mile radius."

"He was an amazing human being."

Moravec participated in the 2002 and 2006 Gay Games, and he participated in several gay bowling tournaments across the U.S. He also bowled in the Chicago Pride Invitational.

"I have so great, fond memories of Jamie," LeHew said. "I can't single out just one favorite Jamie story—because I have so many fond memories of Jamie."

## Anti-homophobia program Dec. 8

Lifelube and Project CRYSP will host the community forum of the year "Not Just Faggot! End Homophobia Now" Wed., Dec. 8, at Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted. Doors open at 6 p.m. and the event starts at 7 p.m.

Among those scheduled to talk are Equality Illinois' Rick Garcia, Vernita Gray of the Cook County State's Attorney's Office and Chicago Black Gay Men's Caucus' Keith Green. Simone Koehlinger will moderate.

For more information, please visit <http://lifelube.blogspot.com/2010/11/its-not-just-faggot.html?zx=505460c38544c217>.

## LGBTQ youth symposium Nov. 30

The Illinois Psychological Association (IPA) and IPA's Sexual Orientation Section are hosting "LGBTQ Youth Symposium: Addressing the Challenges of Bullying, Suicide & Homophobia" at Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted, on Tuesday, Nov. 30, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

Participants will discuss opportunities for addressing systemic issues related to anti-LGBTQ bullying, suicide and homophobia. In addition, attendees will learn better interventions for dealing with those being bullied and be informed of new programs being planned for outreach.

Among the presenters are Joe Camper of VALEO and Anthony Galloway of Test Positive Aware Network. Registration is required; for more information, see <http://www.illinoispsychology.org>.

## BILL from cover

Anthony Martinez, an organizer with LGBT Change, noted he and other proponents for the bill are "definitely not 100-percent there yet," in terms of confirming the votes needed. Dozens of activists joined the bill's author, state Rep. Greg Harris, along with members of LGBT Change and the Civil Rights Agenda (TCRA) for a rally Nov. 18 in Springfield. Many intend to return to the state capitol Nov. 29-30 to launch a final lobbying plea—just one part of the groups' continued efforts.

"We need to keep working," Martinez said. "In the next [few] weeks there will be a lot of work we have to do including phone banking and outreach. We need to keep pushing to show [lawmakers] we care and that the community will be there to see how they'll vote. That pressure is really important."

Equality Illinois' advocacy team also continued its push for civil unions in Springfield last week. The organization has been busy collecting and delivering a reported more than 18,000 letters of support of the bill to lawmakers. They additionally distributed a faith petition among leaders of more than 300 ordained clergy across the state urging lawmakers to support the bill and reiterating that the bill contains a clause allowing faith communities who do not wish to perform civil unions to legally refrain from doing so.

In Chicago, a small but vocal crowd of civil-unions supporters gathered outside the James R. Thompson Center in the Loop Nov. 18, as



From left: Richard Thale, James Cappleman and Matt Zaradich at the Nov. 18 rally in Chicago. Photo by Joe Erbentraut

part of a solidarity rally for those who could not make it to the rally taking place simultaneously in Springfield. Several speakers—including activist Kelly Cassidy, attorney Coco Soodek and 46th Ward aldermanic candidate James Cappleman and his partner, Richard Thale—addressed a small crowd.

Concluding the Chicago rally, LGBT Change organizer Matty Zaradich updated the crowd on the bill's status and criticized two of the bill's prominent opponents: Americans for Truth About Homosexuality's Peter LaBarbera and Car-

dinal Francis George. He also had a message for newly re-elected Gov. Pat Quinn, who has repeatedly voiced his support for civil unions but stopped short of fully embracing same-sex marriage equality, noting he would leave the matter up to voters.

"If you think for a moment if this is where we end, that civil unions are where it stops, you're dead wrong," Zaradich said. "While this measure is a step toward such equality, we will not stop until we have it."

While proponents for civil unions remain cau-

tiously hopeful, given the support voiced by Quinn, state House speaker Michael Madigan and state Senate President John Cullerton, those opposed to the bill have also stepped up their efforts. Both the Catholic Conference of Illinois and Carol Stream-based Illinois Family Institute (IFI) are urging their members to ask their legislators to vote "no" on the bill. In a scathing editorial on the IFI website, IFI Director of School Advocacy Laurie Higgins described the bill as "one step closer to the destruction of marriage."

In order to counteract the opposition's message, LGBT Change and TCRA have launched an ambitious, citywide phone banking operation aimed at reaching 20,000 constituents in key districts across the state in the coming days. In a press release, Martinez described the effort as an "all hands on deck" moment for the community. Sharing the LGBT community's stories, he said, will help sway lawmakers who remain on the fence on the matter.

"We need to be vigilant as a community that we're dealing with families here, our families that we need to be protecting as a community," Martinez said. "This is a step we can take right now that would allow for those protections. This is a strategy that's going to work here, right now."

A recent polling, conducted last month by the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute, found that 67.5 percent of likely Illinois voters support either civil unions or marriages for same-sex couples.



One of the topics at the Nov. 17 meeting involved a follow-up to the murder of gay Puerto Rican teen Steven Lopez Mercado. A vigil (above) and march took place in Humboldt park a year ago this month. Photo by Hal Baim

## Commission addresses hate crimes

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

The City of Chicago's Commission on Human Relations Advisory Council on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Issues held its monthly meeting at a different venue than usual: the Block-by-Block Community Center in the Humboldt Park neighborhood. Vida/SIDA (the city's only HIV/AIDS service organization that specifically serves Chicago's Latino residents) and ALMA (Association of Latino Men for Action) co-hosted the meeting, which was held Nov. 17. About 40 people attended including community members, the advisory council and members of the Chicago Police Department. This meeting was a follow-up to the resolution passed at the April 29, 2010, city council hearing where Latino community members addressed hate crimes brought on by homophobia and transphobia.

Members of the advisory council were introduced (Reverend Kevin, Tindell, Gaylon Alcaraz, Bill Greaves, Bob Zuley, Beth Kelly, Robert Castillo, Bill Kelley, Cathy Sikora, Gary Chichester and John Pennycuff) and then Kelly, who chaired the meeting, asked the audience members to introduce themselves. Many members of the police force were in attendance, including Sgt. Lori Cooper Commanding Officer Special Activi-

ties Section: Civil Rights and School Visitation Groups, police department LGBT liaison Jose Rios, Commander Judy Martin of the 13th District and Commander Linda Flores of the 14th District (which was where this meeting was held) as well as community members and the press. After Kelly spoke about the advisory council's role and its past accomplishments, it moved to reports from various committees. Then the open forum began, and people expressed their concerns/questions about how the police are dealing with hate crimes in the city.

Although the focus of the meeting was a follow-up on the concerns expressed by the Chicago LGBT community over the 2009 murder of gay Puerto Rican teenager Jorge Steven Lopez, the discussion/questions moved onto the broader topic of all hate crimes in the city. Many topics were addressed, including the number of police officers assigned to the civil-rights section; the method/procedures employed by police in investigating hate crimes; and bullying in schools.

Cooper started the conversation by sharing what the police are doing to foster inclusion in the department as well as addressing how an act can be classified as a hate crime. She remarked that the two groups who are least likely to report hate crimes are the Latino and LGBT communities due to fear of "outing."

One community member asked how officers are made aware of issues facing different groups in the city. The police responded that every new officer is required to watch streaming videos that provide information about 17 groups of people to complete their training. An internal affairs of-

ficer also said that police officers are monitored on how they interact with the community.

Rios addressed the issues of being openly gay on the police force and said that it actually enhances the work he does in the community to address LGBT youth issues. He also pledged to help other areas of the city to provide LGBT youth-outreach programs. Officers said they will work with their Youth Explorers to be the liaisons between students and the police to report incidents of bullying in their schools.

During the discussion there was one heated

exchange between police representatives and a male community member who was upset with some of the answers he was hearing from the police that night. Kelly then challenged the crowd to create change by voting because elected officials set the priorities for funding and legislation at the city, state and country level. At the end of the meeting all parties involved pledged to keep the dialogue going so hate crimes issues can be addressed effectively going forward.

## Employee suing Oak Park over anti-gay slurs

BY TULLY SATRE

Windy City Times has learned that an employee of Oak Park is suing the village, claiming it fired him after he complained about anti-gay remarks that co-workers allegedly made toward him.

The complaint, filed by Michael Aguayo and his attorney in the Cook County Circuit Court, names Oak Park as well as three village employees as defendants.

The suit claims violations of Aguayo's rights under the Illinois Human Rights Act, which prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation.

Aguayo was hired by the Village of Oak Park in 2001. The suit claims that after Aguayo came out at work in 2007, he was the victim of repeated sexual harassment by village employees.

David Powers, the public spokesperson for the village, told Windy City Times that Oak Park's law department was "shocked" to see the report in the Chicago Sun-Times, which originally reported the story, and that the department has yet to see a copy of the lawsuit.

"Oak Park would absolutely not tolerate any kind of discrimination or harassment based on anyone's sexual preference," Powers said, further stating that, Aguayo, a maintenance man, is still employed by the village. (A Chicago Tribune article stated that Aguayo was reinstated after he was fired for taking time off to attend the funeral of his partner's mother. However, Aguayo was only allegedly reinstated after a meeting between union representatives and village officials.) According to the suit, Aguayo claims he was fired after taking time off work under the Family Medical Leave Act.

According to the lawsuit, employees made comments about Aguayo's sexual orientation

such as "making false statements about sexual orientation can result in discipline including termination [or] come outside and settle this like men."

The suit also claims that employees called things that did not work properly or make sense as "being gay" or that they apologized for making comments about women and that Aguayo also received verbal threats.

This is not the first time Aguayo has taken action against the village. Aguayo filed a complaint June 26, 2009, with the Illinois Department of Human Rights but the charge dismissed for lack of substantial evidence.

Aside from seeking a permanent injunction against the defendants to prevent further sexual harassment against Aguayo, he is also asking for the court to grant him more than \$600,000, including reimbursement for pay lost as a result of the harassment, repayment for all related medical expenses, and costs of litigation and attorneys' fees.

Village officials could not provide specifics on the complaint but emphasized Oak Park's non-discrimination policy, which includes sexual orientation.

Aguayo's attorney declined to comment.



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Owen Daniel-McCarter.

## Transgender advocates discuss violence in Chicago

BY KATE SOSIN

When transgender Chicagoans honor those lost to violence at Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR) events each November, they are usually not mourning their own. This year was different.

When the lights dimmed and a video about transgender homicide victims began to play, the theatre at the Center on Halsted went uncomfortably silent. Sandy Woulard's name appeared on the screen, and someone in the audience cried out her name.

Woulard was found shot in the chest in Hamilton Park in June. She is one of the four transgender Chicagoans to die unexpectedly since last November. Community organizer Johannah-Baker Johnson died in a high-speed auto accident in March. Selma Diaz turned up floating in Monroe Harbor in May. Quinn Collins was killed in a car crash on Halloween.

Of all four, only Woulard will be commemo-

rated nationally. National TDOR statistics solely recognize homicides. (Diaz's death was controversially ruled a suicide by police.) However, local advocates say that violence against transgender people in Chicago takes many forms, often goes unreported and is far more complicated than police and government officials recognize.

Few statistics about transgender communities in Chicago exist, especially when it comes to hate violence. But local advocates like Lisa Gilmore, who directs the Anti-Violence project at Center on Halsted, estimate that rates are high.

"I think gender policing is the number one reason why people are targeted for hate violence," said Gilmore. Gilmore said she is "100-percent certain" that more trans people were murdered in Chicago this year than went reported.

That would be because many trans people choose not to report incidents, said Owen Daniel-McCarter, project attorney for Transformative Justice Law Project of Illinois (TJLP). "One of the problems that we have is that the only data we have is from police," Daniel-McCarter told Windy City Times. "Most people don't call the police if they are lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender because they've had a bad experience with [police] in the past."

National statistics about transgender life paint a grim picture. The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force estimates that people read as transgender are 17 times more likely to be targeted for hate violence than people read as gay. Of the 22 anti-LGBTQ murders that were reported to the Anti-Violence Project (AVP) nationally last year, 50 percent of the victims self-identified as transgender women. Most of the other 50 percent were gender-non-conforming males (i.e., feminine presenting men). The Sylvia Rivera Law Project asserts that transgender people are 10 times more likely to be incarcerated than the national average.

Daniel-McCarter says that statistics like those point to a trend of violence against trans people that goes far deeper than hate violence. He said that violence against trans people in Chicago has many faces from lack of access to gender-affirming healthcare to harassment in schools. Cultural bias and discrimination place transgender people, and transgender women of color in particular, at higher risk for being targeted on the street and in intimate relationships. It also forces many trans people to commit survival crimes.

Daniel-McCarter also blames the state.

## 'Fallen Stars,' vigil remember transgender victims

BY KATE SOSIN

Transgender Chicagoans and allies commemorated the 12th annual Transgender Day of Remembrance at Night of Fallen Stars Nov. 18. The event is held every November at Center on Halsted, in partnership with the Howard Brown Health Center.

The evening featured performances by youth, presentations by local transgender organizations and a short film on transgender people who have been murdered worldwide this year. Among those in the film was Sandy Woulard, a transgender Chicago woman who was found shot to death in Hamilton Park June 21.

Local organizers said that other transgender murders in Chicago have gone unreported this year.

"How many others are missing from our remembrance tonight?" Lisa Gilmore, who directs the Anti-Violence Project at Center on Halsted, asked the audience. "How many more are gone unnoticed? Who has been trafficked away? Sent away? Suicided away? Who is being repeatedly targeted?"

At least three other transgender Chicagoans died unexpectedly this year. Quinn Collins and Johannah-Baker Johnson were killed in separate



Attendees at this year's Night of Fallen Stars. Photo by Kate Sosin

automobile accidents. Selma Diaz was discovered dead in Monroe Harbor in May. Diaz's death was ruled a suicide by police, but some of her neighbors and friends suspected foul play. Photos and text by Kate Sosin

Two nights later, nearly 100 people gathered outside the Thompson Center in the Loop for a candlelit vigil to honor transgender homicide victims of the last year. The vigil marked the first Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR) event to be held outside publicly in years.

Activists estimate that at least 16 trans people were killed this year, most of them trans-feminine (transgender and feminine-presenting) people of color. Among those mourned nationally this year is Sandy Woulard, a Chicagoan who was shot to death in Hamilton Park June 21.

"I'd like to caution you to not just see them as

"The violence that I see with our clients at TJLP is largely police and correctional staff," Daniel-McCarter said. "It's constant. It's almost every day someone is being arrested for being a trans person of color."

National findings suggest that queer youth of color are targeted disproportionately by both police and hate offenders. Of 22 hate murders recorded by AVP last year, 79 percent of them were of people of color. The same report suggests that of all violent incidents reported by LGBTQ people in 2010, police made up 6 percent of offenders, double that of "pick-ups" (dates and/or hookups).

The Chicago Police Department has increasingly faced accusations this year that officers are arresting transgender women in Lakeview without just cause and charging them with solicitation. However, no specific cases have been brought to public light.

Benji Pery is an organizer with Gender JUST, a direct-action organization of queer youth of color. She said she does not hang out in the Lakeview area because she "doesn't want to become a statistic" of trans youth who are targeted by police. "Cops and police and people just always think [trans youth] are up to no good because they're trying to be something that they're not," she said.

But, she said, many of her peers do not have a choice.

"Being a queer youth of color, there aren't really places to go," she said.

Police officials have declined to comment on the issue outside of LGBT community forums, but local organizations like Lakeview Action Coalition have been working with CPD to draft a policy on respectful treatment of transgender people.

Lois Bates, the transgender care manager at Howard Brown Health Center, confirmed that she too has heard reports of police harassment. But she said that transgender people need to start "holding those systems accountable" by reporting incidents of police harassment and hate violence.

"Some trans people think this happened but there's no use in saying anything because no one will do anything," she said. "When we talk about reporting abuse, it's on us as a community to change our minds and do what we need to do to make this happen."

Daniel-McCarter also blames the state.



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Images from past Worlds of Chocolate include a chocolate Chicago skyline (far left) and rows of tiramisu. Photos by Andrew Davis and Kat Fitzgerald

## AFC's sinfully sweet 'World' is coming

BY ROSS FORMAN

It's billed, rightfully so, as the tastiest event of the year.

World of Chocolate is the AIDS Foundation of Chicago's (AFC) annual holiday fundraising event held in commemoration of World AIDS Day. World of Chocolate is set for Thursday, Dec. 2, 6-10 p.m., at the Hilton Chicago, 720 S. Michigan.

About 1,600 are expected to attend the annual chocolate fest, eating gourmet sweets—and hoping to raise about \$200,000 for the fight against AIDS.

"Who doesn't love chocolate?" said Mark Ishaug, AFC president. "What a great way to draw attention to AIDS, both locally and globally, and what a great way to kick off the holiday season. You are no longer stuffed from Thanksgiving, and you have not yet overloaded on other holiday sweets. The timing is ideal.

"World of Chocolate has the best chocolate makers in Chicago and beyond, all donating their time and talent, and AFC board member Tom Kehoe transforms the lovely Hilton Hotel ballroom into a magical and festive party for 1,600 people."

Attendees can sample scrumptious chocolate creations from more than 30 of Chicagoland's finest restaurants, caterers and chocolatiers. Chocolate vendors create the delicacies to compete for top honors in several categories, judged by local celebrities.

World of Chocolate also features entertainment, a raffle, an open bar and a light buffet.

Plus, this year's event features Fritz Knipschildt, a native of Denmark, who moved to the

United States in 1996 and founded Knipschildt Chocolatier LLC in 1999 and café Chocopologie in 2005. Knipschildt will serve as the 2010 Honorary Chair and celebrity judge for World of Chocolate.

"This is the 9th annual [World of Chocolate] event to commemorate World AIDS Day," Ishaug said. "Our World AIDS Day commemoration event used to be called All the Trimmings, but Mike Dilbeck, our current Team to End AIDS (T2EA) director and former director of fundraising events came up with the World of Chocolate idea. World AIDS Day, World of Chocolate—get it? Clever that one, huh? I think we 'borrowed' the idea of such an event from another city. It was not a World AIDS Day event, but a Valentine's Day event, I believe.

"The one highlight [from past World of Chocolate events] that everyone still raves about was the Adonis-like man covered in nothing but chocolate. Everybody thought he was hot—very hot."

The 2009 World of Chocolate raised more than \$180,000.

The 2010 event is co-chaired by Glen Pietradoni, Jim Perry and Ben Stringfellow, and has more host committee members than ever before, Ishaug said.

World of Chocolate has, in total, raised more than \$1 million—money that goes to supporting AFC's advocacy, grant-making and community education programs.

But how do you not gain 20 pounds at the event?

"Everything in moderation. Pace yourself," Ishaug said. "I love it all at World of Chocolate. I sample a piece or two or three from every vendor. Thank goodness I train for marathons and triathlons. In fact, we'll be signing people up that night for Team to End AIDS."

**For more information or to purchase tickets for World of Chocolate, go to <http://www.aidschicago.org/home/index.php>.**

## World AIDS Day events

—Chicago State University (Dec. 1): A panel discussion; musical performance featuring Lee England, Jr.; and a health expo will start at 12 p.m. in the Student Union Building (Rotunda Room). Call Ivonne Anguh at 773-995-2554

—New Birth Christian Center (Dec. 1): HIV Awareness and Testing Day will take place 10 a.m.-7 p.m. at 5335 W. LeMoyné. There will be entertainment and a coat giveaway. There will also be a family action planning dinner/training on Dec. 3, 6-8:30 p.m. Contact Tasha Wilkerson or Avanti Hall at 773-261-7404.

—Altars VIDA/SIDA (Dec. 1): This event will be followed by a candlelight vigil. It will start at La Casita de Don Pedro Albizu Campos, 2625 W. Division, at 4:30 p.m. Call 773-278-6737.

—St. Joseph's Parish (Dec. 1): There will be

a prayer service at 6 p.m. at the parish, 1107 N. Orleans. Call 312-787-7174.

—World AIDS Day 2010 Gospel Concert (Dec. 1): South Side Help Center and New Covenant Baptist Church will present free HIV testing at 6 p.m.; the show starts at 7 p.m. It all takes place at 754 E. 77th; call 773-410-4820 or see <http://www.sshcworldaidsday.eventbrite.com>.

—"Light for Rights" (Dec. 1): The Chicago School of Professional Psychology and Test Positive Aware Network (TPAN) will present an event at The Chicago School, 325 N. Wells, #407. There will be a discussion and vigil.

—"Behind the Red Curtains: Monologues on HIV" (Dec. 3): Rush University Medical Center's Section of Infectious Diseases and The Red Pump Project are sponsoring this event, which is taking place at Room 43, 1041 E. 43rd, 7-8:30 p.m. Everyone is encouraged to wear red—pumps or ties. E-mail [craig\\_johnson@rush.edu](mailto:craig_johnson@rush.edu) or [luvvie@theredpumpproject.com](mailto:luvvie@theredpumpproject.com).

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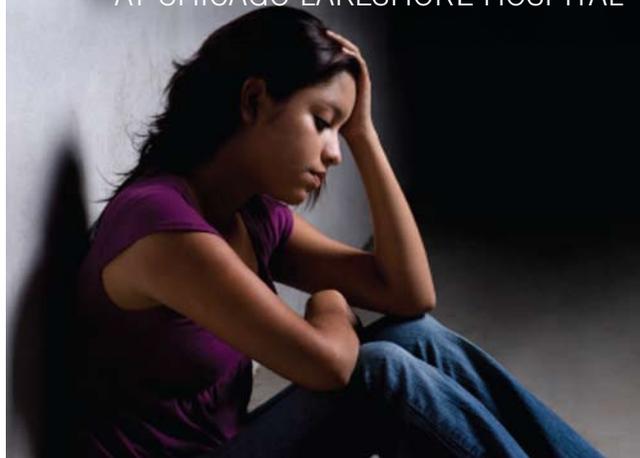
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# A look back: Mayor Harold Washington discusses gay rights

BY TRACY BAIM

The following interview with Mayor Harold Washington ran in the Sept. 4, 1986 edition of *Windy City Times*. We're running it now as part of the *Windy City Times*' 25th anniversary year, and also as a look-back at Washington's response to gay issues as Mayor Richard M. Daley serves his last term. Our 2010 interview with Mayor Daley ran in last week's *Windy City Times*. Washington was re-elected to a second term in 1987, but he died Nov. 25, 1987. Ald. David Orr replaced him short-term, and then Ald. Eugene Sawyer was selected by the City Council to serve as mayor until an election could be held in 1989. Sawyer lost that primary election to Richard M. Daley, who went on to win the general election that spring.

Chicago Mayor Harold Washington is approaching his first re-election campaign. Given the highly charged atmosphere of Chicago politics, the race has already begun to heat up. He will be facing former Mayor Jane Byrne and possibly State's Attorney Richard Daley. As during the last election, racial issues will be a major factor in this campaign. In fact, racial motives are already being claimed in the push for a November referendum on a non-partisan election.

Washington's record shows his long-time support of gay and lesbian rights and rights for all people, and he has supported such legislation not only in the City Council but in other legislative bodies. However, despite his position as Mayor and despite having 25 of 50 aldermen on "his" side of the City Council, the non-discrimination based on "sexual orientation" amendment to the city's Human Rights Code failed 30-18 (two absent) on July 29. Sixteen of the "yes" votes were from Washington's 25 aldermen.

