

**JOHN WATERS ON MINK, LADY GAGA**

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# WINDY CITY TIMES

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**TERRY COSGROVE ON ELECTION ISSUES**

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# Civil unions pass 'Huge' moment for Illinois

*State Rep. Greg Harris talked with Windy City Times about the meaning of the civil-union bill—and the electric atmosphere in Springfield*  
BY ANDREW DAVIS

Last week marked a historic event for Illinois as the state legislature passed the Illinois Religious Freedom Protection and Civil Union Act.

In fact, the time was apparently so historic that Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn was on the state House and Senate floors when the votes were cast. The Nov. 30-Dec. 1 session—which was the culmination of a years-long battle—was marked by emotional testimony from the measure's advocates and detractors.

However, the measure would not have even been up for discussion had it not been for the

efforts of state Rep. Greg Harris, who became the chief sponsor of the bill in the chamber after state Rep. (and Cook County commissioner-elect) John Fritchey initially spearheaded it.

Windy City Times talked with Harris about the meaning of the measure as well as the atmosphere and goings-on during a very tense two days.

**Windy City Times: First of all, I'm going to ask a very general question: How are you feeling? Are you relieved? Excited?**

Greg Harris: I'm just exhausted. This was one heck of a last 10 days to get to the finish line. One of these days I'm going to sit back and soak it all in, but right now there are hundreds of people to be thanked. I'm not stopping until this job is done.

**WCT: Let's talk about the measure itself.**

**Same- and opposite-sex couples who wish to enter into civil unions will have the same state rights as married couples.**

GH: Yes, that's right. Traditionally, relationship recognition has been within the purview of the states. It was only with the federal DOMA [Defense of Marriage Act] that the federal government ventured into regulating relationship recognition, other than when the Supreme Court decided cases like *Loving v. Virginia*. But Congress had never ventured what had been considered the territory of the states.

**WCT: There is also a part in the new act that prohibits certain civil unions.**

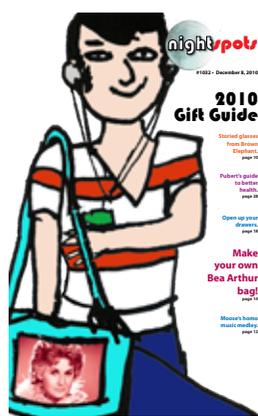
GH: It's parallel to the prohibition of marriage—people who are underage, who need

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**GIFT GUIDE: WEEK TWO**

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## Sweet success

page 17

The AIDS Foundation of Chicago (AFC) held its annual World of Chocolate Dec. 2 at the Hilton Chicago. The event took on more significance because of the passage of the civil-union bill and because it was the last such event for outgoing AFC President Mark Ishaug. Photo of Gov. Pat Quinn by Kat Fitzgerald (MysticImagesPhotography.com); more on page 17 and online

## Howard Brown board set for changes

Howard Brown Health Center announced that its board of directors will make changes in the near future to address concerns about oversight of the non-profit health center. This will include an entirely new board in place by the middle of 2011. The plans were announced Dec. 6 in a press release.

The center's board of directors announced a "Responsible Transition" component of its plan. This plan is intended to renew and refresh its membership, increase its ties to the community, and ensure long-term stability of Howard Brown and its services to the community, according to the press announcement.

The board also renewed its prior call for interested members of the community who have the capacity, time, and love for Howard Brown's mission to apply to join its board.

To give Howard Brown a complete "fresh start," its CEO Jamal Edwards and board, working together, have agreed upon a "Responsible Transition" plan to transition the oversight of the organization from the current Board to new

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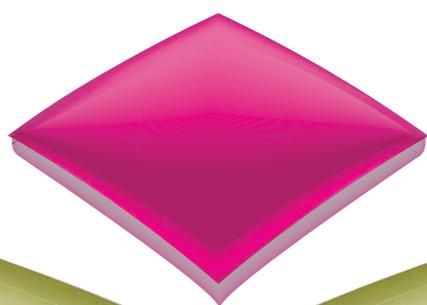
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# this week in WINDY CITY TIMES

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Photos on cover (left, from top): John Waters PR photo; Terry Cosgrove photo courtesy of Cosgrove; 20th Century Fox: 75th Anniversary Collection PR photo



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## ISSUES AND ANSWERS

Forums about and for mayoral candidates took place last week, and they covered HIV/AIDS- and transgender-related issues.

Photo by Carrie Maxwell



Partners Steven Nakisher (left) and Steven Talbott own a company that Oprah just loves. Photo courtesy of Nakisher



Bent Nights critiques shows by Diamond Rings (above) and Antennas Up. Photo by Vern Hester

## HAIR APPARENT

Find out about the initiative known as Hairdressers Against AIDS—and see who was at the launch.

## MEAT AND GREET

Amuse Bouche looks at chicken and sausage gumbo.

## THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT

This week's entertainment round-up includes bits on Nate Berkus, Dr. Laura—and the late Doors frontman Jim Morrison.

plus DAILY BREAKING NEWS

## PEACHES 'N SCREAM



Music: Peaches (above) goes Nunn on One with WCT, while Joe Erbentraut covered Life-apalooza, which raised funds for Howard Brown Health Center.

**It's Nightspots' annual gift guide.**

Happy holidays!

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# DADT report has recommendations—and fuzzy math

BY LISA KEEN  
KEEN NEWS SERVICE

Defense Secretary Robert Gates sent mixed signals Nov. 30, in releasing the Pentagon's long-awaited study about how to implement repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" (DADT). He said repeal "can and should be done," but he urged Congress to consider the views of all-male combat units who expressed concern about negative consequences. He said the concerns of those combat units were "not an insurmountable barrier" to repealing the ban on openly gay people in the military, but said the military should be given "sufficient time" to exercise "an abundance of care and preparation" in rolling out that repeal. And neither he nor any other top Pentagon official were willing to give even a vague estimate of how much time would be sufficient.

But in a statement released Nov. 30, President Obama urged the Senate to act "as soon as possible," saying he is "absolutely confident" troops "will adapt to this change and remain the best led, best trained, best equipped fighting force the world has ever known."



Aubrey Sarvis.

The president reportedly spoke to Republican and Democratic leaders about DADT during a meeting at the White House Nov. 29 to discuss a number of issues. Details of those discussions were not available.

Gates' remarks and the report released by the Pentagon Nov. 30 on how best to implement the repeal of DADT will provide both advocates and opponents of repeal plenty of political ammunition once the Senate takes up the issue sometime this month.

The 256-page study is called the Report of the Comprehensive Review of the Issues Associ-

ated with a Repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." The report includes 20 pages of recommendations, presented in essay form, and 112 pages discussing and illustrating the results of surveys conducted of servicemembers and their families. Most media reports focused on the survey results, but the recommendations have, perhaps, the greatest importance for the LGBT community. The most significant of the recommendations include:

- issuing "an extensive set of new or revised standards of conduct" for servicemembers while in uniform, including for such matters as "public displays of affection," dress and appearance, and harassment, and that those standards "apply to all Service members, regardless of sexual orientation;"

- that military law not add sexual orientation "alongside race, color, religion, sex, and national origin as a class eligible for various diversity programs or complaint resolution processes." Instead, the report recommends the Department of Defense "make clear that sexual orientation may not, in and of itself, be a factor in accession, promotion, or other personnel decision-making." Complaints regarding discrimination based on sexual orientation would be addressed through "mechanisms" available for complaints other than those involving race, color, sex, religion, or national origin—"namely, the chain of command...and other means as may be determined by the Services."

- repeal Article 125 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice to the extent it prohibits consensual sodomy, regardless of whether same-sex or heterosexual;

- amend the code to "ensure sexual orientation-neutral application" with regards to sexual offenses. For instance Article 134, prohibiting adultery, would be rewritten to include a married female servicemember having sex with another woman who was not her spouse;

- no separate housing or bathroom facilities for gay or lesbian servicemembers and no assignments of sleeping or housing facilities based on sexual orientation "except that commanders should retain the authority to alter... assignments on an individualized, case-by-case basis, in the interest of maintaining morale, good order, and discipline, and consistent with performance of mission;

- no revision "at this time" of regulations to add same-sex committed relationships to the current definition of "family members" or "dependents" in regards to military benefits, such as housing, but to revisit the issue at a later date

- review benefits "that may, where justified from a policy, fiscal, and feasibility standpoint," be revised to enable a servicemember to designate "whomever he or she wants as a beneficiary;"

- evaluate requests for re-entry into the military from those servicemembers discharged under DADT "according to the same criteria as other former Service members seeking re-entry;" and

- no release from obligations of service for military personnel who oppose serving alongside gay and lesbian service members.

The survey part of the report indicates:

- 69 percent of servicemembers believed they had already served with someone they knew to be gay;

- 70 percent to 76 percent said repeal would have "a positive, a mixed, or no effect" on task cohesion; and 67 percent to 78 percent said it would have positive, mixed or



no effect on "social cohesion;"

- 92 percent of those servicemembers who said they served alongside a gay person said they did not consider the gay servicemember's presence to have created any problems for unit cohesion; and

- 26 percent said they would take a shower at a different time than a gay servicemember.