In an interview with *Windy City Times* Aug. 21, Washington discussed his views of gay and lesbian civil rights, why the rights ordinance failed, AIDS funding, gay and lesbian political clout, and his campaign for re-election as mayor. Washington seemed at ease and matter-of-fact in discussing his policies on civil rights. However, the interview took place during the intense battle over the non-partisan election bid, and his mind seemed pinned on that issue—angered at what he calls a racist attempt to removing him from office. Washington, the man, supports

civil rights. Washington, the Mayor, said he can promise us nothing, but that he will work toward obtaining civil rights for all people.

Following are excerpts from his interview with *Windy City Times*.

**Windy City Times: Why do you think the ordinance failed July 29?**

Harold Washington: I'm not being facetious, it just didn't have enough votes.

**WCT: Do you think it would have passed earlier in the month had Joseph Cardinal Bernardin not released his statement [opposing the legislation]?**

Washington: My guess is that based upon a non-scientific head count, it was close to passage. At that point I couldn't guarantee ... there were some swing votes in there. Clearly, the Cardinal's position had something to do with the attrition.

**WCT: What were some of the reasons you couldn't pull in line all 25 of "your" aldermen in support of the ordinance? What were some of the reasons some of them did not come forward in support?**

Washington: To be very blunt about it, it was never the most popular legislation that came down the pike and many of the 25 in our group were borderline cases in the first place. As you probably know, there's a strong opposition to civil rights for gays in the black community and a small segment of the religious community, and that was visited upon some of the members. There was a hodgepodge of reasons. What were there, 18 votes ... and 16 came from our side.

**WCT: What did you say to some of the aldermen on your side between July 9 [the original date the ordinance was set for vote. but one day after Bernardin's letter on the bill] and July 29? What were some of your lobbying techniques? Did you actively try to get passage?**

Washington: I said I'd bring down Thor on their heads if they didn't vote for it. I used every technique one could use on those matters ... depending upon the person. There are some issues on which you can bring pressure and some you cannot. It's a question of judgment on which you judge to do that, and I feel it was not one to do that.

**WCT: For example, on unpopular taxes, there's a way to bring people in line, but on moral issues ...**

Washington: You can make that distinction, it may not be on that line. It depends on what issue, it depends on the vulnerability of particular aldermen, the strength of opposition or support in his ward, his own proclivities, how he feels about those, his commitment to civil rights, there's a whole varied checklist of things. It's not a simple matter to say he did it for this reason or that reason. That's the art of legislation. When you get right down to it it's very difficult to explain a position or write a treatise. We did what we could.

**WCT: After it failed, you said this was not your bill, that the aldermen voted their conscience. Can you explain?**

Washington: It was not my legislation, it had been around for what, 10 years? No, I was not the author of it, but I supported it. When I say one voted their conscience, that's a phrase that covers a gamut of motivations which you cannot articulate, which I've been trying to explain.

**WCT: With the exception of Ald. Marlene Carter, the aldermen on your side who did not vote for the ordinance were people who were in office before you were elected, and that may have influenced some of the votes.**

Washington: I'd hadn't heard about that ... give me some names.



Mayor Harold Washington greets former Mayor Jane Byrne, with Sen. Paul Simon on the right, in the 1980s.

**WCT: Wilson Frost, Marion Humes and others that may have been aligned with [Mayor Jane] Byrne before you came into office.**

Washington: I never made that distinction. I never analyzed it that way. The newer aldermen, people like the black aldermen, they're inclined to support it because they come with a certain sort of, shall we say, progressive stripe. They may not be hung up on civil rights.

**WCT: What about Marlene Carter?**

Washington: I couldn't speak for Marlene Carter.

**WCT: Have you talked to any of the aldermen since the vote, specifically Carter?**

Washington: As to why they didn't vote? No, I haven't.

**WCT: Do you consider this an important enough issue towards the next election to try to convince some of the people you support that this is an issue?**

Washington: I consider every issue of civil rights important. It transcends this issue, it's a part of me. I didn't put on this coat because I am mayor. I consider myself one of the foremost authorities and proponents and advocates of civil rights in this country. I never made any distinction between groupings. Yes, it's a commitment to me.

**WCT: Do you think that [your support of gay and lesbian civil rights] is going to hurt you in the next election?**

Washington: Why should it?

**WCT: Some people, for example at [Ald. Ed Smith's] 28th Ward meeting the week before the vote said they will work against anybody that supports the ordinance.**

Washington: I'm not concerned about that. I think people in the main who support me are sophisticated enough not to judge me on the basis of one posture which they do not approve of. I doubt that very strongly.

**WCT: What about some of the Evangelical ministers? Rev. Hiram Crawford ...**

Washington: ... Don't misgauge the vehemence of Rev. Crawford, and translate that to other ministers of the cloth.

**WCT: In Ed Smith's ward, there were several Evangelical ministers [who said they would be against anyone who would support gay rights] ...**

Washington: I know those men ...

**WCT: You don't think it's going to influence the election at all?**

Washington: I don't think it's going to be any major issue among those people who are in-

clined to support human rights.

**WCT: On Cardinal Bernardin. What went on in the meeting you had with him before the vote? Was there any agreement as far as you supporting an amendment to the bill?**

Washington: I don't want to go into my discussion with Cardinal Bernardin. Suffice to say his posture publicly was more or less same that he said to me.

**WCT: What role do you perceive your gay and lesbian liaison, Kit Duffy, as serving in relation to your administration and the gay and lesbian community? Do you see that role expanding at all in the next few years?**

Washington: Yes. There is a question of education, of one becoming more familiar with certain segments of the community. For example, I'm not an authority on Mexicans, or Puerto Ricans, gays and lesbians ... I'm not even an authority on black people. So I have liaisons who are constantly informing me as to just what should and should not be done in terms of various people's rights.

**WCT: Are those volunteers? Is Kit Duffy a volunteer?**

Washington: In the main, yes. [Duffy's liaison role is entirely volunteer.] I find those are the most valuable. Those who do it because of commitment are more inclined to do it, from where I'm sitting, with a degree of sincerity, than those who do it for pay. That may sound unfair. The question of gay rights and gay problems, of how police respond to known gays and lesbians within their own community, the arrogance and brutality, these kinds of things are disturbing. And they're subtle sometimes, you don't always see them. You need someone on top of these kinds of things. With the advent of AIDS and things of that nature, obviously one must be abreast of them, and you have to have someone who is aware of them. It's nothing unusual to effect a liaison with a particular constituency. We will continue to do that in the same sense that we brought in for the first time a Commission for Women. That was never done in the City of Chicago. I've known women all my life, and I consider myself an authority on women, but on a broader scale, I don't really understand the concerns of women. Same with Hispanics, we were the first to do that. We have an Asians task force. Our purpose is to reach out to alienated groups, for whatever reason it is, try to bring them involved with the government, under the protection of government, which includes ultimately civil rights.



The original Harold Washington interview ran in the Sept. 4, 1986 *Windy City Times*. The Washington photo was taken by William Burks.



Washington speaks at the post-pride rally in 1987. Photo by Tracy Baim

**WCT: On your Committee on Gay and Lesbian Issues: Have you had much contact with them? What role do you see them as serving?**

Washington: I suppose it's being ever-expanded. I don't have any day-to-day direct contact with them. I talk mainly with Duffy on matters of this ...

**WCT: On Duffy, what about the statement by [Rev. James.P.] Roache [vicar general and moderator of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Chicago] asking you for an apology for Duffy on something that was said in a private session. Has something come of that?**

Washington: I got the letter, belatedly, unfortunately, and the press approached me before I had seen the letter, and I thought they were joking at first ... I simply said I saw no reason why anyone should apologize for a statement made in private. Whether it's a member of the cloth or not. I'm not going to get embroiled in that, that's a personal matter. In the public life, if you're involved in a controversial matter and your feelings are hurt, you have to take care of it yourself.

**WCT: Can you explain your Executive Order [a reinforcement of a Byrne order which protected gays in city employment, but which Washington added enforcement capabilities to]? It was soon after you got into office, but it wasn't really made that public. What does it cover?**

Washington: I don't recall all that. [At this point, a Mayor's staff person agreed to get a copy of the Executive Order.]

**WCT: On AIDS funding. Can you explain how you view the disease in this city? Relative to other cities with similar numbers of AIDS cases per population, Chicago's economic reaction has been much smaller and much slower.**

Washington: I understand we're third highest in terms of patient dollars. Some of those dollars are not obvious. For example, year before last it was \$100,000, last year \$200,000 ... but if you count the services over and above that it would go to a much higher bracket. But even at that, I understand we're about third. It may be a poor third ...

Our problem's not there [with appropriations], our problem is very bluntly how to best utilize whatever dollars ... I must confess to you I'm not satisfied we know that answer ... We're going to try and find out. We're coming to a budgetary period now and we want to know some answers. It is a matter that needs to be addressed I think more forcefully, and we'll do that. In the area of counseling and prevention, I think we've at least broken the ice. We're reassessing the whole thing right now.

**WCT: What do you think are some of the best ways to spend money on AIDS? Are you at all familiar with the issue?**

Washington: Yes, I'm familiar with the issue ... . But I'm not an authority ... . Education, research, direct services provided, it depends and varies with the neighborhood you're talking about. In certain parts of the Hispanic and black communities it's a tragic, tragic sight. And because the institutions therein, the economics therein, it's more difficult to provide services for such people no matter what the cause or what the problem. Suffice to say we're reassessing this whole business. I'm not satisfied ... that anybody really knows how to go about this problem. I don't have the slightest idea, and I'd like for somebody to tell me, what is the real role of the city ... in terms of dollars, in terms of commitment. We want to be involved in part of the solution to the problem. But I haven't seen anybody who knew; everybody I've talked to is somewhat vague, all haughty when you don't understand as much about the problem as they do. There seems to be some resentment on the part of those who have a strong commitment to AIDS, and those who are trying to learn. It doesn't turn me off, but it does upset me. I would be delighted if someone could direct me. Or my staff.

**WCT: As far as with Jane Byrne. Do you think having the vote taken July 29 has helped you in relation to Jane Byrne's campaign? As far as having an actual vote taken during your administration.**

Washington: Oh, comparisons can be odious, but whenever you compare me to Jane Byrne, I'm gonna pick up some votes. I mean, the lady lacks substance ...

**WCT: On the ordinance, she did not come up with any stance ...**

Washington: You're not surprised are you? [Laughter.]

**WCT: Do you think that means you may pick up votes in the gay community?**

Washington: I couldn't speak [for the gay community] ... I wouldn't presume upon the gay community insofar as their political views are concerned. Insofar as the constituency, obviously I wish to appeal to them as a public servant, to represent them as I do other constituencies. Where I stand right now [with gays and lesbians] I don't really know.

**WCT: In your campaign for mayor, do you think one of things you can promise is passage of gay and lesbian civil rights?**

Washington: As far as passage of it? No, I wouldn't lie. I don't do things like that. I tell people I will work toward, I will do my best ... I don't tell anyone I will pass something that I don't know I can do that. I'm candid to a fault ... but it pays. That's where you establish credibility, and that's where you avoid the contradictions that politicians fall into.

**WCT: Do you think there are other things you can do differently [next time] as far as making passage more possible?**

Washington: It's possible, yes. We have to reassess this whole business of why it didn't pass. It's not going to be easy. There seems to be a national trend against civil rights matters for the protections of gays and lesbians. We need to look at others cities. We need to think hard about the role of the various religious organizations and their opposition to it; it's not going to be simple. We need to take a hard look at it and renew our attempts to get it passed.

**WCT: In 1985 at the Gay and Lesbian Pride Rally, you had said that one of the major blockages to getting the ordinance passed was the Vrdolyak "29" [block of aldermen] because you couldn't get anything through. ... And then this past Gay and Lesbian Pride Rally, you said you were going to work 100**

# Windy City Times

Volume 2, Number 18

Chicago's Gay and Lesbian Newsweekly

January 29, 1987

## Hundreds attend Washington event

Incumbent Democratic Mayor Harold Washington Jan. 24 affirmed his commitment to gay and lesbian rights in front of a crowd of nearly 400 supporters. The reception was organized by Lesbians and Gays for Washington and featured speeches by Jean Hardisty of Midwest Research, Tim Offutt of the Kupon Network, and "Gay S" organizer Frank Kellas, who gave a

rousing speech in support of Washington over challenger Jane Byrne. Scheduled keynote speaker Elaine Noble was unable to leave Boston due to heavy snows.

Washington spoke of ethical and financial leadership in his speech, and said "We're going to fight for the gay ordinance," adding that his administration has the singular purpose that says "we'll make the city run properly for everybody."



Washington supporters cheer the mayor's commitment to the gay and lesbian rights ordinance. Photos: Tracy Baim



Washington (left) with Gloria Chevere, the mayor's endorsed candidate for city clerk, at last week's Lesbians and Gays for Washington reception, held at the Bismarck.

This Windy City Times article reported on a gay rally for Mayor Harold Washington in 1987. Photos by Tracy Baim

percent behind it and it appears that there might be a much more solid chance, because you had a majority, with your vote. What do you say to the people you told in 1985 that Vrdolyak was the main obstacle to it? What was the main obstacle this time?

Washington: [In 1985] Vrdolyak wasn't the obstacle, the 29 was. That's still true. They only provided two votes. Two votes, one from [Jerry] Orbach and one from [Bernie] Hansen, for obvious reasons [they have heavily gay wards]. If you look at the make-up of the wards from whence the others come, you can draw your own conclusions as to why you got no support. You have a tough job. The mayor's not going to wave a magic wand with all of his I power and drive and commitment and get it passed. It's going to be a tough, tough job.

**WCT: You had said [before the July 29 vote] that you possibly agreed to amendments to the bill. Is that true?**

Washington: To say I agreed to amendments, no, that's not true. What I did say is that the Cardinal had raised an issue which had to be dealt with, that it might well be the area of accommodation, which could get it passed, or some such euphemism.

**WCT: Do you think an amendment, with a religious exemption, might have created a two-tiered system of civil rights ... that gays and lesbians would still not have full civil rights?**

Washington: No, the amendment didn't go to exempting anything, it went to explaining, clarifying what the ordinance did.

**WCT: One of the proposed amendments exempted the church.**

Washington: No, I was not addressing that [amendment].

**WCT: Getting to the personal attacks leveled at you by the Chicago Tribune ... what was your reaction to those? [The Tribune, in an article and an editorial, reported "innuendos" which questioned the mayor's sexual orientation.]**

Washington: Attacks? Would you testify to that, that they were attacks?

**WCT: I would say that they were attacks. I wouldn't say that they were negative necessarily, but they were done in the light of being an attack. Of course I wouldn't consider sexual orientation an attack. What was your reaction to that? We considered it an attack**

because they were doing it in a negative light. We don't consider anybody's sexual orientation negative, but the way they were doing it ...

Washington: I might add that I consider it the same way. They were attacks in the sense that they were trying to give an impression of me that wasn't true. I'm a black man, I don't want to be called white. Nothing wrong with being white, they tell me. [Laughter.]

**WCT: As far as reacting to [the Tribune] ... you just let it go?**

Washington: In this business, you better. You wonder about the minds of men, how low they'll stoop. But you can't get hung up on that. In this business if you're a successful male politician, somewhere along the line some slug is gonna call you something you ain't. It doesn't make you happy.

Why'd you ask me that question?

**WCT: Because we considered it a very immature reaction. That [the Tribune] has not done [similar "reporting"] on other politicians in this city or state. We considered that an irrelevant attack on the civil rights ordinance, and on you.**

Washington: That shows you, no matter how big you get, if you're black you got some serious problems in this country, which explains, I hope it explains, my own commitment to civil rights for everyone. I don't need any elections to support gays and their rights. I don't need an election to be a defender and supporter of women and Hispanics. It's natural.

**WCT: As far as the election next February, are you going to be targeting the gay and lesbian community? Campaigning, using gay and lesbian civil rights as a major issue as part of your campaign?**

Washington: Should I?

**WCT: Of course I think you should, I think we do have a force in this city to be reckoned with. Do you consider the voting power of the gay and lesbian community powerful enough to be looking for?**

Washington: Certainly. I wasn't shocked when [Sen. Edward] Kennedy, [Sen. Gary] Hart and others went to the gay and lesbian convention four or five years ago. It's pretty clear that the gay and lesbian community is becoming a potent—of course it's not there yet—political force in this country, and anyone who doesn't recognize it is not going to be in office, it's just that simple. That's the crass aspect of it.

**WCT: One final thing, Jane Byrne says she supports gays and lesbians, too. What can you do differently than Byrne would do for us?**

Washington: If she supported, why did she disappear? Because the Cardinal spoke? She couldn't have any more respect for the Cardinal than I do.



A button for Washington's re-election in 1987.

# Charlotte Newfeld: Activist turns 80 —and stays engaged

BY JOSEPH ERBENTRAUT

Whenever you ask someone about longtime LGBT ally, activist/artist and proud Lakeview resident Charlotte Newfeld, many phrases tend to pop up again and again: She's tenacious and dedicated, they say. Hardworking and determined, they reiterate. And, above all, she's not afraid to mince words.

That steadfast dedication to human rights and environmental issues, in particular, has been a consistent force for three decades of activism leading up through today for Newfeld, who celebrates her 80th birthday Nov. 26. Although the city where she calls home has come a long way since she first arrived here in the 1950s, she will be the first to tell you there is plenty of work ahead for the LGBT movement both here and across the country.

"I think of every day in my life as a celebration that I'm still doing everything that I wanted to do, or at least enough of those things," Newfeld told Windy City Times. "I'm looking forward to the next day and the next year and all the things that still need to be done. As the expression goes, don't look back because something might be gaining on you."

Newfeld described her first awareness of the gay community as arriving during her graduate school years at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, which she attended until 1951. Studying art, Newfeld came to know many fellow students and staff who identified as gay and feared open knowledge of their sexuality could end their academic careers. All left-leaning liberal types, she said, lived in fear of being targeted during the days where McCarthyism had only just begun to take root.

"It became obvious to me that there were unbelievable prejudices and many people had to be in the closet in order to survive," she said. "It was really terrifying, particularly for people in the arts and music building, and anybody who was a left liberal. Everybody was really frightened and it hit me so hard why these wonderful people should have these problems."

Upon arriving in Chicago, Newfeld worked to establish her career as an artist, exhibiting in art shows and finding an Old Town studio space with the help of several gay artists. She later wrote columns for "gay rag" GayLife, encouraging gay men and lesbians to register to vote and become involved in politics. In 1982, she took up the cause herself when she ran for city council in the historic 46th Ward, holding her primary victory party at His 'n Hers, a gay bar.



Charlotte Newfeld. Photo by Hal Baim

"Once it started, it never stopped," Newfeld said. Although she lost the aldermanic election in a run-off by the tiniest of margins—66 votes—she soon found other avenues for activism, remembering the LGBT community every step along the way and garnering a laundry list of achievements.

As vice chair, she lobbied for the Chicago Commission on Women's first-ever openly lesbian appointee, typesetter Sarah Craig. She further worked with then-mayor Harold Washington to establish the mayor's Committee on Gay and Lesbian Issues and lobbied for the passage of the city's gay-inclusive human rights ordinance. She later joined the effort pressuring Mayor Daley to increase funding for services and education on AIDS, working alongside pioneering activists like Danny Sotomayor and Art Johnston. In 1996, she was inducted as a friend of the community into the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame.

Longtime friend Lori Cannon, co-founder and program coordinator of Vital Bridges, said Newfeld represents "the best of old-school politics."

"She knows where the bodies are buried and she's not afraid to name names," Cannon said. "This is a woman who knows her community and has never betrayed it. Community organizing is her strong suit and heaven help anyone who dares to get in her way."

Congressman Mike Quigley and 44th Ward Alderman Tom Tunney both acknowledged they have not always agreed with Newfeld on every

issue but both respect her dedication to her community. Tunney described Newfeld as "indispensable ... a matriarch of the Lakeview community."

"Charlotte is the marathon runner of community activism," Quigley said. "She is who she is, no filter, no hesitation, no apologies. She shows democracy is not a spectator sport and I think we can learn a lot from [her] tenacity and consistency."

"The community would be better off if we had more people like her," Quigley added.

Today, Newfeld occupies much of her time as the project director of the Bill Jarvis Migratory Bird Sanctuary, located just east of Lake Shore Drive at Addison, walking distance from her home of the past 45 years. Known to some as "the Jarvis Earth mother," she oversees a fleet of volunteers who keep up the sanctuary's eight acres. She said she "couldn't be prouder" to see how the project has matured since she first took it on.

She also, expectedly, remains active in the city's political circles and said she is keeping a close eye on the upcoming city elections, including the same aldermanic race for which she once ran. Newfeld supports openly gay aldermanic candidate Don Nowotny in that race. As for the mayoral race, she said she's been impressed by both Carol Moseley-Braun and Miguel del Valle. Rahm Emanuel, Newfeld said, has a background on human rights that is "not very strong for the community."

No matter which candidates succeed in February, Newfeld is hopeful city leadership will protect reasonable low-income housing for North Side residents feeling the pinch of increased rents and continued gentrification in Lakeview and Uptown. She also hoped HIV/AIDS funding will remain a priority and not be "lost in the shuffle" as lawmakers strive to trim the state budget.

Above all, she hopes the LGBT community will remain engaged in the political process, resisting the urge to give in to apathy and disappointment, which she shares, with the Obama administration. She hopes younger activists will stay informed and engaged, as they lead the next generation of the movement she holds dear.

"It's always been the complaint that the younger people just don't get it, but they got involved with Obama and they'll get involved again," Newfeld said.

"You'd better get your act together, because the other side certainly isn't going to help you," Newfeld added, regarding gay voters considering staying home from the polls in future elections. "There's no question [Obama is] the game in town and we have to stay there with him. There's still a lot we can and must do."

## Madeleine Albright to speak at Chicago House luncheon

BY ROSS FORMAN

Stan Sloan, the CEO of Chicago House and Social Service Agency, knew his crew would face a tough task for its second-annual Speakers Series Luncheon.

After all, they had President Bill Clinton as their inaugural speaker in 2009.

"From the time we booked President Clinton last year, people were saying, 'It is going to be tough to follow this event up...,' but we knew that President Clinton would pave the way for great speakers to follow, and Madeleine Albright is just the first of those," Sloan said. "The success we felt due to last year's event has thankfully spilled over to assist in the planning of this year's (event), and we are confident that this year's will spill over into next year's. The event aims to encourage discussion and inspire donors in a way our other fundraising events can't, and we hope to bring a new and diverse perspective to lead that discussion each year. We will have to wait and see who we get for future years, but our hope is to involve speakers from the sports, media and entertainment worlds as well as from the political worlds. HIV/AIDS and homelessness know no boundaries. We similarly want our speakers to attract people of all ages and interests."

Albright is the former secretary of state who, in 1997, was named the first female secretary of state and became, at that time, the highest-ranking woman in the history of the U.S. government. As secretary of state, Albright reinforced the United States' alliances, advocated democracy and human rights and promoted American trade and business, labor and environmental standards abroad.

Albright will speak Thursday, Dec. 9, at the Palmer House Hilton, 17 E. Monroe, starting at 11:30 a.m.

"Albright continues to be a prophetic voice in discussing the role of America in the world and the implications of that role on our citizens and domestic policy," Sloan said. "HIV/AIDS and homelessness are the major issues addressed by Chicago House, and to have Madeleine Albright with us to help explore the economic implications of our country's policies both domestically and abroad will be perfect in these difficult economic times, and the perfect platform to discuss the state of HIV and AIDS 25 years after our founding."

The Chicago House board of directors met after last year's Speaker Series and compiled a long list of potential candidates for 2010. "Dr. Albright's affiliation with our inaugural speaker, and our board member Todd Hamilton's connection to the Clinton Global Initiative made her a likely next choice," Sloan said. "We were thrilled when Madeleine Albright enthusiastically responded to the call placed by our Special Events Manager, and we can't wait to hear what she has to say."

Sloan confirmed they had "several irons in the fire for this year's event," yet scheduling conflicts knocked many out of the running, "but Madeleine Albright was always at the top of our list."

Sloan added: "We have a major network newscaster who heard about the event and wanted to come for it, but was unable to commit with certainty since he is frequently sent overseas to cover major issues. Instead, he has volunteered to do a smaller and more spontaneous event on a date that he is otherwise in Chicago. If he is able to arrange a trip here, we plan to use that event as a personal 'thank you' for our many corporate sponsors and table captains of this event. We similarly considered other celebrities and po-



The Jon-Henri Award Charlotte Newfeld received in 2006; Newfeld accepts. Photos by Tracy Baim

# Goldenrod Records: Facing the music

BY MICKI LEVENTHAL

Terry Grant started Goldenrod Distribution, the only remaining distributor dedicated to women's music, 35 years ago. The Lansing, Mich.-based business grew with the genre, continuing to develop, support and promote emerging talent as technology shifted from vinyl and tape to CD, and artists like Indigo Girls, Melissa Etheridge and k.d. lang found their voice in the mainstream.

On Saturday, Dec. 4, Grant and her staff will fling open the doors to Goldenrod for the company's last open house. The annual free event features sale specials on CDs, door prizes, food and an auction of archival music. Ellis, Nedra Johnson, Nervous but Excited and Sally Potter will provide entertainment for the bittersweet celebration.

In addition to her distribution business, the entrepreneurial Grant ventured into record production for several years in the late 1990s and early 2000s, producing music under the label Goldenrod Records. "It was a partnership between [national sales manager] Susan Frazier and I," explained Grant, who is retiring from her role as company president. "It was under the Goldenrod Records label; we had Trete Fure, Chris Williamson and Nedra Johnson, but we haven't continued that aspect."

Although women's music fans know Goldenrod best through face-to-face contact at festivals such as MichFest and National Women's Music Festival or direct purchase from their catalog, Goldenrod's primary revenue stream has always been through wholesale distribution.

From large customers such as Borders to small independent enterprises such as the still-surviving Val's Halla in Oak Park or the now-defunct Atomic Records in Milwaukee, Goldenrod has been the distributor for a music catalog of about 2,000 titles representing between 700 and 800 artists.

That's the part of the business that has been steadily dwindling and "is probably not going to happen anymore," said Grant. "Wholesale for us has a really small margin; on a good sale we might make 30 percent. And, so many of our bread-and-butter stores, hundreds of independent stores, have closed. We don't have a single independent record store left in Lansing."

It's the digital revolution that has primarily done in the wholesale base for Goldenrod. "Demographically, you buy more music in your 20s and 30s than you buy at any other time in your life," said Grant. "They move into their 40s and they're not buying music like we used to, and they're downloading the songs they want. Therefore, stores aren't selling, so we're not selling. Even I buy music online now."

"Our plans at the moment, which are still fluid, are to continue our web sales of CDs to end users and to continue our retail representation at concerts, arts festivals and music festival coverage." They do not plan to get into online sales of digital music. "We'd make five to 10 cents each, and it's just not worth it for the volume of music we sell of any one song," said Grant.

She added, "We have about four different things in process and we are not sure which ones are going to happen. Hopefully, we'll have everything worked out by the end of the year."

"For five years we've been struggling intensely as a business and I just haven't wanted to leave some of these artists without distribution," Grant said. "Now so many artists have their own websites."

Grant explained that one of the functions



Terry Grant. Photo by Sue Emmert

of Goldenrod's website has been as a resource where fans could visit; learn about new releases and emerging artists; sample the music; and decide what they wanted to buy. She then said, "The problem is going to be you'll be able to get Ellis' music, but will you know anything about Ellis?"

Grant simply does not know if that level of resource will continue to be available on the Goldenrod site: "We plan to keep a portal of some sort and some sales on it, but whether we will be able to do the same level of representation on our site, I don't know."

The jury is still out as to the level of catalog offerings, but they most likely will be reduced, and the big question is who's in and who's out. "We have two 'versions' of the new catalog," Grant said. "One version is that you can get the Indigo Girls anywhere you want to, so we don't feel so bad if we don't have that. On the other hand, it's one that really sells. There's a lot of decision making here. It's a daily struggle, balancing what's feasible economically and the commitment to emerging artists."

New space is another decision that looms. The existing, and soon-to-be-too-big, warehouse, listening room and office in the gentrifying old town district of Lansing is owned by Grant and she's looking to rent it out after the first of the year, while retaining office space there for her tax-accounting business—a venture that has helped sustain Goldenrod over the decades.

The realities of the economy, the folding of their brick and mortar customer base and the digital downloads have combined to force this decision. "When I started Goldenrod, I was a member of the National Association of Independent Record Distributors," Grant said. "There were hundreds of members. We would get together annually for a conference—it was huge. There'd be panels and teachings and discussions. Now I would say there might be three or four or five distribution companies left across the board—not just women's music. Women's music was just a very small segment. Now that organization no longer even exists. The only reason we are still in business is that we have a niche market and we've been very focused."

While Grant is retiring from her leadership role at Goldenrod and Frazier will take over the scaled-down business, Grant will continue to work with the company "at festivals and things I love to do like work the Sweet Honey [In The Rock] shows. I just won't be tearing my hair out over the budgets." Transition, business and legal paperwork is in process.

(Incidentally, Frazier is doing well, continuing to undergo follow-up after her successful bone-marrow transplant. She is back to work part-time and looks forward to continuing her work with Goldenrod after the business transition. Windy City Times' profile of Frazier, who is battling cancer, is at <http://www.windycitymediagroup.com/gay/lesbian/news/ARTICLE.php?AID=25796>.)

Grant will also maintain her 800-client tax practice. In her spare time, she does have big travel plans with Sue Emmert, her partner of 34 years. "She's 65 and a retired nurse and nursing professor and she said if I don't start traveling

and playing with her and stop working so much she's going to do it without me," Grant said. "That got my attention. We have a VW van—our second. We've had one since we got together. When we were young together we traveled a couple hundred thousand miles in our first van. Now, we plan to do short camping trips, some longer trips, canoe trips and probably some international travel."

"My tax business is about 90 hours a week during tax season; if I'm awake I'm working. But the rest of the year, I have another professional in my office and we'll swap off who needs to be there, so I should have some nice chunks of time to be away and relax and hang out with Sue, who has also been involved in women's music

over the years; she travelled many concerts and festival with me."

About 350 people attended the Goldenrod open house last year and Grant hopes some Chicago women will road trip up to Lansing for the finale: "It's a party we've thrown for 20 years and we have a great time. Sue's other talent is food. She could be a professional caterer if she wanted and she does the food for the party—the spread will be pretty stunning."

**Goldenrod's Final Open House will take place Saturday, Dec. 4, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. 1310 Turner, Lansing, Mich. No reservations are necessary; visit <http://www.goldenrod.com> or call 517-484-1712.**

## ALBRIGHT from page 18

litical types who we feel will be fascinating to hear speak, and many of those are back in the running for next year's event."

Sloan said future Speakers Series events will be held in the fall, if possible, based on the speaker's schedule.

"Madeleine Albright is a dynamic, knowledgeable and inspirational speaker and I believe (the LGBT) community, and every community, will enjoy her perspectives on poverty and the link between HIV and homelessness," Sloan said. "In this time of economic hardship, I think all communities are being choosier philanthropically. The LGBT community has an unprecedented history of taking care of its own. It was through grassroots support and townhall meetings that Chicago House and many of our partner organizations were founded. Twenty-five years later, I believe that although we're well established, our donors still want to be part of the process and part of the conversation. Any sense of connectedness they can feel to the cause can only make us all stronger."

"Dr. Albright can bring a global and perspective to validate something that our local community has been working together to solve for 25 years. As with the Clinton event, we are confident that people will leave the event inspired and more hopeful about the sum of the issues that affect us all."

Funds raised from the Albright event will help Chicago House, which provides housing and support services to over 1,100 men, women, and children each year. Funds from the Speaker Series Luncheon, as well as from all Chicago House annual signature events, provide opportunities for growth of essential programs while allowing Chicago House to serve those who might otherwise fall through the cracks: those who don't fit the requirements of large government and private grants and contracts, Sloan said.

"Dr. Albright's focus has been inclusive, but not specific to our key issues, and part of what attracted us to her was her prominence on the world stage during peak times of HIV infection in and across the United States as well as developing parts of the world," Sloan said. "We're anxious to hear her perspective. Much of her work as Secretary of State surrounded helping impoverished communities to become self-sustaining through job possibilities and economic



Madeleine Albright. Photo by Timothy Greenfield Sanders

opportunities. With the common incidence of HIV among the economically disadvantaged, it's clear that providing new pathways for the poor and homeless will break the cycle of poverty and allow rates of infection to follow suit."

Corporate sponsorship for the Speaker Series Luncheon has surpassed any event in Chicago House's history, Sloan confirmed. "What this means for those attending is: the event is completely underwritten, thus the proceeds of every ticket sold goes directly to the programs and operations of Chicago House itself."

"It's an important year for Chicago House, as we commemorate 25 years of care and service to the HIV and AIDS community. Last year's inaugural Speaker Series event featuring President Clinton really raised the bar for us, both from a fundraising standpoint, as well as providing new opportunities to make Chicago House and our issues visible in the media and outside of our traditional supporting communities. We're confident that Dr. Albright's participation in the 2010 event will be as successful, while giving us a new point of view from which to discuss Chicago House's position in the global AIDS crisis. While her availability was limited, we believe there's nothing coincidental about the event's proximity to World AIDS Day (which is Dec. 1). We hope that we can raise the bar once again."

**Tickets to the lunch event and Albright's speech start at \$150. To order, or for more information, call 773-248-5200, ext. 304 or visit <http://www.chicagohouse.org>.**



Bill Clinton and the Rev. Stan Sloan. Image by Bret Grafton Photography



## Long-time couple make home together

TEXT BY ROSS FORMAN, PHOTOS BY HAL BAIM

Neither knows now what they will do next June to celebrate the 50th anniversary of when they first met, but Ed Buzinski and Dick Beck agree it truly will be a golden moment—and no doubt a party with family and friends at or near their far northwest suburban home in Marengo.

Yep, Buzinski and Beck have to be one of Chicago's greatest LGBT success stories. Heck, they've been together longer than many in the community have been alive.

Beck, 80, was born in Macomb, Ill., one of 10 children raised in downstate Illinois. Buzinski comes from Elmwood Park. They have been living together in their two-story, well-decorated ranch home for 38 years; their home was built in 1972.

Buzinski, 77, worked for years for the Brethren Press, specializing in graphic arts. He also was involved with photography. He later worked for

the Elgin Printing, Inc., which he co-owned for about 10 years. He retired in 2009, though he admits that he wanted to retire earlier.

"It was a good ride; I loved what I did," said Buzinski, who spent four years (1953-'57) in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean War.

While serving, Buzinski said he "suppressed" his feelings for men, though he knew then that he was gay. "I had feelings," then for men.

Beck, meanwhile, spent four years in the Navy (1951-'55) as a dental technician. He eventually left the military, returned home, supported his family, went to school and worked at a bank. He also spent time working for the Elgin Watch Company and the Union Oil Company.

Beck's work resume also included 17 years at Sherman Hospital as director of material management and 15 years at Alexian Hospital in Elk Grove as the purchasing manager.



Beck retired in 2000.

Buzinski and Beck met in 1961 when Buzinski went to Homecoming at Western Illinois University in Macomb. They met almost on accident when Beck started talking with Buzinski.

"My heart did flutter flops; I was instantly attracted to him," Buzinski said.

Beck joked, "I was a good-looking dude back then."

Their friendship developed over the distance, supported by phone calls and letters.

By mid-1962, they were together—for good.

And no one ever questioned their sexuality, nor did they ever say anything publicly. "We just lived our lives," Beck said. "Gay really was not a word in the 1960s; queer was the word back then."

Added Buzinski, "I found someone who I

wanted to spend my life with. I think we complemented each other."

Buzinski's mom lived with them for years later in her life.

Today, they are joined by the horses, seriously. They have eight Morgan horses in their backyard stable and 20 acres of land, though they once had 15 horses.

The two have spent years breeding and showing horses and now have hundreds, perhaps thousands, of horse-related relics inside their home. They also sang in the Elgin Choral Union, and their home also has countless beautiful Asian art, including jade items. Plus, they grow tomatoes, beets green peas and more on their property.

They are supporters of PFLAG and have participated in McHenry Pride. They are gay activists,

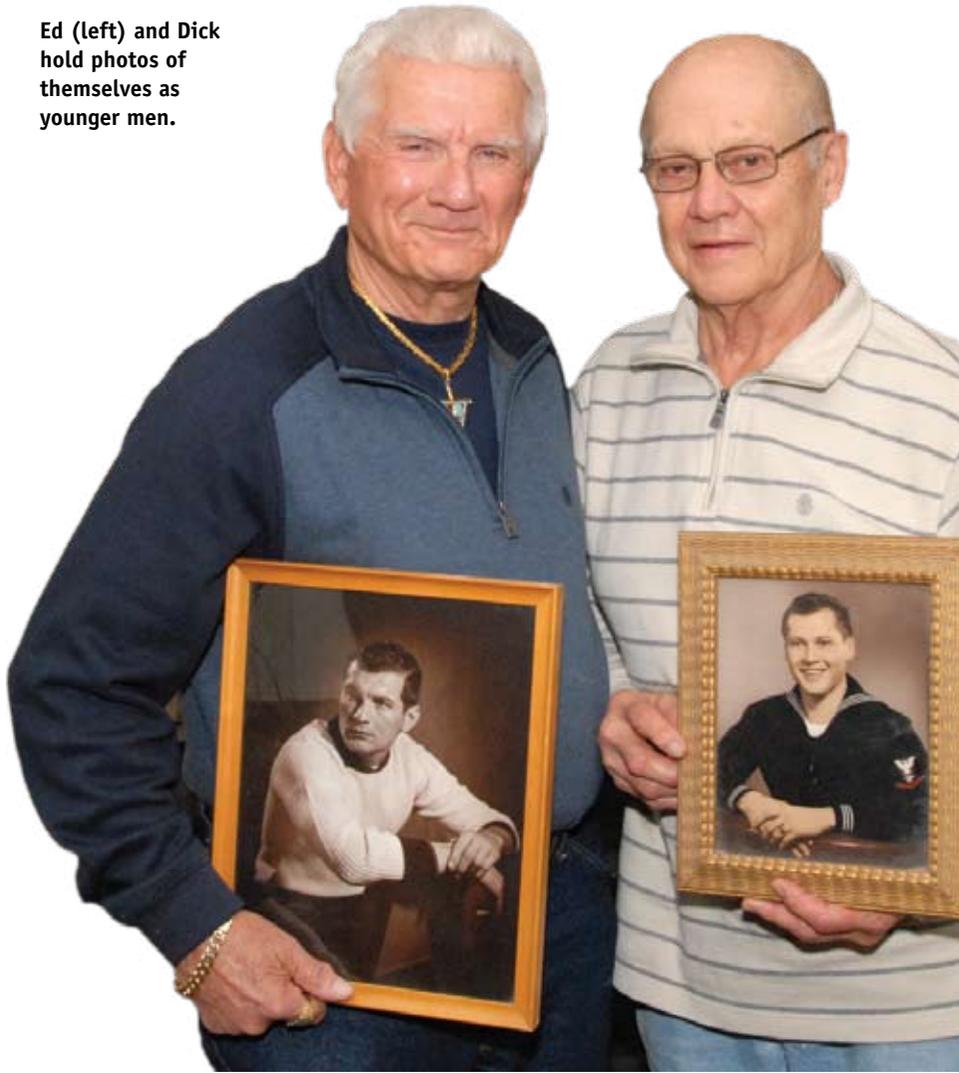


The couple's dogs Sophie and Sadie. They got the dogs from a no-kill shelter in Ringwood. They were rescued by "Pets in Need" a couple of hours before they were scheduled to be killed, when they were only seven months old. Ed and Dick encourage people to adopt from shelters.



Ed and Dick have raised and shown Morgan horses for many years.

Ed (left) and Dick hold photos of themselves as younger men.



despite their age, including participation in area parades and protests.

"We basically try to support [the LGBT community] as best we can," Buzinski said.

So what's the key to their staying together so long?

"We fight," Buzinski said, laughing.

Beck agreed.

"We have to communicate and say what we think. Sure, at times we don't agree, but we come to terms with our differences," Buzinski said.

Beck shook his head in agreement.

Both admitted that teen bullying, which is at the forefront of the headlines today, also was an issue during their childhood. "I just sucked it up and went on," Beck said. "I don't understand [all of these suicides; kids] today have all of these resources. If the bullying is that bad that you want to take your life, man, that's pretty bad."

Buzinski said he "felt rejected" when he was bullied, but he knew perseverance was key.

As a couple together nearly 50 years, they are role models, and hope to keep giving back to the community for a long time to come.

*This is part of a series of articles about gays living in the Far Northwest suburbs of Chicago.*



A happy Buddha carved from the root of a Chinese camphor tree.

## Feigenholtz honored



State Rep. Sara Feigenholtz (12th District) received the 2010 Amicus Certus ("True Friend") Award Nov. 6. Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI) presented the annual award at its Amicus Certus Celebration, which raised more than \$83,000 for its foster care and adoption services.

Almost 300 people were present at the event, which recognized Feigenholtz's service and dedication to the needs of children and adoptees, and her work on their behalf in the General Assembly. Feigenholtz chairs the House Committee on Adoption Reform and is also chair of the House Human Services Appropriations Committee.

Pictured are (from left): Linda Falotico, event co-chair; Feigenholtz; the Rev. Dr. Denver Bitner, LSSI president/CEO; and Eileen Gerald, event co-chair. Photo courtesy of Carol Vander-Mey

## AVER honors Veterans' Day



As the country debates Don't Ask, Don't Tell, Chicagoans paid tribute to LGBT servicemembers on Veteran's Day, Nov. 11, at Ann Sather, 909 W. Belmont. The Chicago chapter of the American Veterans for Equal Rights (AVER) hosted the event.

During the 18th annual GLBT Veterans Day dinner, retired Navy Captain Dr. Ann Bidwell and Lee Reinhart, a former Navy Radar man 2nd Class and Coast Guardsman, were honored with the Happy Warrior awards for their service both during and after their military careers.

Bidwell retired with 27 years of Navy service and Reinhart successfully completed many years as an openly gay man in the Navy only to join the Coast Guard and be discharged under the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy. Since leaving the military, both have been leaders in communicating the ills of the policy and have represented the movement to repeal it.

The event was also the occasion for the unveiling of the design for a Chicago monument to LGBT veterans. A fundraising effort for "Do Tell: Chicago" is being spearheaded by IVU-One View: Uniting People. Installation in Space Park, 815-817 W. Roscoe, is planned for Memorial Day 2011. Learn more at <http://www.1vu.org>

The Chicago chapter of AVER (formerly named Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Veterans of America) is part of a national non-profit association dedicated to equal rights and equitable treatment for present and former members of the U.S. Armed Forces. The Chicago chapter of AVER meets the first Thursday of each month at the Center on Halsted. Learn more at <http://www.averchicago.org>. Photos by Tracy Baim

**INDICATION:** REYATAZ is a prescription medicine used in combination with other medicines to treat people who are infected with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). REYATAZ has been studied in a 48-week trial in patients who have taken anti-HIV medicines and a 96-week trial in patients who have never taken anti-HIV medicines.

**REYATAZ does not cure HIV or lower your chance of passing HIV to others.**

**IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION:**

**Do not take REYATAZ if you are taking the following medicines due to potential for serious, life-threatening side effects or death:** Versed® (midazolam) when taken by mouth, Halcion® (triazolam), ergot medicines (dihydroergotamine, ergonovine, ergotamine, and methylergonovine such as Cafergot®, Migranal®, D.H.E. 45®, ergotrate maleate, Methergine®, and others), Propulsid® (cisapride), or Orap® (pimozide).

**Do not take REYATAZ with the following medicines due to potential for serious side effects:** Camptosar® (irinotecan), Crixivan® (indinavir), Mevacor® (lovastatin), Zocor® (simvastatin), Uroxatral® (alfuzosin), or Revatio® (sildenafil).

**Do not take REYATAZ with the following medicines as they may lower the amount of REYATAZ in your blood, which may lead to increased HIV viral load and resistance to REYATAZ or other anti-HIV medicines:** rifampin (also known as Rimactane®, Rifadin®, Rifater®, or Rifamate®), St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*)-containing products, or Viramune® (nevirapine).

Serevent Diskus® (salmeterol) and Advair® (salmeterol with fluticasone) are **not recommended with REYATAZ.**

**Do not take Vfend® (voriconazole) if you are taking REYATAZ and Norvir® (ritonavir).**

The above lists of medicines are not complete. **Taking REYATAZ with some other medicines may require your therapy to be monitored more closely or may require a change in dose or dose schedule of REYATAZ or the other medicine.** Discuss with your healthcare provider all prescription and non-prescription medicines, vitamin and herbal supplements, or other health preparations you are taking or plan to take.

Tell your healthcare provider if you are **pregnant, breast-feeding**, planning to become pregnant or breast-feed, or if you have **end-stage kidney disease** managed with hemodialysis or **severe liver dysfunction.**

Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any side effects, symptoms, or conditions, including the following:

- **Mild rash** (redness and itching) without other symptoms sometimes occurs in patients taking REYATAZ, most often in the first few weeks after the medicine is started, and usually goes away within 2 weeks with no change in treatment.

- **Severe rash** has occurred in a small number of patients taking REYATAZ. This type of rash is associated with other symptoms that could be serious and potentially cause death. **If you develop a rash with any of the following symptoms, stop using REYATAZ and call your healthcare provider right away:**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| – Shortness of breath                        | – Conjunctivitis (red or inflamed eyes, like “pink-eye”) |
| – General ill-feeling or “flu-like” symptoms | – Blisters   |
| – Fever                                      | – Mouth sores  |
| – Muscle or joint aches                      | – Swelling of your face                                  |

- **Yellowing of the skin and/or eyes** may occur due to increases in bilirubin levels in the blood (bilirubin is made by the liver).

- **A change in the way your heart beats** may occur. You may feel dizzy or lightheaded. These could be symptoms of a heart problem.

- **Diabetes and high blood sugar** may occur in patients taking protease inhibitor medicines like REYATAZ. Some patients may need changes in their diabetes medicine.

- **If you have liver disease**, including hepatitis B or C, it may get worse when you take anti-HIV medicines like REYATAZ.