The report noted that the responses of Marines Combat Arms units (fighting forces on the ground) were "more negative" than the forces overall concerning how gay servicemembers would affect unit cohesion. Overall, 21 percent said gays in the unit would negatively affect their unit's readiness, but while 43.5 percent of Marine Combat Arms said so.

Both Gates and Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Admiral Mike Mullen also underscored a need to move slowly and carefully to implement repeal, should Congress approve it. In doing so, Gates highlighted a finding that between 40 percent and 60 percent of all-male combat arms and special operations units predicted a negative effect of repeal on unit cohesion. He said this finding was a concern for him and for the Chiefs of the various branches of service. And he urged Congress to consider this in its deliberations.

But Gates said he did not consider that finding to be an "insurmountable barrier" and said he does believe repeal "can and should be done without posing a serious threat to military readiness."

Even before the report was officially released at 2:15 Tuesday, Servicemembers Legal Defense Network said it expected the report to be "overwhelmingly positive" and "one of the best tools that repeal advocates can use" in the lame duck Congress.

The report will be the subject of two days of hearings before the Senate Armed Services Committee on Thursday and Friday, Dec. 2-3. Republican opponents of repeal, led by Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., are expected to challenge the legitimacy of the study and to tweak out information within it to support their position against repealing the law.

Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., who had been considered a potential vote for repeal, surprised many over the weekend when he began to parrot a criticism of the study that McCain raised in recent days—that the Pentagon studied "how" to repeal DADT, not "whether" to repeal it.

Gates rebuffed this criticism previously and again during today's press conference.

"This report does provide a sound basis for making decisions on this law," said Gates. "It's hard for me to imagine you could come up with a more comprehensive approach." More than 400,000 servicemembers responded to a survey, as did thousands of family members. And Mullen said data "is very compelling."

But Graham also told Fox News Sunday Nov. 28 that he does not believe there is "anywhere near [the necessary number of] votes" to repeal DADT "on the Republican side."

Democrats do not really need Republican votes to repeal DADT; it takes only 51 and, with inde-

pendents, they have 58. But many took Graham's remarks to suggest that Republicans would stand together as a party to block the Senate from even considering the Defense Authorization bill that contains the DADT repeal language.

"I think we'll be united in the lame duck," said Graham of Republican senators. "... So I think in a lame-duck setting, 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' is not going anywhere."

And that's where the uncertainty lies: Will Democrats have 60 votes to break a Republican filibuster in order to begin deliberation on the FY 2011 Defense Authorization bill?

Aubrey Sarvis, executive director of Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, said he expects McCain and others to try and thwart repeal. He said he was hopeful Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid would be able to reach an agreement with Minority Leader Mitch McConnell on some number of amendments either party could offer on the annual Defense Authorization bill which contains the repeal language. Among those amendments, said Sarvis, will almost certainly be one to strip the repeal language from the bill, but Sarvis said he does not believe there are enough votes to do that.

Sarvis also made clear during a telephone press conference with reporters Nov. 30 that his group is not going to put all its eggs in the lame-duck basket.

Sarvis said his organization would—"early next week"—file at least one lawsuit in federal court in San Francisco to continue pressure for eliminating the ban on openly gay people in the military. He said the group would likely file two more lawsuits soon after that. Each lawsuit, he said, would represent the interests of different groups affected by the law—those on active duty; those who have been discharged and seek reinstatement; and those who would like to join the service.

Gates and Obama have both spoken out against lawsuits currently pending in the 9th Circuit seeking to challenge DADT: one from the Log Cabin Republicans (challenging the law on its face) and one from Air Force nurse Margaret Witt (challenging the law as applied). Both have been successful, thus far.

In an interview with ABC News, released Nov. 9, Gates said he thinks the end of DADT was "inevitable."

"My hope, frankly," he said, "is that...if we can make the case that having this struck down by the courts is the worst outcome, because it gives us no flexibility, that people will think I'm called a realist, a pragmatist. I'm looking at this realistically. This thing is gonna go, one way or the other."

In the end, it may take more than just one showdown vote in the Senate. In addition to needing 60 votes to begin debate on the defense spending bill, SLDN's Sarvis said Tuesday he expects Senate Democrats will need 60 votes to force a vote an end to debate as well. Then a final version of the bill must be hammered out in a House-Senate conference committee and returned to both chambers for a final vote.

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## Jackson supports marriage equality

The Rev. Jesse Jackson, called into the community gathering at the Ninth Circuit courthouse hosted by Marriage Equality USA, made the following remarks in support of marriage equality and Judge Vaughn Walker's ruling, according to a Marriage Equality USA press release:

"We stand with you today to support Marriage Equality, and to declare that Proposition 8 must be struck down as unconstitutional. Peoples' right to self-expression, self-determination be respected and affirmed. It's time to challenge ignorance, a time to break the silence and the chains of hatred, of divisive and discriminatory bigotry."

Read Jackson's entire speech online at <http://www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com>.



Ted Olson.

## Appeals court hears Prop 8 arguments

BY LISA KEEN  
KEEN NEWS SERVICE

Famed attorney Ted Olson told a 9th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals panel Dec. 6 that the reason proponents of Proposition 8 have proffered to justify their ban on same-sex marriage is “non-sense.”

That reason, said Olson, reading from a page in the argument brief filed by attorneys for the Yes on 8 coalition which promoted passage of California’s ban on same-sex marriage, was that same-sex marriage “will make children prematurely preoccupied with issues of sexuality.”

“If believed,” said Olson, “that would justify the banning of comic books, television, video games, and even conversations between children.”

And that was not exactly the reason Yes on 8 proffered during their successful 2008 campaign to amend the state constitution to ban same-sex marriage. Back then, the primary reason, noted Olson, was “protecting children” from the notion that marriage between same-sex couples was ok.

So, what should the court consider as the reason behind denying same-sex couples the right to marry, asked Judge Michael Hawkins.

“Should we look just at the record in the district court,” he asked, or should we “imagine whether there is any conceivable rational basis” to ban gays from marriage?

Olson urged the court not to use its own imagination to figure out whether there might be any conceivable rational reason but to look at the reasons proffered by the Yes on 8 proponents and to determine whether they “make sense” and whether they are “motivated by fear” or a dislike of gay people.

“Protecting our children,” said Olson, “is not a rational basis. It’s based on the idea there’s something wrong with” gay people.

Both Olson and his legal counterpart, Charles Cooper, argued with greater passion and animation during Monday’s argument before the federal appeals court than they did in January and June before U.S. District Court Judge Vaughn Walker. It was Walker’s ruling in August –that California’s ban on same-sex marriage violated the U.S. Constitution—that brought them to the appeals court in San Francisco Dec. 6. Unlike at the district court trial, where the U.S. Supreme Court forbid any television or web broadcast, the appeals proceedings were carried live on national television by CSPAN and several California stations. Demonstrators crowded outside the federal building in San Francisco under the watchful eye of federal protection service officers. And interested observers and journalists packed the courtroom and watched broadcasts all over the country.

Any pre-courtroom second-guessing that observers may have harbored over the political

leanings of the three judges seemed to be put to rest fairly quickly, as the judges vigorously challenged each side’s arguments on both matters before the court—Yes on 8 and Imperial County’s legal qualification (standing) to appeal and the validity of Walker’s declaration that Proposition 8 violates the Equal Protection and Due Process clauses of the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Judge N. Randy Smith, an alum of the Mormon-run Brigham Young University, came out swinging hard questions for Cooper over Yes on 8’s claim to have legal standing to press the appeal. Then he pitched equally hard questions to Olson’s comrade David Boies, about the “problem” created for the court by the fact that neither the state’s governor nor attorney general appealed the district court decision themselves. Even though neither has the power to veto an initiative, said Smith, they both nullified the initiative by not appealing it.

Boies tried to make the point that Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and Attorney General Jerry Brown made their decisions not to appeal after Judge Walker declared the initiative to be unconstitutional.

Judge Stephen Reinhardt, widely perceived to be a staunch liberal, seemed to agree with Smith, saying the governor and attorney gen-

eral’s refusal to appeal the district court decision “does not seem to be consistent” with the state’s initiative system. And should the court find that Yes on 8 and Imperial County both lack the legal qualifications to appeal, the judges said, the appeals court has no cause to rule on the merits of the dispute.

Boies argued that the concern about what the governor and attorney general did was a “different issue” than standing. And on the issue of standing, said Boies, Yes on 8 and Imperial County have no standing to bring the appeal, simply because they can’t meet the standard of demonstrating a real injury from the decision below.

It was not an easy sell. Hawkins expressed frustration that the court might not be able to render a decision on the merits “so it’s clear, in California, who has the right to marry and who doesn’t.”

Yes on 8 attorney Charles Cooper had argued that, because the California Supreme Court had, in an earlier, related court proceeding given Yes on 8 the right to intervene in the Perry v. Schwarzenegger case to defend Proposition 8, it intended to convey standing, too. By the end of the first hour of the proceeding –which was devoted to standing—the panel seemed inclined to ask the California Supreme Court to certify

whether it intended Yes on 8 to have standing.