- **Kidney stones** have been reported in patients taking REYATAZ. Signs or symptoms of kidney stones include pain in your side, blood in your urine, and pain when you urinate.

- **Some patients with hemophilia** have increased bleeding problems with protease inhibitor medicines like REYATAZ.

- **Changes in body fat** have been seen in some patients taking anti-HIV medicines. The cause and long-term effects are not known at this time.

- **Gallbladder disorders** (including gallstones and gallbladder inflammation) have been reported in patients taking REYATAZ.

**Other common side effects** of REYATAZ taken with other anti-HIV medicines include: nausea; headache; stomach pain; vomiting; diarrhea; depression; fever; dizziness; trouble sleeping; numbness, tingling, or burning of hands or feet; and muscle pain.

You should take REYATAZ once daily with food (a meal or snack). Swallow the capsules whole; do not open the capsules. You should take REYATAZ and your other anti-HIV medicines exactly as instructed by your healthcare provider.

**You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit [www.fda.gov/medwatch](http://www.fda.gov/medwatch) or call 1-800-FDA-1088.**

# On REYATAZ,

Wednesday  
Mary's  
birthday  
party

Thursday  
5:30  
Choir  
practice

Buy new  
shoes  
for Latisha

  
**REYATAZ**®  
(atazanavir sulfate) 200 mg/300 mg capsules

**Fight HIV your way.**

**Please see Important Patient Information about REYATAZ on the adjacent pages.**

# how you spend your time is up to you.



Individual results may vary.

## Once-daily REYATAZ can help fight your HIV.

### REYATAZ, a protease inhibitor (PI), in HIV combination therapy:

- ◆ Can help lower your viral load and raise your T-cell (CD4+ cell) count
- ◆ Has a low chance of diarrhea (shown in clinical trials)
  - REYATAZ in combination therapy had a 1%-3% rate of moderate-to-severe diarrhea in adults
- ◆ Is taken once a day with a snack or meal

REYATAZ is one of several treatment options your doctor may consider.

**Do not take REYATAZ if you are allergic to REYATAZ or to any of its ingredients.**

Ask your healthcare team about REYATAZ [www.REYATAZ.com](http://www.REYATAZ.com)

REYATAZ does not cure HIV and has not been shown to reduce the risk of passing HIV to others.

Find out if you can save on REYATAZ.  
Call 1-888-281-8981 or visit  
[ReyatazSavings.com](http://ReyatazSavings.com) for details.

Subject to terms and conditions. Restrictions apply.

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Prescription Assistance

**FDA-Approved Patient Labeling  
Patient Information**

**Rx ONLY**

**REYATAZ® (RAY-ah-taz)  
(generic name = atazanavir sulfate)  
Capsules**

**ALERT: Find out about medicines that should NOT be taken with REYATAZ.** Read the section "What important information should I know about taking REYATAZ with other medicines?"

Read the Patient Information that comes with REYATAZ before you start using it and each time you get a refill. There may be new information. This leaflet provides a summary about REYATAZ and does not include everything there is to know about your medicine. This information does not take the place of talking with your healthcare provider about your medical condition or treatment.

**What is REYATAZ?**

REYATAZ is a prescription medicine used with other anti-HIV medicines to treat people who are infected with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). HIV is the virus that causes acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS). REYATAZ is a type of anti-HIV medicine called a protease inhibitor. HIV infection destroys CD4+ (T) cells, which are important to the immune system. The immune system helps fight infection. After a large number of (T) cells are destroyed, AIDS develops. REYATAZ helps to block HIV protease, an enzyme that is needed for the HIV virus to multiply. REYATAZ may lower the amount of HIV in your blood, help your body keep its supply of CD4+ (T) cells, and reduce the risk of death and illness associated with HIV.

**Does REYATAZ cure HIV or AIDS?**

**REYATAZ does not cure HIV infection or AIDS.** At present there is no cure for HIV infection. People taking REYATAZ may still get opportunistic infections or other conditions that happen with HIV infection. Opportunistic infections are infections that develop because the immune system is weak. Some of these conditions are pneumonia, herpes virus infections, and *Mycobacterium avium* complex (MAC) infections. **It is very important that you see your healthcare provider regularly while taking REYATAZ.**

**REYATAZ does not lower your chance of passing HIV to other people through sexual contact, sharing needles, or being exposed to your blood.** For your health and the health of others, it is important to always practice safer sex by using a latex or polyurethane condom or other barrier to lower the chance of sexual contact with semen, vaginal secretions, or blood. Never use or share dirty needles.

**Who should not take REYATAZ?**

**Do not take REYATAZ if you:**

- **are taking certain medicines.** (See "What important information should I know about taking REYATAZ with other medicines?") Serious life-threatening side effects or death may happen. Before you take REYATAZ, tell your healthcare provider about all medicines you are taking or planning to take. These include other prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements.
- **are allergic to REYATAZ or to any of its ingredients.** The active ingredient is atazanavir sulfate. See the end of this leaflet for a complete list of ingredients in REYATAZ. Tell your healthcare provider if you think you have had an allergic reaction to any of these ingredients.

**What should I tell my healthcare provider before I take REYATAZ?**

**Tell your healthcare provider:**

- **If you are pregnant or planning to become pregnant.** It is not known if REYATAZ can harm your unborn baby. Pregnant women have experienced serious side effects when taking REYATAZ with other HIV medicines called nucleoside analogues. You and your healthcare provider will need to decide if REYATAZ is right for you. If you use REYATAZ while you are pregnant, talk to your healthcare provider about the Antiretroviral Pregnancy Registry.
- **If you are breast-feeding.** You should not breast-feed if you are HIV-positive because of the chance of passing HIV to your baby. Also, it is not known if REYATAZ can pass into your breast milk and if it can harm your baby. If you are a woman who has or will have a baby, talk with your healthcare provider about the best way to feed your baby.
- **If you have liver problems or are infected with the hepatitis B or C virus.** See "What are the possible side effects of REYATAZ?"
- **If you have end stage kidney disease** managed with hemodialysis.
- **If you have diabetes.** See "What are the possible side effects of REYATAZ?"
- **If you have hemophilia.** See "What are the possible side effects of REYATAZ?"
- **About all the medicines you take** including prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. Keep a list of your medicines with you to show your healthcare provider. For more information, see "What important information should I know about taking REYATAZ with other medicines?" and "Who should not take REYATAZ?" Some medicines can cause serious side effects if taken with REYATAZ.

**REYATAZ® (atazanavir sulfate)**

**How should I take REYATAZ?**

- **Take REYATAZ once every day exactly as instructed by your healthcare provider.** Your healthcare provider will prescribe the amount of REYATAZ that is right for you.
  - For adults who have never taken anti-HIV medicines before, the dose is 300 mg once daily with 100 mg of NORVIR® (ritonavir) once daily taken with food. For adults who are unable to tolerate ritonavir, 400 mg (two 200-mg capsules) once daily (without NORVIR®) taken with food is recommended.
  - For adults who have taken anti-HIV medicines in the past, the usual dose is 300 mg plus 100 mg of NORVIR® (ritonavir) once daily taken with food.
- Your dose will depend on your liver function and on the other anti-HIV medicines that you are taking. REYATAZ is always used with other anti-HIV medicines. If you are taking REYATAZ with SUSTIVA® (efavirenz) or with VIREAD® (tenofovir disoproxil fumarate), you should also be taking NORVIR® (ritonavir).
- **Always take REYATAZ with food** (a meal or snack) to help it work better. Swallow the capsules whole. **Do not open the capsules.** Take REYATAZ at the same time each day.
- **If you are taking antacids or didanosine (VIDEX® or VIDEX® EC),** take REYATAZ 2 hours before or 1 hour after these medicines.
- **If you are taking medicines for indigestion, heartburn, or ulcers such as AXID® (nizatidine), PEPCID AC® (famotidine), TAGAMET® (cimetidine), ZANTAC® (ranitidine), AcipHex® (rabeprazole), NEXIUM® (esomeprazole), PREVACID® (lansoprazole), PRILOSEC® (omeprazole), or PROTONIX® (pantoprazole),** talk to your healthcare provider.
- **Do not change your dose or stop taking REYATAZ without first talking with your healthcare provider.** It is important to stay under a healthcare provider's care while taking REYATAZ.
- **When your supply of REYATAZ starts to run low,** get more from your healthcare provider or pharmacy. It is important not to run out of REYATAZ. The amount of HIV in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time.
- **If you miss a dose of REYATAZ,** take it as soon as possible and then take your next scheduled dose at its regular time. If, however, it is within 6 hours of your next dose, do not take the missed dose. Wait and take the next dose at the regular time. Do not double the next dose. **It is important that you do not miss any doses of REYATAZ or your other anti-HIV medicines.**
- **If you take more than the prescribed dose of REYATAZ,** call your healthcare provider or poison control center right away.

**Can children take REYATAZ?**

Dosing recommendations are available for children 6 years of age and older for REYATAZ Capsules. Dosing recommendations are not available for children from 3 months to less than 6 years of age. REYATAZ should not be used in babies under the age of 3 months.

**What are the possible side effects of REYATAZ?**

The following list of side effects is **not** complete. Report any new or continuing symptoms to your healthcare provider. If you have questions about side effects, ask your healthcare provider. Your healthcare provider may be able to help you manage these side effects.

**The following side effects have been reported with REYATAZ:**

- **mild rash** (redness and itching) without other symptoms sometimes occurs in patients taking REYATAZ, most often in the first few weeks after the medicine is started. Rashes usually go away within 2 weeks with no change in treatment. Tell your healthcare provider if rash occurs.
- **severe rash:** In a small number of patients, a rash can develop that is associated with other symptoms which could be serious and potentially cause death.

**If you develop a rash with any of the following symptoms stop using REYATAZ and call your healthcare provider right away:**

- shortness of breath
- general ill feeling or "flu-like" symptoms
- fever
- muscle or joint aches
- conjunctivitis (red or inflamed eyes, like "pink eye")
- blisters
- mouth sores
- swelling of your face
- **yellowing of the skin or eyes.** These effects may be due to increases in bilirubin levels in the blood (bilirubin is made by the liver). Call your healthcare provider if your skin or the white part of your eyes turn yellow. Although these effects may not be damaging to your liver, skin, or eyes, it is important to tell your healthcare provider promptly if they occur.

**REYATAZ® (atazanavir sulfate)**

- **a change in the way your heart beats (heart rhythm change).** Call your healthcare provider right away if you get dizzy or lightheaded. These could be symptoms of a heart problem.
- **diabetes and high blood sugar (hyperglycemia)** sometimes happen in patients taking protease inhibitor medicines like REYATAZ. Some patients had diabetes before taking protease inhibitors while others did not. Some patients may need changes in their diabetes medicine.
- **if you have liver disease** including hepatitis B or C, your liver disease may get worse when you take anti-HIV medicines like REYATAZ.
- **kidney stones** have been reported in patients taking REYATAZ. If you develop signs or symptoms of kidney stones (pain in your side, blood in your urine, pain when you urinate) tell your healthcare provider promptly.
- **some patients with hemophilia** have increased bleeding problems with protease inhibitors like REYATAZ.
- **changes in body fat.** These changes may include an 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.

Other common side effects of REYATAZ taken with other anti-HIV medicines include nausea; headache; stomach pain; vomiting; diarrhea; depression; fever; dizziness; trouble sleeping; numbness, tingling, or burning of hands or feet; and muscle pain.

**Gallbladder disorders** (which may include gallstones and gallbladder inflammation) have been reported in patients taking REYATAZ.

**What important information should I know about taking REYATAZ with other medicines?**

**Do not take REYATAZ if you take the following medicines (not all brands may be listed; tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take). REYATAZ may cause serious, life-threatening side effects or death when used with these medicines.**

- Ergot medicines: dihydroergotamine, ergonovine, ergotamine, and methylethergonovine such as CAFERGOT®, MIGRANAL®, D.H.E. 45®, ergotrate maleate, METHERGINE®, and others (used for migraine headaches).
- ORAP® (pimozide, used for Tourette's disorder).
- PROPULSID® (cisapride, used for certain stomach problems).
- Triazolam, also known as HALCION® (used for insomnia).
- Midazolam, also known as VERSED® (used for sedation), when taken by mouth.

**Do not take the following medicines with REYATAZ because of possible serious side effects:**

- CAMPTOSAR® (irinotecan, used for cancer).
- CRIXIVAN® (indinavir, used for HIV infection). Both REYATAZ and CRIXIVAN sometimes cause increased levels of bilirubin in the blood.
- Cholesterol-lowering medicines MEVACOR® (lovastatin) or ZOCOR® (simvastatin).
- UROXATRAL® (alfuzosin, used to treat benign enlargement of the prostate).
- REVATIO® (sildenafil, used to treat pulmonary arterial hypertension).

**Do not take the following medicines with REYATAZ because they may lower the amount of REYATAZ in your blood.** This may lead to an increased HIV viral load. Resistance to REYATAZ or cross-resistance to other HIV medicines may develop:

- Rifampin (also known as RIMACTANE®, RIFADIN®, RIFATER®, or RIFAMATE®, used for tuberculosis).
- St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*), an herbal product sold as a dietary supplement, or products containing St. John's wort.
- VIRAMUNE® (nevirapine, used for HIV infection).

**The following medicines are not recommended with REYATAZ:**

- SEREVENT DISKUS® (salmeterol) and ADVAIR® (salmeterol with fluticasone), used to treat asthma, emphysema/chronic obstructive pulmonary disease also known as COPD.

**Do not take the following medicine if you are taking REYATAZ and NORVIR® together:**

- VFEND® (voriconazole).

**The following medicines may require your healthcare provider to monitor your therapy more closely (for some medicines a change in the dose or dose schedule may be needed):**

- CIALIS® (tadalafil), LEVITRA® (vardenafil), or VIAGRA® (sildenafil), used to treat erectile dysfunction. REYATAZ may increase the chances of serious side effects that can happen with CIALIS, LEVITRA, or VIAGRA. Do not use CIALIS, LEVITRA, or VIAGRA while you are taking REYATAZ unless your healthcare provider tells you it is okay.
- ADCIRCA® (tadalafil) or TRACLEER® (bosentan), used to treat pulmonary arterial hypertension.
- LIPITOR® (atorvastatin) or CRESTOR® (rosuvastatin). There is an increased chance of serious side effects if you take REYATAZ with this cholesterol-lowering medicine.

**REYATAZ® (atazanavir sulfate)**

- Medicines for abnormal heart rhythm: CORDARONE® (amiodarone), lidocaine, quinidine (also known as CARDIOQUIN®, QUINIDEX®, and others).
- MYCOBUTIN® (rifabutin, an antibiotic used to treat tuberculosis).
- BUPRENEX®, SUBUTEX®, SUBOXONE®, (buprenorphine or buprenorphine/naloxone, used to treat pain and addiction to narcotic painkillers).
- VASCOR® (bepidil, used for chest pain).
- COUMADIN® (warfarin).
- Tricyclic antidepressants such as ELAVIL® (amitriptyline), NORPRAMIN® (desipramine), SINEQUAN® (doxepin), SURMONTIL® (trimipramine), TOFRANIL® (imipramine), or VIVACTIL® (protriptyline).
- Medicines to prevent organ transplant rejection: SANDIMMUNE® or NEORAL® (cyclosporin), RAPAMUNE® (sirolimus), or PROGRAF® (tacrolimus).
- The antidepressant trazodone (DESYREL® and others).
- Fluticasone propionate (FLONASE®, FLOVENT®), given by nose or inhaled to treat allergic symptoms or asthma. Your doctor may choose not to keep you on fluticasone, especially if you are also taking NORVIR®.
- Colchicine (COLCRYS®), used to prevent or treat gout or treat familial Mediterranean fever.

**The following medicines may require a change in the dose or dose schedule of either REYATAZ or the other medicine:**

- INVIRASE® (saquinavir).
- NORVIR® (ritonavir).
- SUSTIVA® (efavirenz).
- Antacids or buffered medicines.
- VIDEX® (didanosine).
- VIREAD® (tenofovir disoproxil fumarate).
- MYCOBUTIN® (rifabutin).
- Calcium channel blockers such as CARDIZEM® or TIAZAC® (diltiazem), COVERA-HS® or ISOPTIN SR® (verapamil) and others.
- BIAVIN® (clarithromycin).
- Medicines for indigestion, heartburn, or ulcers such as AXID® (nizatidine), PEPCID AC® (famotidine), TAGAMET® (cimetidine), or ZANTAC® (ranitidine).

**Talk to your healthcare provider about choosing an effective method of contraception.** REYATAZ may affect the safety and effectiveness of hormonal contraceptives such as birth control pills or the contraceptive patch. Hormonal contraceptives do not prevent the spread of HIV to others.

**Remember:**

1. **Know all the medicines you take.**
2. **Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take.**
3. **Do not start a new medicine without talking to your healthcare provider.**

**How should I store REYATAZ?**

- Store REYATAZ Capsules at room temperature, 59° to 86° F (15° to 30° C). Do **not** store this medicine in a damp place such as a bathroom medicine cabinet or near the kitchen sink.
- Keep your medicine in a tightly closed container.
- Keep all medicines out of the reach of children and pets at all times. Do not keep medicine that is out of date or that you no longer need. Dispose of unused medicines through community take-back disposal programs when available or place REYATAZ in an unrecognizable, closed container in the household trash.

**General information about REYATAZ**

This medicine was prescribed for your particular condition. Do not use REYATAZ for another condition. Do not give REYATAZ to other people, even if they have the same symptoms you have. It may harm them. **Keep REYATAZ and all medicines out of the reach of children and pets.**

This summary does not include everything there is to know about REYATAZ. Medicines are sometimes prescribed for conditions that are not mentioned in patient information leaflets. Remember no written summary can replace careful discussion with your healthcare provider. If you would like more information, talk with your healthcare provider or you can call 1-800-321-1335.

**What are the ingredients in REYATAZ?**

**Active Ingredient:** atazanavir sulfate

**Inactive Ingredients:** Crospovidone, lactose monohydrate (milk sugar), magnesium stearate, gelatin, FD&C Blue #2, and titanium dioxide.

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# LETTERS

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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.**

 Community Marketing, Inc.

### Howard Brown

In April of this year, the public was informed of the ongoing problems at Howard Brown Health Center (HBHC).

Both the CEO and the CFO were placed on administrative leave. Of course, we all were told that due to the severity of the problem, the lawyers would be involved and once more information was available, we would be informed. At the end of April, Howard Brown's board of directors had taken steps to correct the situation, including "management changes, implementing internal controls and an independent audit of all federal grants."

The HIV Study/MACS program is a \$3.4-million annual grant. It provides funding for the treatment and prevention of HIV/AIDS. HBHC managed this study until April of this year. Their budget depended on the monies paid for the management of this project. In April, the CEO gave control of the MACS study to Northwestern University, changing the control of the study and affecting the \$600,000 that would be paid to HBHC to manage the study. In a recent podcast, the current CEO stated that "due to mistakes in managing grant funds, overextending itself by taking on more clients than funding available" has resulted in a big deficit for HBHC. What transpired in this organization is still a mystery to most. Its board of directors and its executive staff are to work together to manage, oversee and protect the agency they represent and insure that the services and work they provide for the community is professional, available and funded. A question raised is why the board of directors was not aware of the financial issues until after the fact.

Information was forthcoming this past month. HBHC needs our help and quickly (the amount of \$500,000 before the end of December). In a letter written by HBHC CEO/President Jamal Edwards, a lifeline is needed: "Our past leadership mismanaged Howard Brown's funds. Ultimately, their actions have led to a need to raise \$500,000 by the end of the year, and an additional \$500,000 next year." This \$500,000 loss is needed to replace the money lost with the transfer of the Mac grant to provide for health care services. But this is only a scraping of the current \$3.5-million debt HBHC has. More implemented fundraising sources and more results from the Brown Elephant resale shop, according to the CEO, will help offset this huge deficit.

Wow. Does this mean it will turn this problem around and all will be good again?

Since the agency is now significantly in the red, has the administration, including the CEO and CFO, made major cuts in payroll, including their own? If we are paying these salaries still, where will the money come to pay for PR firms and crisis management, let alone all the support services that are needed for the clients of the center? According to Edwards on a Nov. 10 podcast (Feast of Fun), the administrative staff was committed to ensuring that they would forgo salaries, if need be, to save the agency. However, each has given a donation to help offset the deficit in the amounts of \$1,000, up to the CEO's gift of \$10,000.

He went on to state that the salaries are set based upon appropriate compensation for the work the work they are doing. That is probably true; however, that is based on an agency that is fiscally sound.

Positions were eliminated, with executive officers doing two or three jobs. Then there is the situation of the appointment of seven vice presidents who help run the organization. Wouldn't that be a bit of overstaffing?

On Marc Felion and Fausto Fernós' podcast, the statement was made that "transparency is a must. HBHC is notorious for being secretive." There is the fact that Edwards is trying to be blunt and honest on what is happening at HBHC; however, it is without a lot of information forthcoming.

In the future, there are to be community open

houses and more engagement with the community regarding HBHC.

As a philanthropist who has provided funding for many organizations in Chicago, I have some concerns about this request. First of all, where is the data that supports this request? What is the game plan to ensure this money is used appropriately? What percentage of this money will be applied directly to benefit services for the clients, leaving what percentage for administration and salaries?

We have heard there is going to be a three-year plan drawn up to ensure that this fiasco will never happen again. But what is the immediate plan to complete this year and get Howard Brown Health Center through next year?

Yes, Howard Brown Health Center does need to be saved. It does provide invaluable services for individuals in our community. There are decent and honest professional staff members at HBHC who work hard to provide services and care for those in need. It would be a tragic loss for our city. But, as donors, we need a bit more information to guarantee that when we open our wallets and check books, we are ensuring the future of HBHC and not just bailing out the past mistakes of the administration and board of directors of the agency.

*Sincerely,*  
*Michael Leppen*

### Supporting HBHC

*Dear Editor:*

The legacy of Howard Brown Health Center is worth fighting for. As a donor, a former employee and friend, I am 100 percent behind Howard Brown Health Center and its history of service to the Chicago LGBT community. We cannot let its recent difficulties define who it is and what it has meant for so many of our neighbors who have relied on their services for decades. When I was executive director of Howard Brown many years ago, the community organized to help erect the building Howard Brown inhabits today and helped it grow into the vital community resource it has become. You may recall how the community championed Howard Brown then because of the critical, if not indispensable, role it plays in the health of the LGBT community and the community at large.

Working to save Howard Brown is not simply about saving a building, nor is it just about saving the jobs of the people who work there. It is about honoring the spirit that spurred the founders to start an STD clinic for gay men. It is about honoring the spirit of those who helped Howard Brown grow into the LGBT community's health center which continues to provide outstanding, high quality services for so many who have nowhere to else to go. There has been turmoil, which has been and continues to be addressed. Despite the failings of some individuals—whether management or board—the mission has not changed and the needs of the population they serve goes on.

I am pleased to see the positive changes that Howard Brown is making during this extremely challenging time. The center has stayed true to its mission, and devoted to the people who need their services. Additionally, they have become more transparent and are working tirelessly towards building a healthier future. Jamal has reached out to leaders in Chicago, including myself, to seek counsel and build relationships, and I am confident about Howard Brown's potential under his leadership. Yes, they have a long way to go, but they are making positive strides each and every day. Now is not the time to turn our back on Howard Brown Health Center. Now is the time to embrace it and support it as Howard Brown has embraced each and every one of their clients in their times of great need. People need Howard Brown now more than ever, and if it is to improve, as I know it can, we must defend it and do whatever it takes to ensure its survival.

I believe anyone who wants to bolster the health and wellness of the LGBT community should support Howard Brown, too. They cannot function as a community health center without the community. Each and every one of us has a responsibility to work toward preserving this essential LGBT organization. The community cannot lose Howard Brown.

*Eileen Durkin*  
*President and CEO*  
*Neumann Family Services*

### Same stuff, different bishop

*Dear Editor:*

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' change in leadership does not represent any significant pragmatic shift in the organization's debates against gay rights. The Rainbow Sash Movement will continue to challenge the bishops' position of supporting their interpretation of natural law, over positive law. They continue to rhetorically construct unchallenged homophobic positions which only reflects a style of leadership that operates only on fear, and not engagement.

We believe by challenging publically the bishops' positions that gay people are a separate class of people and are not entitled to the same constitutional rights as heterosexuals, we have put the bishops on notice that gay Catholics will no longer run from their homophobia, nor will we be silent as they promote so called gay ministries within the Church, or cloister ourselves in submissive gay Catholic ghettos outside the Church. We believe we are called to engage their moral reasoning in the public square and expose it as as dangerous to the wellbeing of the LGBT Community.

The bishops' argument in the political arena is similar to the argument it made with the healthcare debate: Rather than recognizing the practicality of the need for such legislation, it promoted its dogmatism of purity over the need of the "common good." The election of Archbishop Tim Dolan to replace Cardinal Francis George of Chicago (as the president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops) is only further reflection of this religious/political view that all federal legislation must be in compliance with their dogmatic view—a position that is opposed by most reasonable people. Look for the bishops to approach immigration legislation through the same prism of pure dogmatism. This means any inclusion of gay families' concerns will not receive the bishops' endorsement. This is why it's so very important for U.S. Rep. Luis Gutierrez, D-Ill., not to wobble on this issue, as he has done in the past.

The basis for the bishops reasoning on gay rights, in general, and same-sex marriage, in particular, is their view of natural law compounded with their weak reasoning. It is similar to the argument used to support slavery. Like same-sex marriage, the Church's support of slavery was based on natural law.

We perceive the recent election of Dolan as a sign that the Catholic bishops still believe that they still manage the unity of the Church through systemic control, rather than through engaging the "Sense of the Faithful." This will only set the stage for further challenge to the basic unity of the Church, and I fear this style of leadership will only continue the steady decline of the Church in the United States.

In my opinion, the response of most people to the recent Baltimore meeting of Catholic bishops was a collective yawn.

*Joe Murray*  
*Executive Director*  
*Rainbow Sash Movement*

## GOINGS-ON

WINDY CITY TIMES' ENTERTAINMENT SECTION



Photo by Stephen Vaughan

## STRIP SERVICE

Christina Aguilera (above) lets loose in her first lead role in a movie—Burlesque. Read our interview with her on page 34.

## AUTOS

Audi, pardner.  
Page 38.

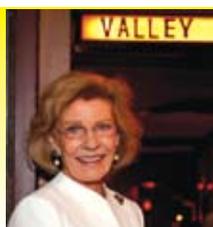
Photo by Andrew Davis



## EVENTS

'Valley' girl.  
Page 33.

Photo of Patty Duke by Rick Aguilar



## WEB

Out and proud.  
Page 36.

Photo courtesy of Calvin Fleming

SCOTTISH  
PLAY SCOTT

## William Brown: Out actor/ director goes 'Carol'-ing

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

This season marks the 10-year anniversary of the Goodman Theatre's shift from its long-gone venue at the Art Institute of Chicago to its expanded home smack dab in the middle of Chicago's Loop Theatre District. It's also the 33rd year that the Tony Award-winning Chicago flagship has dispensed Dickensian insight and cheer through its annual holiday production of *A Christmas Carol*.

Along for a good portion of that Christmas Carol ride is out actor/director William Brown, who has 18 years of experience with the show in a variety of capacities. Brown first played supporting roles (like the nephew Fred) more than 20 years ago, later graduating for four consecutive years starting in 2001 to the mean miser himself, Ebenezer Scrooge. (Brown's partner, actor Steven Hinger, has also acted the role of Fred in the Goodman production).

This year marks Brown's fifth consecutive Goodman Christmas Carol outing as director, and he's relishing the chance to return to it yet again.

"Anybody who has ever acted in [A Christmas Carol] or worked backstage or directed it recognizes that besides the fact that it's a ripping good tale, it's an event," Brown said via a telephone interview during a technical rehearsal break. "[A Christmas Carol] is so frequently the first play that children are brought to. It's an event because people come back year after year because they make it a part of their Christmas celebrations."

Due to these traditions, Brown feels that he



Director William Brown in rehearsal for the Goodman Theatre's "A Christmas Carol." Photo by Liz Lauren

and his company have a special responsibility to move audiences and make them think about Charles Dickens' original 1843 novella that trumpeted universal messages of charity and the ability to change oneself and other people's lives for the better.

Brown is grateful to have several cast members and musicians who are returning from last year (particularly the Bob and Mrs. Cratchit couple of Ron Rains and Christine Sherrill, since they have previous experience of acting onstage with different child actors who will make up the Cratchit clan). But Brown is also enthusiastic to have a new Ebenezer Scrooge played by John Judd (Orson's Shadow, *Shining City*), who is tackling the role for the first time.

Judd assumes the role following out actor Larry Yando's three-year Goodman Scrooge stint. Yando is unavailable this year since he's in Washington, D.C., playing Dr. Pangloss in The Shakespeare Theatre's transfer of director Mary

Zimmerman's recent Goodman Theatre adaptation of Leonard Bernstein's comic operetta *Candide*.

As a former Scrooge himself, Brown knows the many challenges of tackling the titan role. It's very physically demanding since Scrooge rarely leaves the stage (and the Goodman Christmas Carol performance week often features nine performances over the usual eight).

Brown said playing Scrooge is also a major cultural responsibility in Chicago.

"It's such a big role and it has this place in the city that you don't lightly say, 'Yes' or 'No' to it," he said, noting that the show rests on the actor's shoulders to genuinely show Scrooge's transformation from a money-grubbing miser to a good-hearted gentleman.

"The role is Shakespearean in size, in scope, in psychological acuteness," Brown said. "The great roles allow for reinvention, reinterpretation, so it's kind of exciting to go from the Larry

Yando Scrooge to the John Judd Scrooge."

This the first time Brown has worked with Judd, and Brown is appreciative of the "toughness" and "well-worn humanity" that he brings to his Scrooge.

"To see this man moved by his own past, frightened of his future and fall in love again with beautiful Belle—it's quite an experience," Brown said.

And though Brown is eager to share with other actors some of the psychological and emotional approaches he took himself while playing Scrooge, he wants his successors to come up with their own conception on the character.

"It's quite an experience to go through living with that role inside the production, right at the center of it for four years, and then step outside of it and help somebody else go in there," Brown said. "I actually think I'm more pleased when they discard my ideas, because then I'm surprised."

**The Goodman Theatre's *A Christmas Carol* continues through Friday, Dec. 31 (with a varying schedule of performances), at 170 N. Dearborn. Tickets range from \$25 to \$80. Call 312-443-3800 or visit <http://www.goodmantheatre.org>.**

## Chicago transfer

If you missed out on seeing Academy Award-nominated actor Michael Shannon in the world premiere of Craig Wright's comedy *Mistakes Were Made* at Chicago's A Red Orchid Theatre, then you can catch the show in the Big Apple now through Sunday, Jan. 2.

Just like director David Cromer's hit production of Thornton Wilder's *Our Town* that originated in Chicago with The Hypocrites, the Barrow Street Theatre in New York's Greenwich Village is hosting another critically acclaimed Chicago theater transfer. For more information (and to read a slew of positive critical blurbs), visit <http://www.barrowstreettheatre.com>.

**Please send theater-related news and other tidbits to [scottishplayscott@yahoo.com](mailto:scottishplayscott@yahoo.com) and [Andrew@windycitymediagroup.com](mailto:Andrew@windycitymediagroup.com).**



Patrick De Nicola (left) and Tony Bozzuto in *Memory*. Photo by Jonathan Lichtenstein

## THEATER REVIEW

### Memory

**Playwright:** Jonathan Lichtenstein  
**At:** BackStage Theatre Company  
 at the Viaduct, 3111 N. Western  
**Phone:** 773-296-6024; \$25  
**Runs through:** Dec. 18

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

Jonathan Lichtenstein wants to tell us a story—two stories, actually—he believes to be so shocking as to require a framing device to keep us at a safe distance from facts certain to inflict irrevocable trauma on our fragile sensibilities. His concern would be deemed chivalrous, were it not for his reluctance to carry his literary conceit to its logical conclusion.

Our main narrative is the tragic tale of three German comrades—a girl and two boys—whose friendship is shattered by encroaching Nazism, as recounted by the now-elderly Frau Eva, the trio's sole survivor, to her long-estranged grandson. Our secondary plot involves a Palestinian homeowner resisting the seizure of his land by Israeli troops. Our framing device is that of actors rehearsing these drama(s) under the supervision of a playwright-director, their progress halted occasionally by the expected interruptions arising from personal errands and opinions.

The motif of walls—coming down in Berlin,

going up in Bethlehem—appears to be the only stylistic element uniting what Lichtenstein obviously considers parallel themes. Bashar and Isaac's arguments are presented austere, with neither man ever coming close to losing control of his emotions, while the saga of Eva and her *menschen* revels in the lurid melodrama we nowadays associate with films of the period. But when the reason for the latter's *déjà vu* is ultimately revealed, its impact is diluted by its textual proximity to the distress of the Eva-actress over the prospect of re-enacting onstage the atrocity hitherto concealed. Her protests are futile, however, and we view the gruesome scene performed at full-out intensity. Following it, however, we do *not* return to the rehearsal—remember the rehearsal?—to relax as the players prepare to go home, but instead are abandoned to exit the auditorium still shuddering in horror at the cruel image mercilessly invoked by an author willing to break his own rules for the sake of a hankie-chewing thrill.

The BackStage Theatre Company does its best to redeem the outrage engendered by this betrayal, each member of the patently talented ensemble delving their expertise in service of Lichtenstein's generic personae—notably, Brenda Barrie's delicately nuanced turn in the dual role of both young and old Eva. But their efforts can only partially dispel the sour taste left by a script whose concessions to expediency render it undeserving of their industry.

## DOUBLE REVIEW

### Kiss Me, Kate

**Score:** Cole Porter; **Book:** Bella and Samuel Spewack  
**At:** Circle Theatre at The Performance Center, 1010 W. Madison, Oak Park  
**Phone:** 708-660-9540; \$22-\$26  
**Runs through:** Jan. 30

### The Music Man

**Score/Book:** Meredith Willson  
**At:** Marriott Theatre,  
 10 Marriott, Lincolnshire  
**Phone:** 847-634-0200;  
 \$40-\$48 (plus handling fees)  
**Runs through:** Jan. 9

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

Broadway revivals of *The Music Man* and *Kiss Me, Kate* were the main competition vying for the Best Musical Revival Tony Award in the year 2000 (the latter was the winner). Ten years later, both shows are playing outside Chicago with *The Music Man* parading around the Marriott Theatre in Lincolnshire, while an Oak Park-relocated Circle Theatre puckers up to *Kiss Me, Kate*.

Now it's not really fair to compare these productions, especially since *The Music Man* is a big-budgeted Equity affair while *Kiss Me, Kate* features non-professional performers. But the strengths and weaknesses in the writing of these two golden-age musicals becomes easily apparent after seeing both in quick succession.

One would think that Cole Porter's 1948 score and a Baltimore backstage theater setting would make *Kiss Me, Kate* a more sophisticated show over the small-town Iowa setting of Meredith Willson's 1957 show *The Music Man*. But in terms of overall construction, *Kiss Me, Kate* has one foot stuck back in the plot-less revues of the 1930s while *The Music Man* confidently stands as a fully integrated musical in the best tradition of Rodgers and Hammerstein.

*Kiss Me, Kate* is a mishmash of brilliant individual numbers (which don't always further the plot like "Brush Up Your Shakespeare") and a flimsy script to hang those on. To make *Kiss Me, Kate* work, you need supremely talented and charismatic performers in a beautiful production. But Circle Theatre fails on multiple counts.

Andy Baldeschweiler is woefully miscast as the romantic lead, Fred, who portrays Petruchio in the jazzy version of Shakespeare's *The Taming of the Shrew*. Baldeschweiler has all the swagger of a timid accountant with insecure vocal technique instead of a lusty and egotistical actor/director who is confident to initially pursue the ditzy ingénue of Lois (Rachel Quinn) and to outwit his fiery ex-wife Lillie (Jennie Sophia).

Matters aren't helped by the overextended director/set designer Bob Knuth, whose mediocre production design fails to live up to his previous

## CRITICS' PICKS

**Billy Elliot the Musical**, Ford Center for the Performing Arts, Oriental Theatre, through Nov. 28. You've still got four days to see the musical that made it safe for little boys in ballet shoes to defy gravity. MSB

**The Four of Us**, Theater Wit, through Dec. 4. Itamar Moses' comedy of two talented writers who grow into "frenemies" once one of them achieves massive success is full of wit and clever performances. There's also a twist near the end that smartly questions the whole notion of truth in storytelling. SCM

**K.**, The Hypocrites at Chopin Theatre, through Nov. 28. This is a lively, engaging adaptation of Kafka's *The Trial*, performed with dazzling meta-theatrical precision. Under director/adaptor Greg Allen, it has all the Byzantine fun of fighting a traffic ticket... with your life at stake! JA

**Peter Pan**, Lookingglass Theatre, through Jan. 2. Before the super high-tech British tent version arrives in Chicago next year, catch this revisionist homegrown adaptation of J.M. Barrie's classic tale of the boy who wouldn't grow up. Yes, you can see all the ropes and harnesses for the flying effects, but it's still theatrically magical. SCM

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge and Morgan

glories at Circle's former Forest Park home. (No doubt the company is still adjusting to its bigger space.)

Circle's *Kiss Me, Kate* only truly comes to life during Kevin Bellie's big choreographed production numbers and whenever the gangsters of John Roeder and Tommy Bullington get to ham it up as tough guys transformed by theatrical art.

*The Music Man* may be focused on a film-flam salesman (a very affable Bernie Yvon as Harold Hill), but it's also about how the arts truly enrich a small-minded and stubborn Iowa town. Director Gary Griffin's picture-postcard perfect staging of *The Music Man* for the Marriott Theatre reinforces this idea with every high-stepping number and line of heartfelt dialogue.

You won't see a *Music Man* of this high caliber for some time, so my advice is to drop your big-city pretensions and cozy up to Meredith Willson's sunny optimism of small-town life at the Marriott right away.

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BrainPeople. Photo by Anthony Aicardi

## THEATER REVIEW

### BrainPeople

Playwright: José Rivera

At: UrbanTheater Company at the Batey Urbano, 2620 W. Division

Phone: 312-239-8783; \$20

Runs through: Dec. 12

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

Martial law reigns over Los Angeles, replete with uniformed soldiers rounding up the usual suspects, but this doesn't stop Señorita Mayannah from celebrating the Day of the Dead in her accustomed manner. Once a year, the reclusive heiress invites two strangers into her home for a dinner in honor of her deceased mother and father, rewarding those selected for their participation with not only a sumptuous meal, but transportation through the ravaged city in a private limo and a generous monetary gift to take home at the end of the evening.

We get our first hint that this is not an or-

dinary philanthropic gesture when we note the furnishings of the ornate dining room, decorated with reproductions of religious paintings—Caravaggio, El Greco, Goya—and candlelit icons in quantity suggesting a chapel in a wealthy Iberian parish. The menu includes a likewise exotic entrée, which, we learn, represents the orphaned hostess's revenge on the tiger responsible for her parents' untimely death while traveling in India. The guests this time are not without their eccentricities, too: Ani is a shy spinster recovering from an obsessive crush on a television newscaster and Rosemary is a projects-raised waif suffering from multiple-personality disorder.

There is a scientific basis to José Rivera's bizarre premise, however. Mayannah has read about food-chain transference of DNA, along with the memory contained therein (you are, literally, what you eat, by virtue of having eaten it). The plan behind her annual rite is to retrieve some part of her progenitors' consciousness by dining on a descendant of the animal in whose feline genes it now rests. As sirens wail in the streets below, each of the damaged women makes her

and pre-adolescent women, allowing them to explore aspects of manhood in ways that illuminate them for performers and audiences alike. Of course, there are women in The Iliad such as Helen, Hecuba and Cassandra, but the two who make it into Wright's version are reduced—in actual fact—to toy dolls: voiceless objects, manipulated and possessed by men as property or spoils of war. It's a "reductio ad absurdum" of unemancipated women still found globally in some cultures and on Jerry Springer.

There's nothing new in the well-known story being told but only in the manner of its telling. The miniaturization of women may be the show's best idea, and you get it in the first minute. The various ironies and illuminations of young women playing men also appear quickly, as do the intervention of the gods which often make moot the decisions and dreams of mankind. After that, this version of The Iliad very much seems to be for the benefit of the performers, given that most of the performers—many from A Red Orchid's Youth Ensemble—are not professional actors.

Fortunately it's brief enough to hold the audience's attention, and more than vigorous enough in action and text. Wright and director Steve Wilson keep things moving briskly by incorporating elements of Story Theatre, Greek theatre, puppetry and a lot of stage combat. The multicultural cast of 13 is drilled to precision for the intensely physical performance they give, utilizing every aisle and corner of A Red Orchid's small Old Town theater. Wright's text also moves things along by keeping the language relatively simple and forthright, although at the expense of the metaphysical and narrative complexities of The Iliad.

The bottom line is that this production is a novelty, an upgraded version of the school play. It's exciting to see what they've accomplished, but it stretches the kids' borders far more than yours. Of course, that's true of much fully adult theater as well.



The Iliad. Photo by Michael Brosilow

## THEATER REVIEW

### The Iliad

Playwright: Craig Wright (after Homer)

At: A Red Orchid Theatre, 1531 N. Wells

Tickets: 312-943-8722;

<http://www.aredorchidtheatre.org>; \$25-\$30

Runs through: Dec. 19

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

It took the Greeks 10 years to overcome Ilium (Troy), but Craig Wright's interesting and odd adaptation of The Iliad runs just 50 minutes. Not surprisingly, he doesn't tell the entire Homeric epic. He focuses on the monumental battle of egos between King Agamemnon, the Greek commander and his best warrior, the god-like Achilles. After nine-and-a-half years of stalemate, the Greeks nearly met their doom in a few weeks as Agamemnon and Achilles measured dicks.

The anatomical reference may be coarse, but it's appropriate as Wright sees the work as being about issues of masculinity and femininity within each individual (mostly testosterone in this case), and about maturity vs. immaturity at any age. The oddity of the play is that Wright created it for an all-female cast of adolescent

confession and in doing so, discovers a startling synchronicity in their histories—those slippery DNA strands circulate fast and far, you know—culminating in the miracle so diligently pursued.

Jorge Félix's sepulchral scenic ambience doesn't include olfactory intoxicants (e.g. incense), but even so, playgoers may find themselves descending into a trance-like focus engendered by Rivera's mystical sensory-rich imagery—particularly as declaimed with seductive solemnity by Marilyn Camacho, Kate Brown and Amanda Powell playing, respectively, the charismatic Mayannah, spartan Ani and volatile Rosemary. Under Marti Lyons' direction, the action proceeds at a measured pace belying its brief 80-minute running time to cast a hypnotic spell leading us on an intricate journey through the dark corners of the human soul.

## Artemis Singers' 30th anniv. Dec. 4

Artemis Singers, Chicago's lesbian feminist chorus, will celebrate its 30th anniversary with a concert Saturday, Dec. 4, at 8 p.m. at the Skokie Theatre, 7924 N. Lincoln, Skokie.

Featured works Dec. 4 will include "Rosa Sat"; "Fishing," a barbershop song commissioned in memory of Michaeline Chvatal; and "What About Love?"

Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. Tickets can be purchased online at <http://www.skokietheatre.com>. Tickets by mail, payable to the Skokie Theatre Music Foundation, 7924 N. Lincoln, Skokie, Ill., 60077, avoid the online service charge.

## SPOTLIGHT



For anyone who thinks there isn't enough cross-dressing at Christmas time should be sure to check out Piccolo Theatre's **Robin Hood: The Panto!** As in the best British tradition of holiday pantomimes, a man dresses as a woman as the comedy Dame, while a woman typically takes on the male heroic role. Piccolo Theatre's Robin Hood: The Panto! plays 7 p.m. Fridays, 3 and 7 p.m. Saturdays and 3 p.m. Sundays until Dec. 19 at the Evanston Arts Depot, 600 Main, Evanston. Tickets are \$25, \$20 for seniors and \$10 for students. Call 847-424-0089 or visit <http://www.piccolotheatre.com>. Photo of Bess Flatbottom (Andrew Roberts) and Robin Hood (Berner Taylor) in Piccolo Theatre's Robin Hood: The Panto! courtesy of the company

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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.

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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.

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#### 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.

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- 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, side effects included:

- nausea
- headache
- tiredness
- weakness
- trouble sleeping
- stomach pain
- dizziness
- depression
- suicidal thoughts and actions

**Other side effects** include rash, severe skin reactions, feeling anxious, 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.

Rash occurred more often in patients taking ISENTRESS and darunavir together than with either drug separately, but was generally mild.

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](http://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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## THEATER

# People, 'Traces' and things

BY JERRY NUNN

The Broadway Playhouse debuts its first official show, *Traces*, sprung from a French-Canadian acrobatic troupe. Florian Zumkehr and Xia Zhengqi—two members of the troupe 7 Fingers, who are putting on the show—sat down for a face-to-face interview.

**Windy City Times:** Heyyy, guys. Just seeing the preview was amazing. How long have you been working on this show?

Florian Zumkehr: We have been working with this company for five months to create this show. Before that we were touring as normal circus performers, but not in this group. I know the 7 Fingers though friends and I sent them a DVD and they liked it. There was not an official casting for the show; it was more they picked who they wanted to have in the show.

**WCT:** So it was put together as different acts.



Florian Zumkehr.

FZ: Yes. It really depends on if you fit in the show because it is not just being skilled in the discipline that you do, it really about the character because we are seven people and we have to fit in the structure of the show. It is great if you are a good acrobat but you also have to be lucky to fit into the show.

**WCT:** What is your nationality?

FZ: I am from Switzerland.  
Xia Zhengqi: I am from China.

**WCT:** How long have you guys been in the circus?

FZ: I did a kids' circus until I was 15. I moved from Basel, Switzerland, to Berlin and did my circus school there for four years. Since then I have been touring for two years in German cabarets as a professional circus performer.

XZ: I started when I was 5 years old. I was in a gymnastic team. When I was 9 years old I moved to a circus school to learn for eight years. I was with Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey then I worked with Cirque du Soleil for three years. My friend told me about 7 Fingers.

**WCT:** And now you are here. What is the difference between this show and Cirque?

XZ: In Cirque you wear makeup and it is a big show. You always have to be a character—not you, but someone else. But here in this show, we don't need the shiny costumes or makeup, we just be ourselves.