The three judges were equally tough in questions about the merits of Judge Walker’s decision. As Cooper attempted to read from his prepared statement, Judge Hawkins interrupted almost immediately to ask him whether voters have the right to reinstitute segregation in public schools.

“No,” said Cooper.

“Why not?” asked Hawkins.

“Because it would be inconsistent with the U.S. Constitution,” said Cooper.

“As interpreted by the U.S. Supreme Court,” interjected Hawkins.

“Yes,” conceded Cooper.

But in 1870, the U.S. Supreme Court probably would not have interpreted the constitution to forbid segregation, would it? asked Hawkins.

Cooper conceded that was probably true.

“Well, how is this different?” asked Hawkins.

Gay legal activists seemed pleased with how the arguments went Dec. 6.

Evan Wolfson, head of the national Freedom to Marriage Project, said that, overall, he thinks “it looks promising, both on standing and on the merits.”

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## **INDICATIONS**

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

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

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

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

## **IMPORTANT RISK INFORMATION**

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

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

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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:

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- 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.

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

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- Take it twice a day.
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**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.ISENTRRESS.com](http://www.ISENTRRESS.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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## DADT hearing wraps up

BY LISA KEEN  
KEEN NEWS SERVICE

The second and final day of the Senate hearing on repealing "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" (DADT) has adjourned and the battle lines are still very much where they were at the beginning, with one exception.

Massachusetts' Republican Senator Scott Brown said he would vote for repeal once it reaches the floor. He did not say whether he'd be willing to rebuff Republican Party leaders in order to help bring the measure to the floor.

And there's the rub. Unless 60 votes can be mustered for call the defense-authorization bill to the Senate floor, Brown's profession of support of the repeal has minimal consequence.

The hearing that took place Dec. 2-3 made clear that the military leadership concedes—if not agrees—that the current ban on gays in the military should be repealed. The service chiefs of all four branches of the armed forces, plus the Coast Guard, believe repeal can be implemented without sacrificing readiness and unit cohesion. They believe the Pentagon report released Nov. 30 provides a solid plan for implementation.

But not everyone agrees on timing, and discussion during the hearings went a long way to muddle exactly which timing everyone does not agree with: Timing for implementation, timing for full implementation and timing for a Congressional vote on repeal.

This much is clear concerning implementation: Army General George Casey said "not now," Air Force General Norton Schwartz said "not until 2012" and Marine General James Amos said it should begin "when our singular focus is no longer on combat operations or preparing units for combat."

"At that point," said Amos, "then I'd be comfortable with implementing repeal."

Other military leaders would be comfortable beginning the process now. That includes Defense Secretary Robert Gates, Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Admiral Mike Mullen, Joint Chief Vice Chairman General James Cartwright, Navy Admiral Gary Roughead and Coast Guard Admiral Robert Papp. It includes at least 56 senators; 234 members of the House; and 50-70 percent of U.S. residents (depending on which recent poll you view). And, according to the Pentagon study, at least 70 percent of servicemembers say repeal would have a "positive, mixed, or no effect" on task cohesion.



Defense Secretary Robert Gates. Photo by Patsy Lynch

The sticking point for senators is the timing of the Senate's vote on whether to repeal. Republicans, led by Arizona Sen. John McCain, are steadfastly against allowing a vote and have vowed to prevent the underlying Defense Authorization bill to the floor. They say it is because the nation has more urgent matters—taxes, job creation—that the legislature should concern itself with in the waning days of the 111th Congress. Others say it is because they want to stall issues they oppose—such as DADT repeal—from reaching the floor until next year, when they take control of the House and have a stronger posture in the Senate.

The focus now shifts back to Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid and Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, and whether they will be able to come to an agreement that will allow the defense-authorization bill to the floor. Prior to Dec. 1, such an agreement seemed to pivot on whether Reid would allow Republicans to proffer numerous amendments to the bill, including one to strip DADT repeal from the measure. But on Dec. 1, McConnell and all 41 other Republicans in the Senate signed onto a letter to Reid, saying they would not vote to proceed on consideration of "any legislative item until the Senate has acted to fund the government and we have prevented the tax increase..."

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Read the entire account online at <http://www.windycitymediagroup.com/gay/lesbian/news/ARTICLE.php?AID=29695>.

## Man's public-indecency charge dismissed

BY ANDREW DAVIS

A man who was accused of public indecency under the Forest Preserve District Code of Cook County has had the charge dropped because the statute is unconstitutional.

Joseph Lindeman was charged under Title 3, Section 3, Paragraph 5 of the code, which reads: "A. Indecent Exposure: No person shall appear in any forest preserve in a state of nudity, or in a dress not properly belonging to his or her sex, or in an indecent or lewd manner, and no person shall make any indecent exposure of his or her person or be guilty of any lewd or indecent act or behavior in any forest preserve, or while in any vehicle within the Forest Preserve District."

In his motion to dismiss, attorney Jon Erickson (known for his participation in several LGBT-rights cases) argued that the charges were "unconstitutional pursuant to the due process clauses of the fifth and fourteenth amendments and the equal protection clause of the fourteenth amendment." In so arguing, he wrote that "[v]ague laws may trap the innocent by not providing fair warning."

In talking with Windy City Times, Erickson said, "The statute is a run-on sentence, and it's a long definition of 'public indecency.' That's why the whole subsection is unconstitutional—you can't cherry-pick phrases out of a sentence and say that [some] are unconstitutional, and others aren't. ... You can't put yourself in the place of the legislators and decide which ones must come and which ones must go."

Erickson added that when he saw the statute, "my eyes just popped out and my jaw dropped. The statute is written so broadly. First of all, it uses the term 'lewd,' which the courts have dismissed as unconstitutionally vague going back to the '70s. The danger is when you have laws that are so subjective like that, it allows the police to force it any way they want to—which becomes a tool for harassment."

"There was a time when the forest preserve police had a 'Lifestyle Enforcement Unit,' where they specifically went looking for gays in the park. ... So, when I saw the code, I said, 'Oh, this is unconstitutional,' and filed a motion to dismiss."

Erickson said that after he talked with the state's attorney and the prosecutor discussed things with the police chief, the attorney dropped the charges. Erickson added that he was

planning to take the case to the Circuit Court of Cook County if things had not turned out as he had hoped on the administrative level.

Stephen Mayberry, a spokesman for the Forest Preserve District of Cook County, agreed that sections of the code are antiquated: "We have parts of that code—for instance, no fortune-telling—that speak to a different time. These days, that sounds ridiculous. And what [Erickson] referred to reflected a different time; it would, in effect, punish cross-dressers—and that is not something we seek to do. That is one of the ordinances we're seeking to have stricken from the books."



Attorney Jon Erickson.

When asked if authorities can still prosecute people under sections of the code that have not yet been removed, Mayberry told Windy City Times, "They can but they wouldn't. The chief of police—and, by extension, the rest of the force—knows that these are things we're looking to remove. It's more recognition of where we're headed and what makes sense, as opposed to selective arrests and enforcement."

Administrative law judge Thomas Grippando e-mailed Windy City Times that "[w]e are working with the Forest Preserve District in amending several sections of the Forest Preserve Code, including Section 3-5-7. We expect that the amendments will be considered by the Board in December."

Erickson said that he plans to make sure that the portions of the code are rewritten "in a way that meets constitutional muster."

According to Mayberry, a public meeting to discuss the code will take place Wed., Dec. 15, at 10 a.m. at 537 N. Clark, room 567. The public is invited.



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# Chico brings Connor on board

BY JOSEPH ERBENTRAUT

Less than a week on the heels of laying out his comprehensive campaign platform on LGBT issues at an East Lakeview forum, mayoral candidate Gery Chico followed that event with another tidbit of particular interest to the city's gay community—the Dec. 3 announcement of political consultant Todd Connor as his new campaign co-chair.

Chico said he had sought out Connor, who is openly gay, for the position because his campaign felt he is “a great businessperson who cares an awful lot about this city” and “a renaissance man” with a demonstrated impulse toward public service.

“[T]hat’s exactly the kind of people we need in government,” Chico said of Connor. “People who are going to bring a fresh look at things and come up with ideas to make things better.”

Connor has previously worked as an investigator with the Illinois inspector general’s office and Booz Allen Hamilton, a management consulting firm, before forming a firm of his own. Connor—who ran for a position as Metropolitan Water Reclamation commissioner earlier this year—also served in the U.S. Navy and has been outspoken on the military’s “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy as that issue has come under serious deliberation in recent months.

Connor said he accepted Chico’s offer because he feels Chico is “the best candidate in the field,” owing to his extensive record in the public sector and his reputation as an independent, “reform-minded” leader. He further described Chico as very committed in his support for matters concerning LGBT Chicagoans.

“I see the politicians who come to Boystown seeking funding and support. I’m used to that drill and you could argue our return on investment on those candidates is not always as good as it should be,” Connor said. “Gery has distinguished himself for his consistency and commitment to our issues always.”

Connor hoped the LGBT community will closely examine where all the mayoral candidates stand on queer issues and understand that the race is of deep importance for the community.