**WCT:** It is a different vibe in this show.

XZ: Yes; the character depends on your person-

Zumkehr doing his thing in *Traces*.

ality. It is you, not someone else.

FZ: It is really about the seven people that are on stage. There is no story that has been made up before. We have to act it. We are in the creative process. We are searching for the scenes that fit for us. What the 7 Fingers really like to do is show a human scale of circus. When it is natural the audience is touched by it because it has more emotions.

**WCT:** So you guys have never been to Chicago. What do you think?

XZ: It is a big city and super-clean here.

**WCT:** It's not like New York. Where does the show go after this?

FZ: L.A. and Denver. After that we don't know yet.

**WCT:** What would you tell people to get them to come see it?

XZ: That we are special.

FZ: I think it is incredible to see seven people for 90 minutes doing so many different things on a high skill level. As you saw I was playing piano today but my specialty is handstands. We all do Chinese pole. We do the hoop-diving that you saw on the video.

**WCT:** I want to see that live next time!

FZ: So for 90 minutes all of us are on the stage running around.

XZ: Also, the audience will know more about the person. It is not just a story on stage. It is more about seven artists, where they grew up, and what they are like. For me there are things that I am shy to say but in the show I am able to say things. You will know more of my personality that way. It is not only a circus.

FZ: It is crazy to see how much we give every night. It is really tiring and we do it all for the audience. It is worth it to come see because we put everything in it to make it happen.

**WCT:** How much do you practice?

FZ: For the last five months we have been training eight hours a day.

XZ: It's because we want to make this show better. Everyone just gives one hundred percent.

**Traces runs through Saturday, Jan. 1, at the Broadway Playhouse, 175 E. Chestnut. Call 800-775-2000 or visit <http://www.broadway-inchicago.com> for tickets and information.**

## Patty Duke brings sparkle



Seemingly, every gay man in Chicago saw his movie cup overflow Nov. 20 at Camp Midnight's Valley of the Dolls screening event at the historic Music Box Theatre with Academy Award winner Patty Duke, star of the movie, in attendance. The sold-out event began at 1 p.m. with a wacky pre-show hosted by Dick O'Day (the alter ego of WCT movie critic Richard Knight, Jr.) and included a costume parade and a Valley of the Dolls sing-a-long medley that featured David Cerda, artistic director of Hell in a Handbag Productions, who appeared in character as Dolls best-selling novelist Jacqueline Susann, and Handbag star Ed Jones, who was Helen Lawson, portrayed in the film by Susan Hayward.

The packed Music Box crowd was stunned and delighted at the conclusion of the medley when Patty Duke surprised the audience as she entered the theatre and dueted with the trio onstage in the song "Come Live with Me," a "highlight" of the 1967 camp classic. After the hilarious interactive screening, Duke returned to the stage and sat down with Knight and Cerda for a lively conversation that centered on the making of the film. Duke described the film, which critics lambasted, as a nightmare experience and went on to credit the gay community for helping her to embrace the movie decades later.

Following the screening, Duke appeared at a private meet-and-greet with fans and described her stay in Chicago as one of the most memorable in her long career. This marked only the third time that Duke has appeared at a Valley of the Dolls screening. The event was a partial benefit for the Queer Film Society. Camp Midnight, which presents the "best of the worst" in film, will return to the Music Box on New Year's Eve with its third annual showing of *The Poseidon Adventure*. Photos of Dick O'Day and Duke (left) and Duke at the Music Box by Rick Aguilar



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# Christina Aguilera: Can't hold her down

Singer makes big-screen debut in one of the gayest movies of the year: *Burlesque*  
BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Christina Aguilera's career is made of bold moves—be it the “Beautiful” video, with its tight shots of men making out, or musically moving from shameless pop to futuristic mode, as she did on this year's album, *Bionic*.

The powerhouse vocalist, who turns 30 in December, takes the plunge again with her first film, *Burlesque*, playing not some rinky-dink character, but the lead—so not what was supposed to happen.

“My goal wasn't to star in a leading position but be part of a great film and have a couple of lines and get my feet wet—boy, that didn't happen!” said Aguilera, who plays Ali, a girl with dreams too big for her small town.

After shooting down many scripts, Aguilera felt a special connection to *Burlesque*, writer-director Steven Antin's first major movie that he describes as “a call-back to the old, fabulous MGM musicals.” She already knew the art form well, too: “I have a collection of burlesque books at home that I've had for years,” she said. “I've just always been intrigued and fascinated with the topic, and the beauty and heart and comedic value of it. It's a beautiful, empowering thing for women.”

Promoting the film at the Four Seasons Hotel in Beverly Hills, Calif., with her dog, Stinky, in tow, Aguilera slurped some chicken-noodle soup—breaking at one point to scold her assistant because it wasn't up to snuff.

“Soup drama,” she quipped with a delicate smile. However edgy and distracted Aguilera is, you can't blame her; she's dealing with a divorce (she and Jordan Bratman filed in October) and finding her place in the pop landscape again after *Bionic* bombed. Now there's Aguilera's first



Christina Aguilera in *Burlesque*. Photos by Stephen Vaughan

film—one that was admittedly more than she bargained for.

“I was wearing so many different hats—more than anybody else on the film,” she said, about writing and recording three songs, learning a different dance form and then, of course, actually acting for the first time.

It helped that Aguilera related to Ali, who leaves behind a troubled past in Iowa and stumbles into a swanky Sunset Strip burlesque club owned by Tess (Cher). “Her background story came from a place inspired by pain,” Aguilera said. “Lots of people talk about their situations and complain, but they never do anything about it. The thing about Ali that I love is that she makes the decision to leave, and that's really hard. It really spoke to me.”

But that's not all that lured Aguilera. Antin and Screen Gems President Clint Culpepper, partners on *Burlesque* and in life, eventually nabbed one of the biggest superstars ever: Cher. Aguilera wasn't about to miss out on this little-diva, big-diva moment.

“It's so weird to say this about the icon and the legend that is Cher, but she's like an old girlfriend,” Aguilera said. “She's an incredible person personally and professionally, offering amazing advice, stories, ‘been there done there.’ She's one of a kind.”

Antin thought highly of Aguilera, too, calling her “the voice of a generation” as he spoke about

## Xtina talks new music, bullies and gays

### On supporting the gay community:

“When people aren't being heard, aren't being seen or aren't being treated fairly or equally because of their own individual choices or who they are, I really stick up for them. It means a lot to me to put it out there, say in my music video for *Beautiful*, for example. So, yeah, I'm very supportive of the gay community.”

### On being bullied:

“I have my own issues with feeling alienated as a kid. In school, doing what I did and maybe being a little smaller, I was definitely bullied for the attention that I got. It was definitely unwanted attention and there was a lot of unfairness about it, so I'm sensitive to that.”

### On new music:

“After the movie, I am a changed woman. I'm in a very introspective place right now, and

I'm really into putting my heart out on paper. The last album I made was a little more playful in nature; I'd just had my son (2-year-old Max) and I wanted to experiment with an electronica sound. Now I want to get back to my roots.”

### On writing songs for *Burlesque*:

“It was a little out of body. I definitely wanted to write from her point of view and make sure it was about her, and not myself. But we do share some of the same issues. Ali didn't really grow up with a father; I didn't really grow up with a father. There's vulnerability, but there's also a fearlessness quality where she's going to charge forward and go for it. I admire that.”

### On what she'd tell her younger self:

“I wouldn't really advise her to do anything differently. Any mistakes that I might have made, or any failures I might have had over the years, aren't, because they're all lessons. I'm very proud of my body of work. I would only tell her: ‘Don't change a thing, keep your head held high and keep working hard.’”

*Burlesque* in Beverly Hills. From the get-go, the Grammy-winning singer was his first choice to fill the underdog role.

Throughout the 71-day shoot, Antin and the cast worked out huge set ideas and infinitely smaller touches, like the flower Aguilera wears in her hair during the “Bound to You” number—something Antin opposed, but Aguilera and Culpepper wanted. “Little things like that, to very big things, were a constant conversation and collaboration,” she said.

A wide, sneaky smile cut across Aguilera's face as she burst into a wicked snicker. “And guess who still had the flower in her hair?”

Another dialogue emerged over a Cher-Christina duet, which was discussed but never recorded. “We already had so much music involved—even Cher's ballad [“You Haven't Seen the Last of Me,” written by Diane Warren] came late in the game—and it was hard for everyone to agree on a song [for the movie], I think,” Aguilera said.

While shooting, Antin invited both actresses—and undoubtedly two of the world's biggest gay icons—to watch their scenes after they wrapped. Cher wouldn't because she doesn't watch herself, but Aguilera referenced them for future takes, according to the director.

“When she would really nail a take and have a wonderful moment I would want to celebrate it with her,” Antin said. “Sometimes I'd want her to see it so she knew, when I was shooting other angles, what I wanted her to go for.”

One scene caught many angles—not of Aguilera, but rather *Twilight* cutie Cam Gigandet, her

crush in the film. “I hope they love this guy just as much,” he said of his evil onscreen persona, James, in the vampire saga.

What's not to love? In almost every one of his *Burlesque* scenes, he's nearly naked.

“It's always kind of tricky,” Gigandet said, demonstrating with a table cloth the sliver of fabric hiding his bits from everyone on set. “I had to take it out of my mind that it was actually Christina Aguilera, because she's ... Christina Aguilera! But after a while, she's even bored by it all.”

In the scene, he strategically shields his junk with a box of Famous Amos cookies. Surely that won't bore the millions of gay men watching—not that Gigandet, who isn't one of them, cares how many guys gawk. In fact, “I hope there's more!” he said.

And there very well might be, considering how gay *Burlesque* actually is: diva-duo Cher and Christina Aguilera aside, there are Alan Cumming and the gay-for-pay Stanley Tucci. There's splashy fashion and fun, throwback music. And there's eyeliner, which Gigandet rocks during his lounge scenes. That, and the fact that he's not part of some emo punk-pop band, leads Aguilera's character to believe that he's, ahem, gay.

Nothing wrong with erring on the side of caution, especially if you've been duped before. And Aguilera, biting her straw and laughing, has: “I did have an ex-boyfriend that left me for a gay man at one point in my life.”

Acting, Cher, gay boyfriends—there's a first time for everything.

Be sure to read Richard Knight, Jr.'s, review of *Burlesque* online at <http://www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com>.



## MOVIES

# Simply Cher

Legend talks film comeback, being a gay icon and son Chaz

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

They don't make 'em like Cher anymore. The superdiva, and queen of all gay icons, has been able to successfully pull off singing and acting throughout her nearly 50-year career—and she does both in *Burlesque*, her long-awaited return to the big screen out Nov. 24. Cher's role as Tess, an L.A. club owner who gives a small-town girl (Christina Aguilera in her acting debut) a shot at fulfilling her dream as a singer, is the Oscar winner's first major part since *Tea with Mussolini* more than a decade ago.

"Tess is a character who, in the face of great adversity, manages to pull herself up by her bootstraps and rise like a phoenix—and that is Cher," said writer-director Steven Antin, who nabbed the actress for his big-budget film debut.

Breaking from her Las Vegas show at Caesars Palace, which closes in February after three years, Cher coolly strutted into a suite at the Four Seasons Hotel in Beverly Hills, Calif., with a big smirk and an off-the-shoulder sequined shirt—proof that the legend's not letting her 64 years get in the way of sustaining her sexiness.

Sitting in was Stanley Tucci, who plays her gay assistant and pal (much like the actor did in *The Devil Wears Prada*, alongside Meryl Streep). The two stars laughed a lot over the dirty texts they shared and the scenes they shot together. Cher also talked about her indecision over doing *Burlesque*, why gay men adore her and shooting an "It Gets Better" video with transgender son Chaz Bono.

**Chris Azzopardi: There's no question that this is an incredibly gay movie.**

Cher: [Laughs] One guy said, "This is gay Fantasia!"

**CA: How does this rank among the gayest things you have done in your career?**

Cher: Not even anywhere! It doesn't even rank. I don't think of it as a gay film, but of course gay guys love musicals. And it's fun! Gay guys like to have fun, and so I think that's what it is.

**CA: Do they, Stanley?**

Stanley Tucci: [Sarcastically] How would I know?

Cher: He's just an actor!

**CA: You've played gay now for Cher and Meryl Streep. Who's the better boss?**

ST: [Points to Cher] Well, she's much nicer.

Cher: That's right—Meryl was horrible! [Both laugh]

**CA: Gay men have always been a big part of your career. Can you reflect on that?**

Cher: I've said this many times, but I think gay men either love you or they don't even notice you're alive on the planet. And if they do love you they kind of stick with you through thick and through thin, even when you're not popular. They recognize kindred spirits that don't really fit into society, either. And, of course, there's sequins.

**CA: Cher, we haven't seen you onscreen in a long time. What about *Burlesque* drew you back?**

Cher: You know, I just wanted to sing. I wanted to sing in a film. It was my heart's desire from the time I was about 4, so that's what I wanted to do. I didn't want the film [at first]; this was a process. I thought that [Tess] could be a good role. It wasn't exactly what I wanted in the beginning, but she did turn out to be who I thought she should be.

**CA: What do you love about Tess?**

Cher: She's my kind of girl. I love that she's working really hard and she's not getting anywhere but she's not giving up. I love the relationship she has with all the [burlesque] girls and with him [Tucci].

She's a very likable character, so it's not like you're taking a big risk. In the beginning she was so not likable, and I just kept saying, "She's just complaining and she's angry with the girls and yelling at them all the time." I just thought somebody like this would've just sold the club.

**CA: One of Tess' best moments is the musical number "You Haven't Seen the Last of Me." How do you personally identify with that song?**

Cher: Stanley and I were talking about this. If you've been in this business, you know what being down is, and if you keep going then you know what struggling through down means.

**CA: Many have tried to transition from pop diva to actress, and many have failed—but you were one who's done it spectacularly. What advice did you have for Christina?**

ST: It's not going to work for Christina. We've discussed this, and Christina knows it. [Laughs]

Cher: [Laughs] I think a couple of things had to happen for her to feel comfortable with me, because she didn't know me. We met a week before [filming began], and she had to realize that I was going to be there to support her and not do any kind of weird actress crap. I really saw as we went on, our scenes together just got better and better. I think she really has the talent to keep going.

I would've never done this [as my first film]. The first thing that was on film [in my acting career] was an ensemble piece, but the first thing that was a film [1983's *Silkwood*], I had no idea what I was doing and I was holding [Meryl



Cher. Photo by Martin Schoeller

Streep's] hand through it.

**CA: How do you think your performance playing gay in *Silkwood* stands up to gay characters now?**

Cher: I don't think you "play gay."

ST: You don't.

Cher: I didn't. If you look at her, she was just a person, and you just play a person. I think for Stanley it was more of a stretch, but the truth is we giggle like [we did in] that first scene all the time. He makes me laugh hysterically, and I just don't think you play that. [Looks at Tucci] I don't think in *The Lovely Bones* you played a murderer; you played a person.

**CA: How was it for you and Stanley to connect as characters?**

Cher: We don't get along to this day! [Laughs]

ST: It was awful; they're paying me for these interviews. [Laughs] It was great. I was very nervous to meet Cher, there's no doubt about it. But once we started working, we got along very well and we had a great time. In fact, they had to wrangle us in to keep us from laughing all the time.

**CA: Did you improvise while filming?**

Cher: There's that part where we're at the rack hanging clothes and at the end he grabs me with his legs—that was so not expected! [Laughs]

ST: [Laughs] No one would actually write that in the script.

Cher: I remember when I opened the rack and he looked at me, I just started laughing hysterically. That wasn't in [the movie]. We would go off on our little tangents. It was fun for us and I think when you're having fun on the screen, people get it.

**CA: Some of the best scenes in the film are the ones you both share. What was it like off-screen?**

ST: What you saw on-screen is exactly what was happening off-screen, and I'm not kidding.

Whatever that relationship was is the relationship that this is.

Cher: He makes me laugh hysterically, and I just make him roll his eyes and smile. That's the truth. [Both laugh.]

ST: It's true, because she's really filthy.

Cher: No, it's not true! I swear!

ST: I'm going to show you a text... [Laughs]

Cher: We do have several texts that I hope never see the light of day.

**CA: Cher, did you get to wear any Bob Mackie?**

Cher: One [for the number] "Welcome to Burlesque." That was done specially for the film; I just don't happen to have those things [in my closet]. I have a lot. In my auction I gave the ones I didn't really love away, but the ones I love, I'm going to keep them until they fall apart.

**CA: You wore something to the MTV Video Music Awards this year that was very similar to the outfit in the "If I Could Turn Back Time" video. Was that planned?**

Cher: I wear that every night. [Laughs] I just had it and I didn't have time to think of an outfit and thought it would be fun.

**CA: What's next for you?**

Cher: There's an album, but I haven't been able to get to it. That's going to be the next thing I really want to do—unless a movie with Stanley comes up.

**CA: You also voice a character in the 2011 animated film *Zookeeper*.**

Cher: Yeah, I play a lioness: Sylvester Stallone's wife. [Laughs] It's not a big part; it was my first voiceover and it was really great. That's how they cornered me, because when I came out—I had been there for hours and I was really tired and I walked out the door—there was Steven [Antin, the *Burlesque* director] and Clint [Culpepper, president of Screen Gems]. Clint got down on one knee and said, "You have to come to the office!" And so I did.

**CA: Clint said you tried to pull out of the film. Was that only because of the character?**

Cher: Yeah. In life I don't know what I want nearly as much as what I want in a character. I complained a lot about the hours—we had many 16-hour days in heels. It was hard.

**CA: Are there plans to film a video with Chaz for the "It Gets Better" campaign directed toward LGBT youth?**

Cher: We haven't talked about it. She's been ... she, I do this all the time; the pronouns are just fucked. He's doing the documentary and this book, so that's been taking up all the time.

**CA: Looking back at your early career, what advice would you give yourself?**

Cher: Shut my mouth! [Laughs]

ST: You would shut your mouth?

Cher: Yeah, I would shut my mouth a lot more than I have in my life. I wouldn't have done anything different because you just do what you do, sometimes it works and sometimes it doesn't. You just have to keep going. Mistakes are just mistakes.



Burlesque stills of Stanley Tucci and Cher; and Cher and Christina Aguilera. Photos by Stephen Vaughan



Jonathan Plummer. Photos courtesy of Calvin Fleming

## Jonathan Plummer finds niche as website host

BY ANDREW DAVIS

The name Jonathan Plummer may not immediately ring a bell, but the title “ex-husband of author Terry McMillan” might. Plummer married the *How Stella Got Her Groove Back* author in 1998—but came out to her in 2004, leading McMillan to file for divorce the next year. The drama played out in public, with McMillan confronting Plummer in 2005 on *The Oprah Winfrey Show* (and a reconciliation on a 2010 show) as well as a lawsuit filed by McMillan, which she later withdraw.

Nowadays, Plummer hosts *NoMoreDownLow.TV*—described as “a groundbreaking, one-of-a-kind lifestyle and entertainment series dedicated to dispelling myths and stereotypes about same gender-loving people in the African American community—with Janora McDuffie. Plummer (who said that he’d love to get married “gay” since he’s been married “straight”) talked with *Windy City Times* about the monthly web series as well as about the changes in his life.

**Windy City Times: I know that your own personal life as been everywhere. How much of an emotional change do you feel you’ve gone through in, say, the past five years?**

Jonathan Plummer: My coming-out process was very public, and I got a lot of backlash and criticism. But the thing is that everyone has their own way of coming out. It was a learning experience, and I learned a lot about getting to know myself and speaking my truth. It was a lot to go through, and I didn’t have that much support until later, unfortunately—but I had an amazing group of friends who were there for me.

Talking with people helped; I went to counseling for help through this whole journey and process. But I’m definitely in a better place, I’ve accepted myself and I’m taking life one day at a time and living it to the fullest, basically.

I’m more comfortable in my skin, and the good thing is that my ex-wife has accepted me for me. She’s comfortable with my life and we talk about everything on a regular basis; everything is free-flowing right now. We’re both in a great place.

**WCT: NoMoreDownLow.Tv launched on National Coming Out Day (Oct. 11). Why was that?**

JP: It was very monumental for us to do it that day—it speaks volumes. What we’re trying to do is change the whole negative connotation

of being in the closet, hiding. We want to bring a positive light. We’re catering to the African-American [LGBT] community and other ethnic groups, and the heterosexual people who might be curious—those who will say, “OK, we want to see what it’s all about.” Hopefully, they’ll learn from this.

People who are struggling with their identity can go to this website and see people of color who are living their truth and living their lives to the fullest.

Everyone’s journey is different. There is going to be some isolation but, eventually, you’ll see a positive light.

**WCT: And what have you learned about other people through this show?**

JP: Everyone’s journey is different and you have to accept them for who they are. It’s an amazing thing to become comfortable in your own skin. I commend those people who knew when they were 5 years old as well as those who discover themselves in their 20s and 30s. I do want to say that it’s very liberating your identity and sexuality. Some people think it’s a lifestyle but it’s my life—it’s part of who I am, and we’re not settling. Life’s too short.

**WCT: I often say, “My life may have style, but it’s not a lifestyle.”**

JP: Exactly. It’s my life—and I’m comfortable living it. I’m doing things the way I want to do it.

**WCT: Oh, I know you are. I’ve seen some of those Facebook pictures.**

JP: [Laughs] I know. I’m just having fun. I’m just living life.

We all say we want to do this, this and this. I’m in my 30s and I feel I’m in great shape. I wasn’t able to do this when I was married; I didn’t feel comfortable. Now, I’m embracing [myself] and I’m discovering my inner... What’s the word I’m looking for?

**WCT: Actually, it seems that you’ve discovered your inner Jonathan.**

JP: Yes! It’s self-discovery, basically. I’m trying to do different things and I’m experiencing different things.

**WCT: Do you think any more A-list African-American actors or athletes will come out of the closet in the next 10 years or so? There’s Wanda Sykes.**

JP: I think so. It just takes one. Once they retire, they might come out or so, but they sometimes feel they have so much at stake right now that they don’t. If [an athlete] comes out, other people are petrified, thinking, “Oh, I’m in the locker room with a gay man.”

In a way, I don’t blame them. If they’re creative enough to do it on their own, I’ll definitely commend them and be behind them with pompoms. [Both laugh.] I really would hope that people will be more forthcoming. At the height

of their careers—earning bazillions of dollars—they really have nothing to lose. It would make other entertainers more comfortable with the idea of coming out.

What’s interesting is that with women there is [relatively little] backlash.

**WCT: Why do you think that is?**

JP: I’m pretty sure that some people think that having two women together is taboo and hot.

**WCT: You’ve talked about the issue of gay teen suicide on the show. What would you like to say about it?**

JP: It really saddens me, and it [takes] me back to being in Jamaica and a conservative lifestyle—getting married, having kids and having the house with the white picket fence. I had never seen same-sex relationships and relationships until we moved out to California. It just saddens me that differing beliefs lead people to take their own lives. I just wish that colleagues and other people educate others.

Thank God for shows like *Glee*, *Modern Family* and *Brothers and Sisters*, where you see positive gay images—although you don’t see African Americans on them.