“We’ve got to look for politicians that are going to be consistent and have a record of success we can point to and know will be with us when things become less certain,” he added.

In addition to announcing Connor as his new co-chair, Chico addressed the General Assembly’s passage of the civil unions bill (SB 1716) as “a huge step in the direction we want to go.”

“I believe strongly in equal rights and was so, so pleased to see the legislature do the right thing this week after so many years, to give people peace of mind about their relationships,” Chico said. “I really look forward to the governor

signing that bill.”

Chico further reiterated what he sees as the top priorities on LGBT issues for Chicago’s next mayor, including aiding the successful implementation of civil unions for Chicagoans and fighting bullying and harassment in the city’s schools as part of a renewed focus on education.

“I want to make sure this becomes a fundamental part of our curriculum. The issue has gotten worse over time and I’m not going to stand by and watch that happen,” Chico said.

Lastly, Chico said he hopes the next mayor will follow Mayor Richard Daley’s example of advocacy on marriage equality. Chico has been on the record as supporting same-sex marriage dating at least back to his U.S. Senate run in 2004, where he was the only candidate to hold that view.

“I don’t see civil unions as the end of the line,” Chico said. “I am in support of gay marriage. We have to continue down that path. ... I really see the next mayor as having to continue the advocacy toward that goal.”

The mayoral election will take place Feb. 22, 2011.

## North Side offices vandalized

BY JOSEPH ERBENTRAUT

While the incidents have yet to be proven as linked or specifically motivated by politics, vandalism directed toward a number of campaign offices on the North Side have put some local politicians on edge in recent weeks.

The attacks began Nov. 9, when 46th Ward alderman candidate Andy Lam discovered a brick had been thrown through the window of his campaign office, located in the 1100 block of W. Argyle. That same day, windows were found shattered at the 48th Ward Democratic Campaign office—a space shared by U.S. Rep. Jan Schakowsky, state Sen. Heather Steans, 48th Ward Alderman Mary Ann Smith and others at 5533 N. Broadway.

Similar acts of vandalism were also reported Nov. 12 at the offices of James Cappleman and Michael Carroll, two other candidates hoping to succeed Helen Shiller’s post as 46th Ward Alderman in February’s city election. On Nov. 19, state Rep. and Cook County Commissioner-elect John Fritchey found his Lincoln Park office’s glass door busted to pieces.

Lauren Peters, Cappleman’s campaign manager, said, “I can’t say if someone is doing this because of political beliefs and general frustrations with elected officials or if it’s someone who is just doing it to get attention, thinking it might be something fun to do. But nothing leads us to believe someone is doing this for political reasons.”

Police charged Admir Susic, a 40-year-old Rogers Park resident, with the 48th Ward office vandalism Nov. 13. Investigations into all the incidents are ongoing.



Left: Tocci is third from left (in glasses) in a 1988 edition of *Outlines*. Right: Tocci is on the right in a photo from the Gay Chicago archives.

## PASSAGES

### Elizabeth Tocci

Elizabeth E. Tocci, a Chicago Gay & Lesbian Hall of Fame inductee who owned and ran Calumet City’s The Patch—which became one of the oldest lesbian-owned establishments in the country—passed away Dec. 5 in her sleep.

Tocci was born on the South Side of Chicago and raised in the Pullman and Roseland areas of the city, according to the hall’s website. She opened her first gay bar, the 307 Club, in 1963. She then opened The Patch in 1971.

Tocci supported various causes, including the Changing Woman Center, a counseling center for victims of domestic violence and rape; the Calumet City Resource Center; and Chicago House. She also sponsored women’s sports, offering financial and moral backing for softball, basketball, flag-football and bowling teams.

Tocci’s viewing will take place Friday, Dec. 10, at Thornridge Funeral Home, 15801 S. Cottage Grove, Dolton, 2-9 p.m. The funeral is set for Saturday, Dec. 11, at 11 a.m. at Thornridge; the interment will follow at Holy Cross Cemetery, 801 Michigan City Rd., Calumet City.

More information about Tocci will be posted as it becomes available.

## PASSAGES

### Jane Meek Zimmer

Jane Meek Zimmer, 71, born in Grosse Pointe, Mich., died in Chicago Weiss Hospital Seasons Hospice on Dec. 1 after years of stalwart living with severe COPD.

A graduate of Loyola University and NIU’s Master’s Program in Public Health Nursing, Zimmer enjoyed a 40+ year career, first as head nurse in OB/GYN at Northwestern, then the Infant Welfare League and then for decades with the Cook County Dept. of Public Health (first as a staff nurse, then as supervisor of the Southwest District and finally as supervisor of West District Office).

A quiet and generous philanthropist, Zimmer supported many worthy causes related to world and local hunger; health and education;

Catholic Charities; Planned Parenthood; the Olympics; and the arts.

In addition, she was an outstanding sailor and great nurturer of the sailing crew. She raced several Chicago/Mackinac Races (placing second in LMYA Fleet in 1978!), joyously cruised all Lake Michigan many times and continued to buoy-race for years with the Midwest Open Racing Fleet, even after needing oxygen. When COPD stopped her sailing, she donated her beloved boat, “EZ Lady,” to the boys and girls of the Charlevoix, Mich., Sea Scout Program. For decades she loved and participated richly in her great books studies with the University of Chicago’s Basic Program. She also treasured her travels to China, Ireland and Europe.

Zimmer’s parents were Stuart F. and Henrietta (Meldrum) Meek, both deceased. Her husband, Gene, pre-deceased her in 1982. She is survived by brother Stuart F. Meek (Joan) of Indio, Calif.; sister Susan M. Becker (Ross) of Shelby Township, Mich.; in-laws Dorothy Zimmer Fullem, Steve Traudt and Jeff Traudt (Nancy); nine nieces: Patty Meek Kloss, Susan Meek Bothwell (Jim), Katherine Meek Wolf, Maribeth Meek Van Zandt (Chris), Susan Fullem Hayes, Laura Fullem Chavis (Anthony), and Alison, Lizzie and Molly Traudt; four nephews: James C. Becker (Kimberly), David Meek, Brian R. Becker and Jim Fullem (Sandi); and many great grand-nieces and nephews.

She is also survived by her longtime partner Claudia (Muggs) Traudt; her spiritual foster children, Donna Ulatowski and Cung Nguyen; and many deep friends in fellowship.

A pre-Mass visitation, memorial Mass and reception will take place Saturday, Jan. 15, 2011, at 10 a.m. at St. Thomas the Apostle Church, 5427 S. Kimbark, in Hyde Park. In lieu of flowers, friends may make donations to Seasons Hospice at Weiss Hospital, the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society of Illinois, the U of Chicago’s Basic Program or the charity of their choice.

For information, please contact the Cremation Society of Illinois at 773-281-5058 or <http://www.cremation-society.com>.



Jane Meek Zimmer.

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**UNIONS from cover**

consent—that kind of thing. Also, no bigamy is allowed, for example.

**WCT: Obviously, you've been connected with a large number of bills that have gone through [the General Assembly]. How does this measure compare with those? Does it have more personal significance?**

GH: There are two answers to that question. How does it compare? Most people tell me that this was the highest-profile piece of legislation that has come before the General Assembly in decades, in terms of public awareness and ferocity of lobbying on both sides.



Greg Harris. Photo by Hal Baim

Also, the pressure was enormous. Following Proposition 8 [in California], and following Maine and following the Iowa judges, this nation has seen a string of defeats for the gay and lesbian community, and this was special for a number of reasons. We had to turn the tide. We had to show that the voice of the people, their elected representatives, supported this. We had to say that we could counter the voices of hate and misinformation that were out there fighting us. And a lot of people around the country felt that the [short]-term and medium-term future of marriage equality rested on what happened here in Illinois; we were close to being ready to go, we're one of the largest states in the country and we're in the heartland. This state was a huge prize for either side to win.

**Rick Garcia on the civil-union bill's passage**

BY ANDREW DAVIS

On Dec. 1, the Illinois Senate passed a measure allowing for civil unions for same-sex couples. That evening, Windy City Times talked with one of the key figures in the fight for this historic development—Equality Illinois' Rick Garcia.

**Windy City Times: How are you?**  
Rick Garcia: I am "exhaustimated." [Laughs] What two days we've had!

**WCT: Besides being "exhaustimated," what else are you feeling?**

RG: When you're in that high-intensity environment—putting the votes together, making sure they're going to happen—you don't have time to feel anything; you just have to get things done. But now that things have settled, I feel ecstatic. I'm very, very proud of the work we've done, and I'm thrilled that, right here in the heart of heartland, a legislature has affirmed same-sex couples and their rights.

**WCT: When did you know it was actually going to happen?**

RG: You know when I knew it was going to happen? When I looked up and the board and saw the numbers. I've been through this for many, many years [laughs] and you think you have the votes; then it either doesn't come up for a vote or you're a couple votes shy. So you

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THIRD READING  
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Nov 30, 2010

61 YEAS		52 NAYS		2 PRESENT	
Y Acevedo	Y Davis, Monique	N Kosel	N Ramey		
Y Arroyo	Y Davis, William	Y Lang	N Reboletti		
Y Bassi	Y DeLuca	N Leitch	N Reis		
Y Beaubien	E Dugan	Y Lilly	N Reitz		
N Beiser	Y Dunkin	N Lyons	Y Riley		
N Bellock	N Durkin	E Mathias	Y Rita		
Y Berrios	N Eddy	N Mautino	N Rose		
N Biggins	Y Farnham	Y May	N Sacia		
Y Black	Y Feigenholtz	P Mayfield	Y Saviano		
Y Boland	Y Flider	Y McAsey	N Schmitz		
N Bost	Y Flowers	N McAuliffe	N Senger		
N Bradley	Y Ford	P McCarthy	Y Sente		
N Brady	N Fortner	Y McGuire	Y Smith		
N Brauer	Y Franks	Y Mell	N Sommer		
Y Burke	Y Fritchey	Y Mendoza	Y Soto		
Y Burns	Y Froehlich	Y Miller	N Stephens		
Y Carberry	Y Gabel	N Mitchell, Bill	N Sullivan		
N Cavaletto	Y Golar	N Mitchell, Jerry	Y Thapedi		
N Chapa LaVia	Y Gordon, Careen	N Moffitt	N Tracy		
N Coladipietro	Y Gordon, Jehan	Y Mulligan	N Tryon		
N Cole	Y Hannig	E Myers	Y Turner		
Y Collins	Y Harris	Y Nekritz	N Verschoore		
Y Colvin	N Hatcher	N O'Sullivan	N Wait		
N Connelly	Y Hernandez	N Osmond	Y Walker		
Y Coulson	Y Hoffman	Y Osterman	N Watson		
Y Crespo	N Holbrook	N Phelps	N Winters		
N Cross	Y Howard	N Pihos	Y Yarbrough		
N Cultra	Y Jackson	N Poe	Y Zalewski		
Y Currie	Y Jakobsson	N Pritchard	Y Mr. Speaker		
N D'Amico	N Jefferson				

**The breakdown: How House members voted on SB1716.**

**WCT: You mentioned the Iowa judges, and you undoubtedly know about their ouster [during the Nov. 2 elections]. Are you concerned that conservative groups are going to lobby even harder to oust legislators who voted for the civil-unions bill?**

GH: They very well may—but I think the lesson we learned is that we have to fund-raise as hard, door-knock as hard, lobby as hard and work as hard to: 1) protect those who stood by us, and 2) probably throw one or two out who were against us.

**WCT: Let's go back to Nov. 30. Could you describe what the atmosphere was like that day?**

GH: For the last two weeks, it's just been non-stop. [Conservative groups] mobilized hundreds

of thousands of voters across the state of Illinois to oppose us, and we were doing the same thing on our side. We were working the editorial boards, and we were lucky to get two, three, four hours of sleep a night doing all this work. The adrenaline is high.

On the day of the 30th, there were meetings

with the governor, the secretary of state, the comptroller, the incoming constitutional officers, the mayor of Chicago, the president of the Cook County board, Joe Berrios (the new assessor), the chairman of the Democratic Party, the president of the Senate, [most of] the mayoral candidates—it was nonstop.

The sense of moment was huge. The sense of risk was enormous. The sense of importance, on so many levels, was enormous.

From the day we went back for the first week of the veto session, people knew that I was getting close to pulling the trigger. When the cardinal starts calling people, as some reported, it was clear that our opponents knew how serious this was. That's when all heck broke loose. There was definitely electricity.

Come the second week of the veto session, when they knew it was going to be [Nov. 30], the whole place—every government worker, regardless of the issue—was on pins and needles trying to figure out if and when. And, of course, the whole day on the floor, the House met for hours... I didn't want to pull the trigger on this vote. There were lots of people who were going to cast courageous votes and be with this community, but they really did not want to get strung out if this was not going to pass. And the dilemma I had was that I knew it was now or never; a new legislature is about to be sworn in and this was probably our best opportunity. People were saying, "You've got to call it. You've got to call it," but in the long-term point of view if I called it and screwed it up—forcing them to vote "no" on something—we could be set back a decade.

So, the stakes were a little bit high and, as the chief sponsor of the bill ... Everybody had an opinion of what had to be done but, in the end ... This is why I look five years older than I did on Thanksgiving Day. [Smiles] That responsibility rested with me and you know the say-

Turn to page 34



Rick Garcia. Photo by Kat Fitzgerald

know it's real when you sit there and see 62 [the number of votes in favor of the measure in the state House]. You say, "Hallelujah!" and go across the hall, and the same thing.

But the thing that gave me great hope and made me excited: It was when the speaker of the house, the president of the senate and the governor [brought] this issue up last week, saying, "We have to do it. We have to do it." With that kind of support, you can't go wrong.

**Read the entire interview with Rick Garcia online at <http://www.windycitymediagroup.com/gay/lesbian/news/ARTICLE.php?AID=29690>.**

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# Terry Cosgrove: Man on a mission

*Fresh off of the role he played in getting Gov. Pat Quinn elected, the president/CEO of Personal PAC discussed the past, present and future*

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

Terry Cosgrove, who started off as executive director of the pro-choice organization Personal PAC in 1989, has been a tireless fighter for a women's right to choose during his entire career.

In talking with Windy City Times, he described his job as "leading the organization in carrying out its mission which is to elect pro-choice candidates." He went on to say that "what's involved in that is a lot of cheerleading and keeping everyone on the same page which is recruiting candidates and helping them run campaigns. However, I spend about 60 to 70 percent of my time fundraising." Personal PAC's website states that the organization's overall mission is to elect pro-choice candidates in a bipartisan way to state and local office in Illinois.

Polling in October showed that Bill Brady, Quinn's Republican opponent, led by 13 percent. The question is: How did Personal PAC help turn the tide to a Quinn victory? The organization did so by sending out direct-mail pieces; buying its first television ad (called "Jennie") in the organization's 21-year history (costing \$200,000); placing robocalls using a voice recording of the television ad; and distributing leaflets at Metra stations throughout Chicagoland to educate voters about Brady's conservative views.

Regarding these measures, Cosgrove said, "I knew if we could get enough of those suburban women, that's where the victory was" so

the television ad, robocalls and direct-mail campaign were focused on suburban women who only vote in midterm general elections and not the primaries. The television ad ran during every morning-news show; many daytime talk shows; and WGN News and CLTV all day to reach as many suburban women as possible. Brady's operatives cited these tactics as the reason for his loss more than anything else.

Cosgrove also wrote an article in October for the Huffington Post entitled "Bill Brady: The Most Anti-Woman Nominee to Every Run for Illinois Governor" (which Windy City Times also ran) that outlined where Brady stood on women's issues. Asking Cosgrove how he felt when Brady conceded he said "he felt great" since Brady would "have been a disaster" for Illinois.

Some of the other victories Personal PAC can cite in this election cycle are four out of the six Illinois Senate races and nine of the 11 Illinois House races they targeted for the General Assembly elections. Other victories include Toni Preckwinkle as Cook County board president and Jeff Tobolski's 16th District commissioner win over pro-life incumbent Tony Peraica.

So what does Cosgrove do on an average day to keep things moving forward? The day we talked to him he also had a conference call with his executive committee, a business lunch with a friend/donor, a late meeting with a potential new board member and signing a stack of letters to donors thanking them for their support. He remarked that every day is different depending on what is happening politically.

Where did his passion for the pro-choice movement come from? After being raised in suburban Morton Grove along with his parents (his father recently died), older brother and younger sister (who has two kids, a girl and a boy) he went on



Terry Cosgrove.

to the University of Illinois in Champaign/Urbana where he earned two masters degrees. While still in high school he got involved with political activism, more specifically, Cesar Chavez's grape boycott in the 1970s. He protested in front of a Jewel grocery store and later got arrested. Along the way he got involved in the pro-choice movement when he saw that poor women would give up purchasing groceries for their children in order to pay for their abortions since the Hyde Amendment prevents the government from funding most abortions. Since becoming involved in the pro-choice movement, Cosgrove said he hears from many individuals, including family members, who have told them their abortion stories. He said hearing women tell their stories has only caused him to fight harder since 83 percent of counties in the United States do not have abortion clinics.

Being openly gay hasn't affected his work although elected officials call him to get information and advice on LGBT issues statewide, Cosgrove said. He sees the work he does with reproductive rights going hand in hand with LGBT equality since they are both civil-rights issues. Since his organization is bipartisan he stressed the importance of getting support from both

sides so significant pieces of legislation can get passed.

To date he said his most satisfying accomplishments are getting abortion services restored for poor women at Cook County Hospital, getting Quinn elected, continuing to get pro-choice candidates elected to statewide offices over the years and passing proactive reproductive health legislation. Among his many honors is receiving the Impact Award from the Chicago Foundation for Women.

As for the future, Cosgrove said he is looking forward to the re-drawing of the political map in Illinois so they can elect more pro-choice candidates and pass the Reproductive Health and Access Act in the state assembly. He also would like to get comprehensive sex education taught in the public schools so young adults will know the ways to act responsibly.