**WCT: There was Noah’s Arc [a 2005-06 Logo**

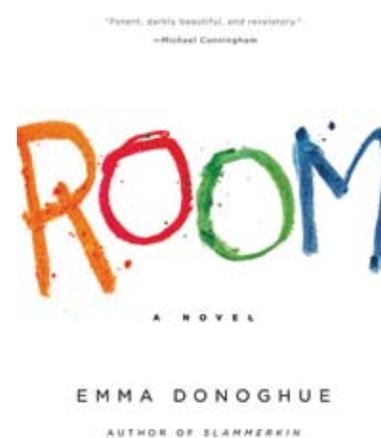
### BOOK REVIEW

## Room: A Novel

by Emma Donoghue  
\$24.99; Little, Brown and Company; 321 pages  
REVIEW BY YASMIN NAIR

In 2008, 42-year-old Elisabeth Fritzl revealed to police in the Austrian town of Amstetten that she had been held captive by her father, Josef, for 24 years. Over that period, Fritzl repeatedly raped and abused his daughter, forcing her to give birth to seven children in total.

The story and its nightmarish details consumed the world for months. It, and similar cases, prompted the Irish-Canadian lesbian writer Emma Donoghue to write *Room*, a novel about the abduction of a young college student by a man we will only know as “Old Nick.” But while much of the media coverage around these true-life stories has focused on what the women went through, few have discussed the children.



*Room* is written from the perspective of Jack, and we only know his mother as “Ma.” Jack is five—the novel begins with a birthday celebration—and has never known the outside world, having been born here. He and his mother are confined to a room, 11 feet by 11 feet, fitted with the bare necessities to which they give names, without corresponding articles: Blanket, Bed, Door. Through the last, Nick comes by, carefully closing it behind him via an automatic system, bearing food and the occasional gift for Jack, whom he is never allowed to see. On most nights, he rapes Ma on Bed; she has given up registering protest. Jack lies inside Wardrobe, listening to the sounds

**show that focused on four African-American gay male friends].**

JP: That was a great show—loved it. I wish there were more shows like that on mainstream TV.

**WCT: You wrote a book called Balancing Act [a thinly veiled take on Plummer’s own life]. Is there a follow-up in the works?**

JP: I think there might be. I am talking with Karen Hunter [who co-wrote *Balancing Act*] about possibly working on something next year.

**WCT: You’ve talked about getting married—and you are presently single. What are you looking for in a guy?**

JP: I’d like someone with a kind heart, who’s goal-oriented and who’s easy on the eyes; I usually like older guys, and don’t usually date men in their 20s. I’d like a good person who is comfortable with himself, because I’m out. If I want to kiss a guy on the cheek in public, I don’t want him to shrink away. I’m out here in L.A. and there’s perfection like crazy, but a lot of people seem empty.

**The newest episode of NoMoreDownLow.TV features Pam Grier and MTV’s Making His Band winner Jaiila Simms, among others. Visit <http://www.NoMoreDownLow.TV>.**

that he doesn’t understand; he simply wants to get back to sleep: “I put Blanket over my head and press my ears not to hear. I don’t want to count the creaks but I do.”

Such chilling details combine with touches of humor. Eventually, Jack and Ma plot a way for him to escape. Jack, who has never had his hair cut, is able to connect with a sympathetic stranger who grows suspicious of Nick’s connection to him, and asks, “Is your little girl okay?” To which, Jack responds, in his head, “What little girl?”

*Room* succeeds in its voicing of Jack’s world and his unique perspective on it. Donoghue crystallizes Jack’s experiences in a minimalist way, and we learn more about him through his interactions with the world and others than through long soliloquies. Ma makes sure that her child has an understanding of language and sensory perception, a difficult task under the circumstances. She uses every book made available to them to school Jack, and is constantly devising games to keep his mind alert. As a result, Jack’s reading ability and vocabulary outpace that of the average five-year-old. And yet, when they are finally rescued and returned to the outside world, he struggles to comprehend the basics, like stairways, choosing to navigate those by sitting and sliding up and down.

*Room* is an engaging and absorbing tale, but Donoghue falters when she tries to overlay the story with social commentary. When a television interviewer probes Ma with questions about her ordeal, she launches into a diatribe about slavery being common and the fact that, “in America, we’ve got more than twenty-five thousand prisoners in isolation cells...Some of them for more than twenty years.” While it warms my prison activist heart to see such a statement in a novel about an abducted child, the speech feels awkward and forced, as if Donoghue is unsure that her story could sustain its force without making itself socially relevant. She is right to be concerned. *Room* is a riveting novel, and its narrator emerges as a memorable character; it was on the long list for the Booker Prize. Jack is not unique as a child narrator in literature—David Copperfield’s early years come to mind. But *Room*’s trouble lies precisely in the fact that Donoghue strains too hard to make Jack believable. His voice is authentic, but the larger story, placed so burdensomely upon his tiny shoulders, seems more gimmicky than engrossing; there’s not much beyond the fact that a child narrates it. This is a book you might read to see the effect of Donoghue’s craft, but it’s not likely to be a book you return to.

# IT DOES GET BETTER

A special section of  
**WINDY CITY  
TIMES**

This is the sixth week Windy City Times is including a special section on the topic, in the words of our writers and guest essayists, hoping to be part of the dialogue with youth, telling them “it does get better.”

Windy City Times will be taking submissions of essays to run on our Web site, [www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com](http://www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com), and in future issues. Please send your submission to [editor@windycitymediagroup.com](mailto:editor@windycitymediagroup.com)



The City of Oak Park, Ill. has embarked on a project to collect and publish testimonials and pledges for their YouTube channel, OPItGetsBetter. Below are a few screen captures and excerpts from the channel. See many more at <http://www.youtube.com/opitgetsbetter>.



### SANDRA AND DAVID SOKOL

“Everyone deserves to be respected for who they are. We pledge to spread this message to our friends, family and neighbors. We’ll speak up against hate and intolerance wherever we see it or hear it. We’ll provide hope for lesbian, gay, bi, trans and all bullied youth by letting them know that it gets better.”



### REBECCA LEVIN AND SOPHIE KALUZIAK

“What I want to tell you is that life gets a lot better as people start growing up and are less afraid of people showing their love for each other. ... We have had a phenomenal life together. We’ve got two kids that are already grown and we’ve experienced wonderful things.”



### SENATOR DON HARMON

“High school is tough for everyone and for kids who are being bullied, it’s especially tough. The good news is that high school ends and you move on into the rest of your lives and I can’t tell you how many folks I saw in high school who were being bullied who have gone on to do incredibly great things.”



### JIM

“By the time I was four, I knew that I was different. I knew that the friendships with the boys in my class meant something different to me than it did to them. And I also knew—somehow I knew—that it was a secret that I had to keep closely guarded. ... I went through life until I was 21 years old without ever telling another soul what I had known since I was four.”

## It Gets Better

BY VICE PRESIDENT JOSEPH BIDEN



Hey, thanks for giving me a chance to say a few words to you. I want to start off by saying, first and foremost, I’m proud of you. There’s not a single thing about you that’s not normal, good and decent. And you’re not alone. There are tens of millions of people around the world, and millions of people right here in America—and people right in your neighborhood—who may be or are perceived to be gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender; they’re normal people. But so many people in your circumstance are experiencing being bullied or ridiculed and I know it’s not only hurtful, but sometimes it can be literally frightening. And there’s absolutely no justification for it.

Just remember what this woman named Eleanor Roosevelt, president Roosevelt’s wife, she once said, “No one can make you feel inferior without your consent.” Don’t give your consent. Look around you. Look at the people who are the bullies. They’re the same ones that are making fun of every other kid in your class who has something different about him or her. They made fun of me because I stuttered and it hurt. The only thing all of us had in common is that we were the vehicles to be used by those losers to try to make themselves feel superior. It’s not about you, it’s about them.

Folks, it’s hurtful and sometimes it’s really hard to understand that it’s the bully who’s really the inferior one. That doesn’t make it any easier for you. It doesn’t make it hurt any less. It doesn’t make the fear go away. But I came to understand because of my mother and father that the fact that I stuttered didn’t make me less bright, less worthy or less of a person as they tried to make me feel. It was the people who were making fun of me who were less worthy, less bright.

You know, although I didn’t like it at the time,

I now, as a grown man and Vice President of the United States, I look back on it now and realize it really was a godsend to me; it gave me so much self-confidence and it helped me grow. But most of all it made me more sensitive to see inside the hurts other people. I came out of it a much stronger person. And now when I look back, I see just how weak those bullies actually were.

One day, not long from now, you’re going to look back on this time in your life and you’ll be incredibly proud that you were able to get through it, too. And the rest of us will be incredibly grateful because you’re the people who are going to grow up to be the adults who help society become more caring, more decent, more mature. You know what it’s like so you won’t do it to anybody else for any reason. You’ll have the experience; you can empathize. You can use that to change attitudes and to change perceptions, to literally change the world.

And right now I know for many of you young folks, each day can be a struggle. I know for LGBT youth it can be especially hard and, on some days, it seems almost unbearable. But when you feel that way, think about what I’m saying to you. You have nothing to be ashamed of; you have every reason to be proud. Proud!

Don’t let them take your self-worth away. Things do get better. You might not be able to see it right now, but it’s there and it’s waiting for you. I absolutely promise you that.

So fight through and keep going. You know, the life that lies ahead is so much greater than the difficulties that lie behind you. It will get better and I look forward to the day when all of you will be able to make us all feel better about ourselves as a country.

## RESOURCES



### THE TREVOR PROJECT

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[www.TheTrevorProject.org](http://www.TheTrevorProject.org)



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[www.youtube.com/user/itgetsbetterproject](http://www.youtube.com/user/itgetsbetterproject)

### PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays)

[www.pflagchicago.org](http://www.pflagchicago.org)

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2011 Ford Shelby GT500. Photo courtesy of Gaywheels.com

## VEHICLE REVIEW

### 2011 Ford Shelby GT500

BY CASEY WILLIAMS, GAYWHEELS.COM

Snakes are just nasty. My mother would be the first to tell you. They slither, shed, hiss, rattle, suffocate and sometimes bite. Mostly, they just do their own thing, wishing to live in peace. Despite every warning, somebody always has to walk up and poke venom with a stick. Do that to the Ford Shelby Cobra GT500 and you'll get a nasty surprise.

Like a rattler shakin' its thing in the Texas prairie, the GT500's exterior tells trespassers to leave it alone. From mugs to plugs, the GT500 is shaped for fear, but there is also plenty of refinement and detail to please less testosterone-infused gents.

A gaping grille, air scoop, bulging hood to shield the supercharger, 19" gray alloy wheels, and rear spoiler mean business. But, there's a finesse to the styling that recalls vintage Mustangs while softening the tones and amping the stripe colors (love the bright red on gray background) to appeal to Gen-X and Gen-Y, of all persuasions, raised on Hondas, V-Dubs, and Scions. Telling it is a Mustang, the GT500 flips its tail to the world on wide haunches enlightened by triple barrel taillamps. Ford goes after the whole tribe in one big bite; competitors who fail to heed this blaring warning will be sprayed in puddles of snake hiss.

Open the door and a twin cowl dash greets you as only a Mustang could. Being a Shelby, the cabin was loaded to the 9s with red leather bucket seats, suede- and leather-wrapped steering wheel, cue ball shift knob, metallic-look console trim, and the largest color-changeable gauges Ford could devise. Ford's SYNC system links the navigation and audio systems by voice. USB ports plugged my iPod easily, and then allowed it to be controlled through the touchscreen. Bluetooth wirelessly connected my phone to the car, but it was a little hard to have conversations over the intoxicating engine rumble. There's still a lot of hard plastic on the doors, but key touch points have been padded for a more upscale feel. Interior designers blended the right portions of heritage and technology to please almost everybody. Still, nobody drinks the GT500 for its interior flair.

Unless you're on a track, drink responsibly. The GT500 takes you from sober to sideways with one toss of the throttle. A new aluminum-block 5.4-litre supercharged V8 charges with 550 horsepower and 510 lb.-ft. of torque—10 HP

more than last year. Cast in aluminum instead of cast iron, engineers eviscerated 102 lbs. from the V8 for better acceleration, handling, and fuel economy—enough to erase the GT500 from the Fed's gas guzzler roster by enabling 15/23-MPG city/hwy. Shifted with a six-speed manual transmission, the crisp wrist-activated lever enables 0-60mph runs in 4.2s.

Tread in near-slicks, slight provocations will send the GT500 wobbling until the relatively passive stability control system whips it back into line. Stabbing the throttle full-on should really only be done on a track or a very wide straight road as deserted as the Mustang plant on Labor Day. Fortunately, there's an electronic safety net when things get really stupid and the power is easy to modulate.

While driving the GT500, it hauled tail and tummy through Kentucky on my way to drive the Nissan Leaf and Nissan's HQ. And, that's just funny—like Pigpen showing up at Al Gore's pool party. The engine has so much power by itself that it barely took a nip of supercharger during heavy-footed cruising through Appalachia. It was docile when I wanted it to be, but left in a furry worthy of Endora's thunderous vanishings on Bewitched. The poor little librarian in her strung-out Civic never knew what left her. Even after 700 miles behind the wheel, the car elicited evil cackles getting onto the Interstate at full throttle. Power does indeed corrupt absolutely.

Ford better enjoy its wide open fields now because Chevrolet is planning to encroach upon its slither space with a Camaro Z28 that is rumored to harbor the Cadillac CTS-V's 556-HP Supercharged V8. Given the Chevy's smooth styling and chassis to match, Ford will have to spice up its wicked brew to put that giant down.

Carroll Shelby has been a long-time snake charmer under Ford's tent—a relationship that goes back to when Lee Iacocca ran the place. He had a few thoughts about the GT500. "Cutting weight to improve performance is a tradition among hot rodders," said Carroll Shelby, founder of Shelby American. "It might not be as sexy as adding more horsepower or bigger brakes, but shaving pounds off of a car is the single smartest move you can make." I'll take power *and* less weight.

As if Elvira attended finishing school, the GT500 is refined evil. It's wonderful that Ford conjures such a beast. But to be truthful, the world's full of nasty snakes—the Cadillac CTS-V Coupe, Corvette ZR-1, Dodge Viper and a pit of Porsches among them. None, however, come with as tame of a base price like the GT500's \$48,645, or \$55,330 as tested.

See <http://www.Gaywheels.com>.

## HRC releases Equality Index: How did automakers fare?

BY RICHARD READ, GAYWHEELS.COM

One of Gaywheels' most popular features is its list of gay-friendly automakers (and its shrinking list of not-so-gay-friendly brands). These lists keep politically minded LGBT shoppers informed about who's doing what for our community.

The Human Rights Campaign keeps a much bigger list—one that explores thousands of companies across dozens of industry sectors. HRC just published its Equality Index for 2011, and we're happy to see that Chrysler, Ford, and General Motors each earned perfect scores of 100. Subaru, Toyota, and Volkswagen also aced the test (even though VW's bitter child, Porsche, remains on our non-gay-friendly list).

In fact, the only auto brand on the Equality Index that earned less than 100 points was Nissan, which, according to HRC's grading system, doesn't have a personnel policy forbidding discrimination based on gender identity or expression; doesn't offer a full range of benefits for partners; doesn't have an employee resource group; and doesn't "positively engage the external LGBT community". On the upside, Nissan's 60 point score is up 10 from last year.

There are, however, a number of companies missing from the Index altogether—Audi, BMW, Honda, Hyundai, Kia, and Mercedes-Benz, to name a few. We'd love to give them the benefit of the doubt (well, except Hyundai and Kia), but we're guessing that they didn't have the time or interest to return the HRC survey. And without that data, who can say?

You can view and/or download your own copy of the Equality Index at <http://www.hrc.org/cei2011>. The auto industry section begins on page 67, with explanations on page 65. If you want to keep your day bright and happy, I'd avoid looking too closely at the scores for parts companies and dealerships like Penske. There, we've still got a long row to hoe.

## Auto news

—**Vince Vaughn's "Dilemma"**: Sir Elton John is among those criticizing a gay joke in the upcoming Vince Vaughn comedy *The Dilemma*, according to Woob.com. John—who praised CNN anchor Anderson Cooper for bringing awareness to the "Electric cars are gay" line in the film—told *US Magazine*, "Enough already! I hate bigotry. I hate racial hatred. I hate sexual hatred." Of Cooper, John said, "His heart is in exactly the right place—same as mine. He thinks the way I do. He's intelligent, and he's on the side of what we're on." Reportedly, Vaughn wanted the joke to stay in the film, saying that the line should not be a casualty of censorship—and he got his wish.

—**Driving for Thanksgiving a go**: More drivers than ever were expected to hit the road for the Thanksgiving holiday, according to the *Chicago Tribune*. Ninety-four percent of Thanksgiving travelers are expected to drive—an 8-percent increase from two years, and a 14-percent climb from 2000. Consequently, only 3.8 percent of travelers are expected to fly—the lowest number in a decade. Experts cite the public controversy over airport security as well as additional fees for the drop in airline passengers.

## Audi A8, Men's Book launch



Chicago Fire soccer player Freddie Ljungberg, entrepreneur Brian Spaly and The Men's Book editor Matt Lee helped celebrate the launch of the Men's Book fall issue and the 2011 Audi A8 Nov. 10 at the New Fletcher Jones Audi, 1111 N. Clark. Le Colonial, Lillie's Q and Market supplied the food while Akira and Mark Shale were among those providing the designs. Photos by Andrew Davis; more available at <http://www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com>

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**BERLIN** Groove is in the 27th anniversary with Lady Miss Kier. Photos by Pubert

**DOWNTOWN** Happy grand opening! See more on our Facebook fan page. Photos by Kirk

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# calendar

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WINDY CITY TIMES



## Wed., Nov. 24

**Celebrate Turkey Day with Steve's Deli** No time to cook? Relatives coming to town? Voyage to Steve's Deli for scrumptious dishes straight from the Pilgrims' table, with a homespun flavor from Steve's kitchen. Steve's Deli, featuring authentic deli cuisine in the heart of River North at 354 W. Hubbard St., offers a memorable Thanksgiving Menu with all of the traditional fixings for Dine-In, Take-Out and Delivery. 9am, (312) 467-6868, 354 W. Hubbard, <http://www.stevesdeli.com/home/index.html>

**Northern Lights** dance party and queer performance. DJ Erik Roldan and guests, performances curated by Nicole Garneau and the Northern Lights go-go gothic dancers. 9 p.m., Parlour on Clark, 6341 N Clark, <http://www.parlouronclark.com>

**Karaoke, Dancing & \$1 Drinks** You can't miss another week of Karaoke! Join us for another great week of crazy fun & excitement with your host Lyndon Stewart and your wild singing server Dawn Marie... We can't forget about the boy slinging the drinks... Lance Romance. 10 p.m., 708-358-8840, Velvet Rope, 728 W. Lake, <http://velvetropelounge.com>

**You're the Star Karaoke with Honey West** Take your place in the spotlight! There's not a bad seat in the house. 10 p.m., (773)281-3355, Roscoe's Tavern, 3356 N Halsted St, <http://www.roscoes.com>

## Thursday, Nov. 25

**McDonald's Thanksgiving Parade** Millions are expected to celebrate Thanksgiving Day amidst gigantic airborne balloons, stunning equestrian units, the nation's

## BECAUSE THE NIGHT Tuesday, Nov. 30

Iconic singer Patti Smith will be interviewed as part of Columbia College's Conversations in the Arts at Film Row Cinema, 1104 S. Wabash.



top marching bands, expertly-choreographed dance troupes and the best in varied cultural entertainment. This year's Thanksgiving Parade will take place LIVE on State Street in downtown Chicago. 8am, State Street, downtown Chicago, <http://www.chicagofestivals.org>

**Free Confidential HIV Testing** Asian Human Services and The Banyan Tree Project is conducting free HIV testing Monday-Friday from 10 AM- 5 PM. Appointments are encouraged; walk-ins welcomed. We are located at 4753 N. Broadway, Suite 700. CTA Red Line Lawrence. 10am, 773-293-8430, Asian Human Services 4753 N. Broadway, Suite 700, [http://www.ahschicago.org/community\\_health.htm](http://www.ahschicago.org/community_health.htm)

**Frat House Thursday at Scarlet** Join Scarlet as they host all frat guys and their fans. Scarlet ramps up the frat factor with a night of 40-ounce beer specials, HOT bartenders, cranked-up music and hottie high jinks! 21+ with ID; 9 p.m., Scarlet, 3320 N Halsted, <http://www.scarletbarchicago.com>

## Friday, Nov. 26

**The Santaland Diaries** Award-winning humorist David Sedaris' true, hilarious holiday tale with Crummet the sarcastic elf in his seventh consecutive outing. 7:30 p.m., 773-975-8150, Theater Wit, 1229 W. Belmont, <http://www.theaterwit.org>

**A Klingon Christmas Carol** The first play ever to be produced entirely in the Klingon language, the Twin Cities phenomenon A Klingon Christmas Carol has finally come to Chicago. Scrooge has neither honor nor courage in this uproarious twist on the classic holiday tale. Can the visits of three spirits help him to become a true warrior in time to save Tiny Tim from a horrible fate? \$32; 7:30 p.m., 773.404.7336, Greenhouse Theater Center, 2257 N. Lincoln, Chicago, <http://www.greenhousetheater.org>

**Chicago Human Rhythm Project's Global VI** Celebrate the culmination of Chicago Human Rhythm Project's 20th Anniversary Season with Global Rhythms 6, four unique concerts featuring earth-shaking percussive arts ensembles from around Chicago, the nation and the world! 8 p.m., 312-456-6527, Harris Theater for Music and Dance, 205 E. Randolph, <http://www.harristheaterchicago.org/calendar/performance?id=2817&mos=7>

## Saturday, Nov. 27

**Departure Lounge - The Hit New UK Musical** Four guys, one girl, one wild vacation. It's Departure Lounge—Bailiwick Chicago's new musical direct from London about four guys caught between adolescence and adulthood, and the girl on all their minds. Departure Lounge runs October 28th through December 12th at the Royal George Cabaret Theatre at Halsted and North. Tickets are available at the box office or through Ticketmaster. 3 p.m., 312-988-900, Royal George Theatre, 1641 N Halsted, <http://www.bailiwickchicago.com>

**Michael Boles' Bar-lesque Fundraiser for TPAN** Michael Boles' Bar-lesque Fundraiser for Test Positive Aware Network. Starring Chanel Exotique, Regina Upright, Monique Marquette, Felicity St James, Elysse Giovanni; with dancing by Nate, AJ, Luis, Sonny, Haley, Gabriel, Day, and Nick; 9 p.m., @mosphere, 5355 N. Clark, [http://bar-lesque.org/contestants/michael\\_atmosphere.php](http://bar-lesque.org/contestants/michael_atmosphere.php)

**Piano man Mark Farris Live at 3160** Join Chicago's favorite piano man, Mark Farris tonight at 3160 for cocktails, show tunes, your favorite requests and lots of fun around the piano. 9 p.m., 3160 N. Clark

## Sunday, Nov. 28

**Urban Village Church service** LGBT welcoming worship services at Urban Village Church are eclectic and experiential, practical and intelligent, relevant and, hopefully, inspiring. Music ranges from traditional and contemporary songs to U2 and jazz. You will be welcomed generously, wherever you are on your journey. You will be challenged to live out your faith Monday-Saturday: in your relationships, your work, in the world that needs you to make it a better place. 10:15am, Urban Village Church, Spertus Institute, 610 S. Michigan, <http://www.newchicagochurch.com/>

**World AIDS Day 2010 ministry** Trinity United Church of Christ HIV/AIDS Support Ministry Presents: World AIDS Day 2010 Universal Access and Human Rights HIV/AIDS@trinitychicago.org; 2:30 p.m., Trinity United Church of Christ, 400 W. 95th

**Oak Park PFLAG Annual Membership Meeting** Everyone is invited: members, non-members and visitors. We will discuss our accomplishments of the year and what we want to do in the coming year. We may also show a short film. People are invited to bring their Thanksgiving leftovers to share. 4 p.m., First United Church, 848 Lake, Oak Park, <http://www.pflag.org>

## Monday, Nov. 29

**The Rocky Horror Picture Show** In its 35th anniversary year showings of the cult classic midnights on the last Friday of every month, \$10 per person. Dress the part and participate in the interactive viewing experience along with live actors singing, dancing and "time-warping" along with the film. Classic props will be for sale (\$2-\$5) and provided by the "actors" for audience partici-(SAY IT!)-pation. 12 p.m., Excalibur Nightclub, 632 N Dearborn, <http://www.excaliburchicago.com>

**LGBT community and the next mayor of Chicago** Join the discussion to help set an agenda for an inclusive discussion. 6 p.m., Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted, <http://www.eqil.org/nextmayor.html>

## Tuesday, Nov. 30

**LGBTQ Youth Symposium: Addressing the Challenges of Bullying, Suicide** Presented by the Illinois Psychological Association and IPA Sexual Orientation Section. Registration Required; 8:30am, Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted, <http://www.illinoispsychology.org>

**Information Coffee** Informal informational sessions on programming and admissions process. Adults only. RSVP required. For more information call (312)243-0977 or email [info@montessoriacademychicago.org](mailto:info@montessoriacademychicago.org). 9 a.m., (312) 243-0977, Montessori Academy of Chicago 1335 W. Randolph, <http://www.montessoriacademychicago.org/admissions/info-coffees.php>

**Patti Smith 'Godmother of Punk'** Columbia College Chicago's Conversations in the Arts: Fine and Performing Arts: Patti Smith has been in the music and art scene since the early 1970s. In 2008, Smith was the subject of an award winning documentary called Patti Smith: Dream of Life which was about her years as a poet, visual artist, activist, musician and singer. Earlier this year, she released a memoir, Just Kids, describing her life during the beginning of her career in New York. 7 p.m., Film Row Cinema, 1104 S. Wabash, Chicago, <http://www.colum.edu/conversations>

**LGBT Employment and Discrimination Issues** Half-hour program presented by the Illinois State Bar Association (ISBA), will air on Chicago Access Network Television, Channel 21 in Chicago, at 10 p.m. on Tuesdays

## Wed., Dec. 1

**Wicked Opening Night Benefit for Equality Illinois** Enjoy the the return of the hit show to Chicago, while supporting



## CASTING A SPELL Wed., Dec. 1

The Wicked opening-night benefit for Equality Illinois will take place at the Cadillac Palace Theatre, 151 W.