His message to the readers of Windy City Times is to "live life to the fullest because there is so much opportunity out there so reach for the top of the trees." He said that is why he is optimistic about the future for reproductive and LGBT rights even though others around him may be skeptics.

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## HOWARD from cover

members of the community.

The first phase of the plan will see the executive committee of the board (elected in June 2010) and four additional board members resign effective Dec. 31, 2010. The plan does not contemplate resignations by two board members who joined the board this past summer; they will remain on the board.

This first phase will reduce the board by about half of its members, but will leave Howard Brown with enough board members to satisfy various funding or grant requirements, including its critical Federally Qualified Health Center application, and enough to ensure a responsible transition.

The remaining transition board members will continue efforts, in partnership with the community, to recruit and seat new board members. Once the new board is up and running, the transition board members will resign, with a goal of having an entirely new board in place by the start of the next fiscal year, July 1, 2011.

With this plan, the board aims to increase confidence in and community ties to Howard Brown Health Center, while ensuring the transition occurs responsibly and in the best interests of the organization.

"Throughout the difficult past year, the board's sole interest has been to stabilize the organization, make necessary changes and take appropriate actions in response to the challenges facing the organization," said outgoing Board Chair Mark Andrews. He said the

board and president/CEO Jamal Edwards agree that this next step in the plan should go a long way toward achieving the goal of ensuring that Howard Brown continues to excel in its mission while strengthening both its connections to the community and the confidence of its stakeholders.

"This board has demonstrated incredible commitment of time, talent, and treasure, over the past difficult year, which may not be fully known in the community," said Andrews. "This decision to implement a Responsible Transition plan shows courage and demonstrates again the board's commitment to putting the interests of Howard Brown first and foremost. It shows decisive action, while ensuring Howard Brown has what it needs as it continues its rebuilding."

Edwards, who was appointed by the existing Board in June of this year, fully supports the plan. "I support the Responsible Transition plan agreed to by the board, and I think it shows this truly is a 'new day' at Howard Brown Health Center. I am grateful for all that the board has done over this past year," he said.

Both Andrews and Edwards said Howard Brown gratefully acknowledges the outpouring of support received from the community in response to the Lifeline Appeal, and during its period of renewal. The Lifeline Appeal funds will help ensure that Howard Brown can continue providing services to more than 36,000 people annually. To donate to Howard Brown's Lifeline appeal, please visit <http://www.HowardBrown.org/lifeline> or call 773-388-1600.

*a* **GAY** *in the*  
**LIFE**



**Lindsay Gaskins**

Marbles CEO

TEXT AND PHOTOS BY ANDREW DAVIS



During this season—when people are more likely to give thanks—Lindsay Gaskins is especially grateful.

Not only is she CEO of an expanding business, but she also has a family, including a wife and daughter.

Gaskins heads Marbles: The Brain Store (<http://www.marblesthebrainstore.com>), which has items that self-styled geeks will absolutely love. A visit to a store just off of Michigan Avenue reveals an astonishing array of games and puzzles in five categories: critical thinking, memory, word skills, visual perception and coordination. For example, Gaskins said that “memory is a hard one, and people often come in with concerns. What we put together are a lot of products—books, games, puzzles—that can help you work on your memory.”

A lot of games are deceptive; they look like they might be for children, but most of them can definitely challenge adults. What makes the place even more enticing is that a lot of items are available for patrons to try—meaning a person could easily spend half a day there and not even realize it. Moreover, Marbles also has “game night” (contact the store for the actual date and time), when people can even test new products and provide feedback.

When asked what the criteria are for having items in the store, Gaskins said, “The hardest filter is that it has to be brain-stimulating, so we have brain-health experts—neurologists, physical therapists, occupational therapists—who tell us what part of the brain is affected when they’re playing a particular game. The other filter is that we want a high-quality, heirloom-type product, so we don’t want something that’s cheap and won’t last.”

Something interesting about the products in the store is that they have applications beyond mastering the game—it’s about mastering aspects of life itself. “[Certain] games can train the brain to think through plans and come up with different strategies. Game-playing can help make those pathways about reaching goals,” Gaskins said.

Marbles also has brain-fitness software programs for all ages, and Gaskins said that her store is the only retailer in the country that has computers with the software for people to try out in the open.



Marbles is an anomaly in the business world, having mushroomed from one store two years ago to eight stores in Illinois and Minnesota. Her background is primarily in retail, and she hails from Massachusetts but she’s been in Chicago for eight years.

Gaskins called starting Marbles an idea that was “innovative and risky. It was exciting. ... To open a store that was new and difficult was just such a great gift.” Due to the positive responses in Chicago, Gaskins decided to see if the store “could be a mall-based concept” and determined that Minnesota was a good market that was nearby. As for her biggest challenge, she said that it’s “doing enough business to keep going.”

However, as if being a CEO isn’t enough, Gaskins has a family here in Chicago. “I had a baby this year so it’s been a really amazing year,” she said. “It’s been a challenge to be able to stay as focused at work, but I have a great wife who has helped me get through a lot of it. I’m even more intent on making [Marbles] a success because I have a family now.”



*the stats*

**Name**  
Lindsay Gaskins

**Age**  
34

**Hometown**  
Ipswich, Mass.

**Relationship status**  
Married to her wife for three years, with one child

**Favorite food**  
Chips and salsa

**Hobbies**  
Playing basketball

**Favorite quote**  
“Act as if...”

**Friday, Dec. 10**  
**7:30 p.m.**  
**Jennifer**  
**Natalya Fink**  
**The Mikvah Queen**

**Friday, Dec. 17**  
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## VIEWPOINT

WINDY CITY  
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VOL. 26 No. 10, Dec. 8, 2010

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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.

PHIL  
REESEThe impact  
of the civil-  
unions vote  
outside Chicago

We all know this is a very big state. From Wisconsin down to Kentucky, our state legislature represents a vast diversity of people and cultures that make this state unique. The further away from Chicago one gets, the more one feels they're entering a very different world.

I live in that different world. I'm not quite so south as, say, Carbondale, but my surroundings are definitely typical Illinois. To my northwest, there's a town called Farmer City. To my southwest there's an Amish village called Arthur. Where I sit in Champaign, I'm only five minutes in any direction from vast, flat prairie lands, corn fields or soy farms.

The passage of civil unions is sure to have a significant effect on same-sex couples down here. Case in point: the 2004 case of *Sprout v. Carle* in Urbana, Champaign's sister city. A long-time pediatric nurse and manager in exceptional standing at Carle Hospital was suddenly and abruptly fired after taking time off to care for her dying partner. The City of Urbana's Codes required that the hospital offer her coverage under the Family and Medical Leave Act, but the hospital balked and initially fought the Urbana Human Relations Commission's ruling that Lynn Sprout be reinstated in her job and given back pay, before eventually settling with Sprout a year later.

Though the Illinois Human Rights Act now protects our jobs and use of public accommodations

from callous discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, what about our families? Chicago is a progressive place where same-sex couples and their families can enjoy relative safety and protection from bias thanks to a more progressive climate and municipal laws that guide the behavior of businesses. However, things become gray throughout the rest of the state.

Plain and simple, civil unions will provide downstate same-sex couples the rights of other spouses when they need them most: in hard times, such as when a spouse or a child is sick or dying, or a spouse dies and the family needs crucial survivor benefits to maintain a liveable standard of living. The law will also be important if someone loses a job or can't get insurance and must rely on spousal insurance coverage.

Up to this point, these have been legal gray areas for downstate couples who often don't have to face discrimination in these areas, but never really know when they will encounter a situation that will rock them to the core. The mere possibility of having to be kept from one's partner in a dire medical situation is a huge hazard that same-sex couples have had to fear, especially downstate where human rights laws are patchwork and inconsistent. One may be considered a family in Urbana, and strangers up the road in Rantoul.

LGBT folks all over the state are celebrating this victory. However, this is rural middle America. What do the non-LGBT folks think? Is a backlash imminent?

On Dec. 2, I was on the phone with one of the key people involved with the civil-unions legislation after the vote getting a sense of what's next as I prepared for my show, *SameSexSunday*. Before we wrapped up, he asked me about the reception downstate:

"What are people saying down there? What has the news been saying?"

I hadn't thought much about it until that moment. I'd been so focused on collecting as much information as I could to explain the developments to a national audience, I'd not stopped to take the temperature of my very local constituency. I had been poring over newspapers and websites all day regarding the new law. I sud-

denly realized that I'd not seen a single letter to the editor opposing the bill. I went back and began scrolling through the comments sections of the news stories on these outlets' websites—normally teeming with activity, the only story about civil unions that had any comments at all only showed positive comments.

I believe we're at a turning point here in Illinois. After so much build-up to civil unions in our own community press, worries about reactions in conservative downstate Illinois, it seems this law is, by and large, a non-issue among those folks who concern us the most. I'm not a Chicagoan, but I agree with Mayor Richard Daley; I think it's time we moved quickly to turn civil unions into marriage. Our whole state is ready for it, not just our big cities. Equal rights for all are no longer the controversial hornet's nest it once was. Illinoisans are smart people. We ought to give them more credit.

Later that night, I met up with a friend who heads the local LGBT law students' organization, and we sat down for some pizza at a beer-and-billiards spot down the street from where we live. There was a pool tournament going on that night, as well as a Texans-Eagles football game simultaneous with the Heat-Cavaliers LeBron James reunion game at Cleveland. In this audience we sat, discussing the civil-union news and enjoying some thin-crust pizza bianco. As we were leaving, I remembered the question I'd received on the phone earlier. I walked up to one of the tournament participants I knew, but didn't know well. He was sitting near the door with his girlfriend, taking a break.

"What do you think about the civil-unions law they just passed?" I asked.

"Bout damn time," he said.

Phil Reese is a regular contributor at *The Bilerico Project* and *FeastOfFun.com*, the politics columnist for *Out & About Illinois Magazine* and is co-host and producer of the only weekly national LGBT politics roundtable podcast, *SameSexSunday*. As someone who has been an LGBT-rights activist since 18, Reese has held leadership roles in LGBT organizations around the nation and advocates for equality every day.

## LETTER

## Second-class unions

Dear Editor:

While passing the civil-union legislation in Illinois is a step in the right direction, it's not the same as marriage; therefore, we are still not equal.

By the way, the previous statement should not be the first words out of your mouth when your girlfriend calls you and she's so excited she can barely contain herself. I can't even say "same-sex marriage" or "gay marriage" anymore because it only continues to separate us from the rest of society, just like "civil union" does. I fought for acceptance my whole life and was forced to accept my place in society for 46 years, and I'm done. I can't settle for being a second-class citizen who suffers from the lack of rights my family, friends and neighbors enjoy on a daily basis. To me, it isn't just about wills and hospital visits. It's about humanity and equality and the Constitution—you know, that silly document that reads, "All men are created equal." That is unless, of course, the powers that be decide you're not. Somehow, that phrase is not as self-evident as Thomas Jefferson originally declared it to be.

I'm bothered because by defining this legislation as a "civil union. We are basically being told, "OK, you bugged us enough, so we'll give you this, but you cannot call it what it actually is or we might just take it right back." Should I

only travel or move to a small handful of states in order to make sure my newly found "rights" aren't violated? I travel a lot for work and I shouldn't have to worry every time I get on a plane or cross a state line that my soon-to-be betrothed ladyfriend will not be able to visit me or make any decisions about my care if I am injured or disabled.

So, basically, I still have to have a durable power of attorney, a living will, a will, a back-up will, witness statements, photographic evidence of a relationship, copies of joint bank-account records and sworn statements from our families, friends and neighbors to protect us ... Ooooooh, wait—those documents are ignored all the time by doctors and family members. Where is our protection? The answer is clear.

Yes, we could just call it "marriage" and call it a day, but it's legally not. Yes, it sounds ridiculous to say, "Hi. I'm Chandler and this is my civilly-unioned life partner, Shauna." It would be dumb to put, "Please join us for the civil union of Chandler and Shauna" on the invitations. I want to refer to Shauna as my wife, not my "life partner." We're not Seigfried and Roy, for Pete's sake. You know, if Sarah Palin can change definitions and make words up all the time, we have to be able to convince the rulers of this land and the mostly good people of his country to legally redefine one two-syllable word.

Shauna called me "Debbie Downer" because I didn't jump up and down when I heard the news. I DID answer her phone call by saying, "Hello,

future wife," but she initially mistook my lack of excitement for an aversion to marrying her, and that couldn't be further from the truth. I want to marry her, not be civilly united with her. I want to marry her with all the love, joy, excitement and legal protections my sisters had when they married their husbands. I want my wedding, reception, honeymoon and subsequent life with Shauna not to just feel equal, but to actually be equal. I want what they got, period. Nothing more, nothing less...

In the meantime, I'll "register with the state" but the reality is marriage needs to be legally redefined on a national level to include the gays. Then, and only then, will we be equal. We cannot, and should not, ever settle for less.

L.A. Chandler  
 Second-class citizen  
 First-class gay  
 Berkeley, Ill.

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# GOINGS-ON

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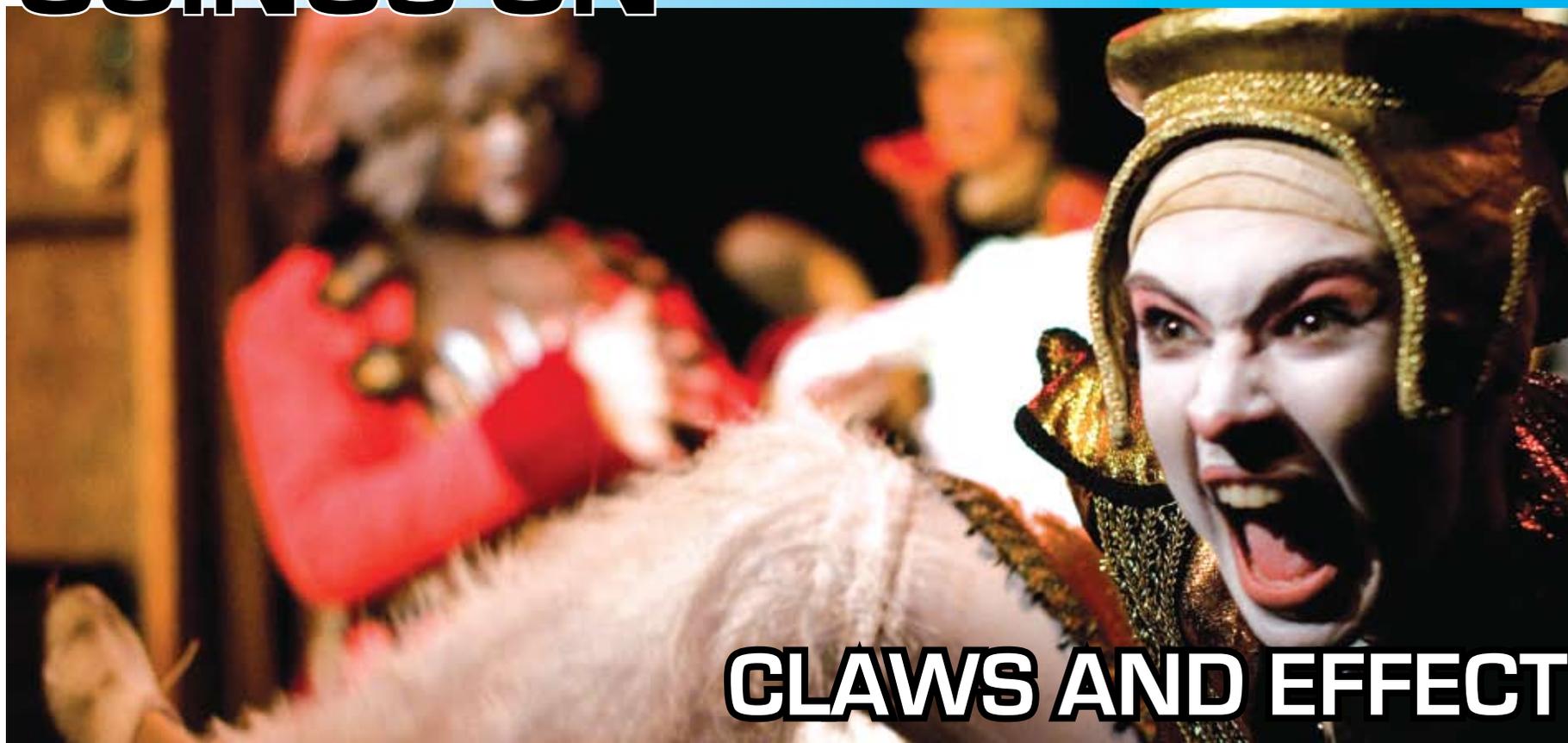


Photo by Gary Ward

## CLAWS AND EFFECT

Emily Rogers (above) is one of the performers in Theo Ubique's *Cats*. See the review on page 16.

### MOVIES

Jim dandy.  
Page 23.



### MUSIC

Crystal clear.  
Page 22.

Photo by Jerry Nunn



### EVENTS

Let's do brunch.  
Page 17.

Photo by Kat Fitzgerald



## Dancin' Feats: Nutcracker edition

BY ALICIA WILSON

The holiday season signals the return of an iconic piece of dance work, *The Nutcracker*. This ballet has many versions and retellings, spanning the likes of national ballet companies, children's dance studios and even Macaulay Culkin (who was in the 1993 movie version). Yet every year people come back for more of the classic story of Clara, her nutcracker and their spectacular adventure full of action, beauty and wonder. Whether *The Nutcracker* is a long-standing tradition for you or a new experience for the holidays, its time to head to the ballet. Here are a few of the performances of the *Nutcracker* happening in Chicago.