Randolph.  
Photo of Donna Vivino as Elphaba by Joan Marcus

the cause of marriage equality. VIP ticket-holders are invited to a post-theater VIP party at the Crimson Lounge, 333 N. Dearborn St., to which the Wicked cast is also invited, where you will be treated to decadent appetizers and splendid cocktails. 7 p.m., 773-477-7173, Cadillac Palace Theatre, 151 W. Randolph, <http://www.equalityillinois.org>

**World AIDS Day 2010 Gospel Concert** South Side Help Center, New Covenant Baptist Church present free HIV testing at 6 p.m.; show starts at 7 p.m.. Info Harold Cherry, 773-410-4820 Tix [www.sshworldaidsday.eventbrite.com](http://www.sshworldaidsday.eventbrite.com); 7 p.m., 773-410-4820, New Covenant Baptist Church, 754 E. 77th, <http://www.sshworldaidsday.eventbrite.com>

**Queer Social Club** A no-attitude, casual evening for the Humboldt/Ukie Area LG-BTQ (and their friends) to come in, have drinks, meet new friends, mingle, etc. Just a fun night beyond the traditional outlets in Boystown and dance parties in Wicker Park - Doing our own thing across the Western Ave divide! 8 p.m., Archie's Iowa Rockwell Tavern 2600 W. Iowa, 60622, <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=10150094929770492&ref=ts>

**Altars VIDA/SIDA** Followed by Candlelight Vigil Community Walk for AIDS Awareness, VIDA/SIDA, 5 - 5:30 p.m., 773-278-6737, La Casita de Don Pedro Albizu Campos, 2625 W. Division

## Thursday, Dec. 2

**9th Annual World of Chocolate** The AIDS Foundation of Chicago hosts the ninth annual World of Chocolate. 6 p.m., Chicago Hilton and Towers, 720 S. Michigan, <http://www.aidschicago.org>

## Friday, Dec. 3

**The Behind the RED Curtains: Monologues on HIV** In commemoration of World AIDS Day, Rush University Medical Center and The Red Pump Project will host an event to address the impact of HIV/AIDS—on individual lives, as well as the overall community—through performance art. 6 p.m., (312) 613-5301, 1041 E. 43rd, Room 43, <http://www.redcurtains.eventbrite.com>

**Comedian Paula Poundstone** Armed with nothing but a stool, a microphone and a can of Diet Pepsi, Paula's ability to create humor on the spot has become the stuff of legend, \$22.50, \$29.50, & \$39.50; 8 p.m., 847-931-5900, Hemmens Cultural Center is located, 45 Symphony Way, Elgin, <http://www.hemmens.org>

**Chicago Gay Men's Chorus Christmas Follies** Don your gay apparel and come out for a laugh-filled romp through holiday music as you've never heard it. 8 p.m., Athenaeum Theatre, 2936 N. Southport; through Dec. 4; <http://www.cgmc.org/events>



## SWEET SENSATION

### Thursday, Dec. 2

The 9th Annual World of Chocolate will take place at Chicago Hilton and Towers, 720 S. Michigan.

Photo from 2009 by Kat Fitzgerald (MysticImagesPhotography.com)

# BILLY MASTERS

"I remember when I was a kid I got into an argument with my mom and dad and I ran to my room and was like, 'I'm going to my room because the only friends I have are stuffed and on my bed.'"—Jesse Tyler Ferguson reveals he's always had a flair for the dramatic. I remember having some friends who were stuffed on my bed, but that's another story.

You know me—I hate to pry. But I do think there are instances where it's ridiculous for someone in the public eye to complain about this invasion. For instance, we all know "things" about Zachary Quinto (formerly on Heroes and So NoTORIous, currently in Angels in America off-Broadway). But do we ask? No. Instead of tackling the elephant in the room, a reporter asked if he has any post-show rituals. Zach talked about taking showers and reading, but said it was too personal. The reporter then asked what Quinto's favorite flavor of ice cream was. "Still too personal. Sorry." Honey, it's called an interview! It's not like he asked which flavor lube you like...

Barbra Streisand and Bette Midler—together. Yes, our two divine divas made a rare joint appearance ... kinda. The setting was Philadelphia. The event was the opening of the National Museum of American Jewish History. Jerry Seinfeld hosted. Babs was honored. She looked quite stunning with her long, straight hair (she looked eerily similar to the cover from "Live Concert at the Forum"—no small feat since that was in 1972). Bette sang a medley of songs by Jewish composers and lyricists. Fine. What everyone wanted was a photo of the two gals—together. While they graciously posed for the paps, they stayed on separate sides of the room. Leave it to Seinfeld to corral the pair for a photo op—positioning himself front and center, of course. (I'm told one of them was less than eager to be in a photo *à deux*—the one who folded her arms defiantly.) We'll run the pic on BillyMasters.com.



We get to see Cam Gigandet's cookies in Burlesque. Photo by Stephen Vaughan

Remember I told you that Playgirl had offered Glee's Chord Overstreet and Mark Salling \$100K for a "suggestive" photo shoot? Well, forget it—it ain't happening. "We couldn't work it out. Chord's people decided against it," said a Playgirl rep. Does that mean Salling is still in the running? Stay tuned.

In a related story, Playgirl also reveals it missed the boat on another nude—that of Kanye West. A couple of weeks ago, someone was peddling a pic of West's penis. Playgirl had first dibs on the shot, but don't look for it in its mag or website: "It would have cost us \$100,000, and we said no. We should have said yes." Happily, I rarely say no to dick, so you can see the shot on BillyMasters.com—the site that always says yes.

Everyone seems interested in showing some skin. Jake Gyllenhaal (who I spent a lovely afternoon with at A Little Night Music on Broadway—more about that in next week's column) said that he filmed quite a number of nude

scenes for Love and Other Drugs: "I was naked a lot in the movie. I was naked in more of it than was even in the final cut. A director's cut? I don't even know how that would be rated." For those of you who aren't rushing to see the flick when it opens Nov. 24, you now have something to look forward to on the DVD release. To tempt you even further, Jake and co-star Anne Hathaway posed nude for the cover of Entertainment Weekly. Actually, they're naked quite a number of times since they shot three covers. I love a good collectable, but for those of you not looking to buy the same magazine three times, look for all the pics on our website.

Someone else who's gonna be naked on the 24th is Twilight hottie Cam Gigandet. He's part of Burlesque and the gals aren't the only ones who'll be stripping in that flick. He plays Christina Aguilera's love interest and does a strip-tease for the sultry songstress. When asked how he was convinced to do the scene, he laughed and said, "All they had to do was ask." OK, I'm asking... Anyway, back to the scene. I'm told he's fully nude—no sock or other flesh-toned apparel was employed. The way it was shot, you can see virtually everything—and if I've taught you nothing else, you should know that "virtually everything" = "no penis." In this instance, we have to thank a strategically placed box of Famous Amos cookies. "I don't think I'll be eating them for a while," said Cam.

In our last naked guy story, Justin Timberlake seems to have a limited wardrobe in Friends With Benefits. When asked what it was like doing love scenes with Timberlake, co-star Mila Kunis said, "I can't complain. It's not like I had the hardest two months. It's not like I was, 'Uch, I have to go to work and have simulated sex for two weeks. Darn it.' It was kinda great." Judging from the steamy teaser we have on our website, I bet it was...

In a non-nudity-related "Ask Billy" question, Patrick in Dallas writes: "I heard that Kathy Griffin's show may not come back to Bravo. Is that true? Why?"

It's been a tense situation doing My Life on the D List. Kathy has quite a number of restrictions regarding what she can and cannot do, and who she can and cannot mention. Also, many gigs she's done have not allowed the Bravo team to film, which led to the last two seasons being over-filled with staged events just for the sake of being funny. And Kat ain't happy. What she's proposed is a scripted sitcom based on her life—much like Curb Your Enthusiasm: "I could have someone play my mom because she's a legend at this point. I do feel like it is a natural progression to take all the wacky things that happen to me. But some things can't be on the reality show because of legal issues and clearances. I think it could be even funnier because it is still real if there was nothing that was off limits." While this idea continues to evolve, she will continue doing stand-up around the country and Bravo is committed to airing at least one special a year.

When I'm fantasizing about what flavor cookies were covering Cam's cock (I'm thinking cream-filled), it's definitely time to end yet another column. Since it's Thanksgiving, let me take a moment to thank all of you who read this column and check out www.BillyMasters.com each and every week. It was just pointed out to me that I recently celebrated 15 years of keeping you entertained—at least in print. Some days, it feels like this all started yesterday. And other days, it seems like it's been FOREVER! But it won't take that long for me to respond to your e-mails. So if you've got a question, send a note to Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before Bette and Babs battle over the drumstick! Until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible.

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# Chicago Force player is a Soper woman

BY ROSS FORMAN

Mother's Day was just another day for Veronica Soper, a mother of two who moved to the North Side of Chicago in February.

Soper, known as Ro to her family and friends, was instead helping the Chicago Force remain undefeated in 2010 as the team won that May weekend in Minnesota.

Her son Jason, 15, and her daughter Courtney, 9, were thrilled to hear the news about their favorite left guard, aka, Mom, a rookie for the women's tackle football team that is eyeing a run at the Independent Women's Football League (IWFL) Championship, a title that has eluded Chicago despite multiple playoff games over the years.

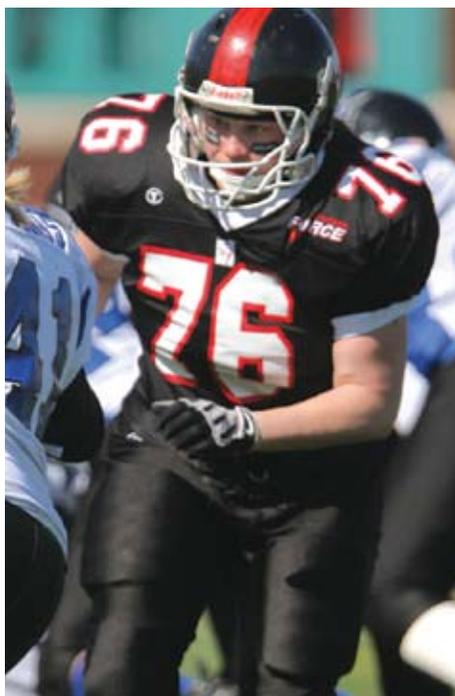
"Being a tackle football Mom is rewarding, yet very stressful," she said. "Rewarding as my kids are the first to boost my ego to their peers by telling them there Mom is a Tackle Football Player for the Chicago Force. Stressful as playing for the team is very demanding of your time. We practice late hours and have away games.

"They were upset [I was not around for Mother's Day,] but were happy that we won."

Soper, 35, is a project estimator/manager for LaSalle Glass & Mirror. She was raised on Chicago's south side and lived there, well, until her move north earlier this year. She played basketball, softball and volleyball throughout high school—and she still plays all three sports in local recreation leagues.

Football entered her world this spring, when she joined her cousin, Jamie Menzyk, a four-year Force veteran who pushed her to put on the pads.

"There were mixed reactions from my family



Veronica Soper. Photo by Scott Renshaw

and friends when I decided to join the Force. The main reaction was 'Wow, but aren't you too old to play?'" Soper said. "Some friends think I'm crazy, but I just tell them, 'You never have played a team sport and have such a bond with a group of women like I do with the Force.'"

As Soper said, FFW is "Force Family Win."

"Jamie had bugged me for two years [to join the Force] before I finally said I would give it a shot. I'm glad she was persistent," Soper said. "I am a strong and aggressive player who accepts all the challenges that Coach [John] Konecki presents to me.

"I bring intensity, strength and passion to the team. I am a team player, so giving that extra block off the line to open up a hole or running down the field to block for a receiver is what makes my position so intense."

Soper is the ultimate team player. Just as she was as a U.S. Army military police officer—until she was given a Chapter 15 discharge for being gay.

"Another female in my platoon found out I was gay and told our commanding officer," Soper said. "When I was approached by my commanding officer on the allegations, I did not deny them. I am gay and I'm not ashamed of it. I was a stellar soldier and an expert on weapons. I also was top in all my classes, physical training and overall combat military skills. I figured being gay was not going to affect my ability to serve and protect my country. I was wrong.

"After three months of being treated like scum and being interrogated on who else was gay in our unit, they finally discharged me, [but] without me giving up any of my fellow brothers or sisters.

"I feel that ['Don't Ask, Don't Tell'] is just some high-ranking homophobes way of keeping gays out of the military. Most of my battle buddies were gay and I would trust them to take my back any day. Fighting for your country should be an honor that each and every American who chooses to lay their life on the line should be able to do, without prejudice."

Soper, who was married for 10 years to a man, said she is now dating a woman.

"Ro has a great work ethic and loves to hit. In fact, she leads the team in 'pancakes'—blocks that put the opponent flat on their back," said Chicago Force general manager Linda Bache.

"She's having a fantastic rookie year while playing through pain and injury. Ro is one of my favorite players because she is very coachable, has great intensity and always puts the team first."

Added Konecki, "If I'm ever in a bar fight, I want Soper on my side."

## More about Veronica Soper:

—**High school:** George Washington High School in Chicago, Class of 1993

—**College:** "I never attended a formal college, [but] I completed Local 63 Ironworkers four-year apprenticeship in Broadview, Ill.

—**Hobbies:** "I don't have any particular hobbies besides sports. I do like to take the kids camping and fishing, and of course family game night with popcorn and silly board games is the best."

—**Favorite pro sports:** Football and baseball.

—**Favorite pro team:** Chicago White Sox

—**Favorite pro athlete:** Danica Patrick. "She is a commanding competitor in a 'man's sport.'"

—**Little-known fact:** "Not many people know that my tear ducts were removed and replaced with eye black."

—**More Soper:** "I am one of the comedians of the team. I can keep the whole team laughing with my one-liners and jokes all night long. Also I am the one person the a majority of the team comes to when they need help with something or just need some advice as I am there for my Force Family."

## NWLC files Title IX suit against CPS, others

BY ROSS FORMAN

The Chicago Public Schools is one of 12 school districts nationally that was called into question by the National Women's Law Center (NWLC), which, on Nov. 10, filed complaints against those 12 school districts for failing to provide high school girls with equal opportunities to play sports in violation of Title IX, the federal law that prohibits sex discrimination in federally funded education programs.

These complaints, which are based on the schools' own data from 2006, reveal pervasive and growing inequities in the number of opportunities for girls to play sports in high school. This lack of opportunity is reflected in the fact that many schools do not offer girls' teams in such state-sanctioned sports as swimming, golf and tennis, according to the NWLC.

The complaints are part of NWLC's new campaign, Rally for Girls' Sports: She'll Win More than a Game, which aims to educate schools, the public and especially parents about the widespread inequality that girls face in school sports programs and to mobilize parents to press for change.

In addition to calling on the U.S. Department of Education to investigate this growing problem, the Rally for Girls' Sports initiative features advocacy and outreach to parents and other adults, including a Facebook and Twitter campaign, and a national hotline (1-855-HER-GAME).

"These 12 school districts are the tip of the iceberg," said NWLC Co-President Marcia Greenberger. "Nationally, only 41 percent of all high school athletes are girls, even though they make up half the student population. That means schools are giving girls 1.3 million fewer opportunities than boys to play sports nationwide. It's past time to rally for girls in high school sports."

NWLC filed complaints with the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR) in varied school districts, one in each of the 12 OCR regions. The complaints outline the lack of opportunities to play sports that girls face in each district and call on OCR to investigate and remedy the inequities.

In addition to the Chicago Public Schools,

the other school districts named in the complaint are: Clark County School District (Nev.), Columbus City Schools (Ohio), Deer Valley Unified School District (Ariz.), Henry County Schools (Ga.), Houston Independent School District (Texas), Irvine Unified School District (Calif.), New York City Department of Education (N.Y.), Oldham County Schools (Kent.), Sioux Falls School District (S.D.), Wake County Public School System (N.C.) and Worcester Public Schools (Mass.).

The school districts named by the NWLC complaint have high schools with double-digit gaps between the percentage of students who are girls and the percentage of athletes who are girls, according to the school districts' data, and are representative of the widespread lack of athletic opportunities that girls face.

"It's unfair to girls to deny [girls] the many benefits that come from playing sports," said NWLC Senior Counsel Neena Chaudhry. "When girls have the chance to play, they win more than a game. Let's help our daughters and our sons lead healthier, happier and more successful lives."

## Red Stars given Dec. 15 deadline for more investors

The Chicago Red Stars and Women's Professional Soccer (WPS) have announced that Chicago has been granted a Dec. 15 deadline to secure investment toward the league's reserve funding requirement for participation in 2011, according to a press release.

The Red Stars stated earlier this month in the team's 2011 capitalization plan that potential investors pulled out following the news of the Bay Area's and Washington's questionable futures. Now that Washington and WPS are stabilized, the Red Stars believe they can obtain additional investment to secure the organization's return for a third season in 2011.

"Chicago is pleased with the way WPS is working to ensure long-term sustainability of the league," said Red Stars' Arnim Whisler, speaking on behalf of Red Stars ownership. "Our intent is to play next season and put together a winning product in 2011. But we need some additional support from the Chicago investor community before we can make our final commitment to the league."

# Obama and the Gays

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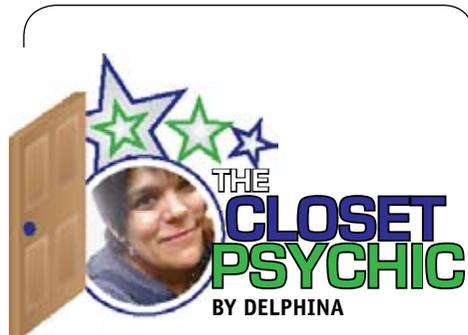
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## She's our daughter, not a bargaining chip

As you might expect, I give many clients insight into their love lives and relationships. But one of the relationship situations I was able to help with that sticks with me the most was between two mothers and their six-year-old daughter.

We have all heard stories of couples who enter into an agreement with a close friend to be a donor and then have the terms of the agreement change once the child is born. But when Mom #1 came to me for intuitive guidance for the first time, I was nervous. I could sense how sweet this family was and, more importantly, the love they shared.

John Donor, who was also gay, was a childhood friend of Mom #2. It seemed only natural that he would be the donor when the moms were ready to plan their family. John Donor was thrilled that he would be the one giving the moms such a precious gift.

Unfortunately, as time passed, John Donor changed his mind. He decided that it was not a gift after all, and demanded parental rights after the girl was already five years old. He started making demands and threatening to sue for full custody if his demands were not met. The couple abided by his demands for over six months.

Mom #1 explained that they had tried various methods, including therapy, to reason with John Donor. But nothing had worked. The thought of this little girl being taken from her family really affected me.

I took a deep breath and asked my guides for clear and accurate direction. As soon as Mom #1 said the donor's name, I was flooded with impressions of his personality and how to deal with him. He took pride in people thinking that he was a nice and generous man. I also picked up the fact that some personal losses had shifted how he viewed the world.

When dealing with bully energy, it is important to know that the more you give, the more they want, I advised. My guides gave me clear and concise direction for the situation. Mom #2 needs to stand up to him. She needs to call his bluff and take back her power.

Mom #2 did just that. She met with John Donor and told him how things were going to be moving forward. They were not going to change the decisions based on his wishes, and he would not be included in their family any more.

Sometimes in life we are faced with situations where we have to break the energetic constraints of those who bully or overpower us. Mom #2 stood up to the bully in her life and by doing so, took back her power.

*Delphina, a Chicago-based psychic medium, is a columnist for Windy City Times. See Spiritguiding.com or email questions to spiritguiding@gmail.com.*

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## Ray J. Koenig III and Clark Hill PLC



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. Ray is a member of Clark Hill PLC, a full-service law firm consisting of a diverse team of attorneys and professionals committed to our clients and our communities.

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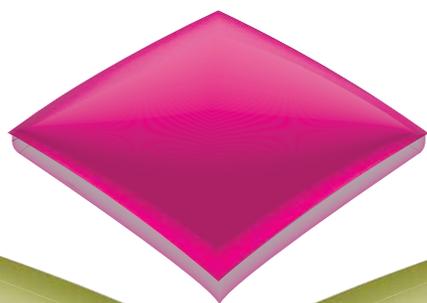
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