Many dancers perform the *Nutcracker* each holiday season, but what makes the Joffrey Ballet's version special? It all comes down to the details. Robert Joffrey created his vision of *The Nutcracker* in 1987 at the University of Iowa. George Balanchine had begun the tradition of the *Nutcracker* in America back in the 1950s with the original choreography by Marius Petipa, but this production was recreating a European Christmastime on the stage. Joffrey was the first choreographer to set the ballet in an American home, and decorated the stage in the opening party scene with toys from his own childhood. Since then, the Joffrey ballet has maintained the most tour dates of any major ballet company in the country, and in 1996 brought the *Nutcracker* home to Chicago.

The **Joffrey Ballet's** performance of *The Nutcracker* returns with the 23rd anniversary of a popular Chicago family event. Taking place Dec. 10-26 at the Auditorium Theater, this winter wonderland continues the holiday tradition of the ballet world. The Joffrey website describes this year's performances as "sparkling with con-



The Joffrey Ballet's Kara Zimmerman and Fabrice Calmels, who will be dancing in the company's version of *The Nutcracker*. Photo by Herbert Migdoll

temporary choreography, dazzling costumes, Tchaikovsky's thrilling score, inventive lighting and extravagant set design." Keeping with the family spirit, joining the Joffrey dancers in this production will be almost 120 young dancers from all over the Chicago area. In addition, young vocalists from several choirs will perform in the magical "snow scene." More sounds from the choirs can be heard in the lobby of the theater a half hour before curtain and at intermission at every performance, and the ballet itself will feature live accompaniment from the Chicago Sinfonietta.

The Joffrey Ballet will present *The Nutcracker* at the Auditorium Theater, 50 E. Congress, various times Dec. 10-26. Tickets (\$30-\$115) are available for purchase at The Joffrey Box office located at 10 E. Randolph, the Auditorium Theater, or <http://www.ticketmaster.com>. For more information call 800-982-2787 or visit <http://www.joffrey.com>.

The **Civic Ballet of Chicago** will be performing Ruth Page's version of the *Nutcracker*, last seen in 2007. This year's event will feature eight guest artists and more than a dozen company members from around Chicago, including former Joffrey Ballet great Calvin Kitten returning as

the Cavalier, Presented at The Elgin Community College Performing Arts Center, 1700 Spartan, 1 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 11, and 3 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 12. For tickets (\$15-\$25) or more information, call 847-697-1000.

The **Moscow Ballet's** Great Russian *Nutcracker* stars principal artists Ekaterina Bortyakova as Masha and Akzhol Mussokhanov as the Nutcracker Prince. Critically acclaimed for its unique setting of Act II in the "Land of Peace and Harmony," the Great Russian *Nutcracker* entertains with new characters and larger than life puppets set against a stunning backdrop of unicorns, exotic birds and animals.

As described on its website, the story differs from the U.S. version. An ethereal Dove, a messenger of peace, leads Masha and the Nutcracker to the peaceful kingdom. Beloved Russian fairytale characters Father Christmas and his granddaughter, the Snow Maiden, add to this unique retelling of a familiar story. The Moscow Ballet will present the Great Russian *Nutcracker* at The Rosemont Theater, 5400 N. River, 3 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 18. For tickets (\$28-\$73) or more information, visit <http://www.moscowballet.com>.

The **Salt Creek Ballet** presents the *Nutcracker* at the North Shore Center for the Performing

Arts, 9501 Skokie, Skokie, at 3 p.m. on Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 18-19; Tickets (\$30-\$38) are available by visiting <http://www.seechicagodance.com>.

## CRITICS' PICKS

**Boojum! Nonsense, Truth and Lewis Carroll**, Storefront Theatre, through Dec. 19. Two Off-Loop troupes link up to present a richly melodic and beautifully sung modern chamber opera about Lewis Carroll. Read "The Hunting of the Snark" before you go. JA

**Float**, About Face Theatre at Theater Wit, through Dec. 18. Patricia Kane's comic drama about secrets that get revealed in a small fictional Illinois town features a great acting ensemble who construct (and deconstruct) a Christmas parade float right before your eyes. SCM

**Home**, Court Theatre, through Dec. 12. Samm-Art Williams' late 1970s drama highlights the power of basic theatrical storytelling to not only tell the tale of one man's life, but to reflect many generations of African Americans who made the Great Migration to urban northern cities from the rural South. SCM

**Traces**, Broadway Playhouse at Water Tower Place, through Jan. 1. Seven PG-wholesome (but oh-so-sexy) young gymnasts fly higher sans net, wires or sequins for 90 sweaty and thrilling minutes than all your standard-issue big-top tinkerbells. MSB

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge and Morgan



From left: David Darlow, Paul Hurley and Linda Gillum in *The Importance of Being Earnest*. Photo by Johnny Knight

## THEATER REVIEW

### The Importance of Being Earnest

Playwright: Oscar Wilde

At: Remy Bumppo Theatre Company, 2257 N. Lincoln

Tickets: 773-404-7336;

<http://www.remybumppo.org>; \$40-\$55

Runs through: Jan. 9, 2011

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

All the plays of Oscar Wilde have become iconic, none moreso than *The Importance of Being Earnest*, which also is his best. It's brilliantly witty and laugh-out-loud funny (not the same thing), it pokes fun at social conventions (although it upholds them) and it skewers many devices of the 19th-century well-made play, which still held ground when *Earnest* was written. It's about two socially proper young men who lead *sub rosa* double lives, as Wilde himself was doing at the time, and that probably is—or should be—its chief metaphysical merit for LGBT audiences.

*Earnest* is a natural choice for Remy Bumppo Theatre Company, with its literate tastes and core of classically-trained actors. It's not surprising that they've done an admirable job in bringing it to the stage, directed by Shawn Douglas, although on opening night it still was studied and careful. A week of performances should allow the company to achieve a fully-confident and relaxed presentation.

If anyone does *not* know the story, it's set in England in 1895, where eligible young bachelor friends, Jack and Algernon, pursue romances with Gwendolyn and Cecily, respectively. Gwendolyn and Algernon are first cousins, and Cecily is Jack's ward, leading to various complications. Gwendolyn's formidable and dominating mother, Lady Bracknell, also bestrides the play like a co-

lossus. A surprise ending sets all to right as the lovers are united.

As the flirting pairs, Greg Matthew Anderson (Algernon), Paul Hurley (Jack), Kelsey Brennan (Cecily) and Linda Gillum (Gwendolyn) are handsome and well-matched, elegantly and stylishly costumed by Melissa Tochia (when did you last see a panoply of spats?). Veterans Annel Armour and Ted Hoerl are capable and quite amusing as Miss Prism (keeper of a dark secret) and Rev. Chasuble. William J. Watt is properly dried wry as several butlers. And then there's David Darlow as Lady Bracknell. He's not the first man to play Bracknell (something the late James Deuter did in the very same theater some years back), which takes nothing away from the starchy acidity of his carefully modulated performance, squeezed into Torchia's chin-to-toes iron-clad costume. Using great economy of physical movement, Darlow's Bracknell never raises her voice or loses her cool for a moment, giving the impression she would explode like Bunbury if even a single corset stay were loosened.

Richard and Jacqueline Penrod's scenic design continues the Remy Bumppo tradition of creating a rich look on a modest budget. In the 3/4-round stage, the floor and back wall are the principal scenic spaces. The Penrods borrow the elaborate geometrics of a backgammon board for the floor, and give a little nod to Victorian pop-up books for the wall, both reflecting the gamesmanship and surprises which are the essence of *Earnest*.

Online this week:  
—Pancake  
Breakfast



## SPOTLIGHT



Redtwist Theatre ingeniously uses its own storefront theater space to illuminate Kenneth Lonergan's acclaimed off-Broadway drama *Lobby Hero*, which is about a night watchman in a Manhattan high-rise who gets thrust into the media spotlight when a murder is committed in the building. *Lobby Hero* plays through Sunday, Jan. 2, at Redtwist Theatre, 1044 W. Bryn Mawr. Performances are 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays through Sundays, with no shows Dec. 24-26, Dec. 31 or Jan. 1. Tickets are \$25-\$30. Call 773-728-7529 or visit <http://www.redtwist.org>. Photo of Eric Hoffmann and Maura Kidwell in *Lobby Hero* by Jan Ellen Graves

## THEATER REVIEW

### A Klingon Christmas Carol

Playwright: Christopher O. Kidder & Sasha Walloch (translated by Laura Thurston, Bill Hedrick, Chris Lipscombe & Christopher O. Kidder. Performed in Klingon with English subtitles.)

At: Commedia Beaugard at The Greenhouse, 2259 N. Lincoln  
Phone: 773-404-7336; \$32  
Runs through: Dec. 19

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

Charles Dickens' fable of redemption and atonement sparked by supernatural intervention extols universal values, rendering it a tale transcending tribal boundaries throughout the world—and now, with this long-overdue translation into an extraterrestrial tongue, can be added, “throughout the solar system.”

First introduced in the seminal 1967 television series *Star Trek*, Klingons are a warrior race dwelling on the planet Kronos. Originally an enemy of the free worlds, they have since become our allies, espousing a cosmopolitan ethos leading them to travel widely. (Theatergoers wearing traditional Klingon costume were in attendance at the Greenhouse on opening night.) With the Commedia Beaugard's specialty being drama-in-translation, a foreign-language version of this literary classic seemed a logical step.

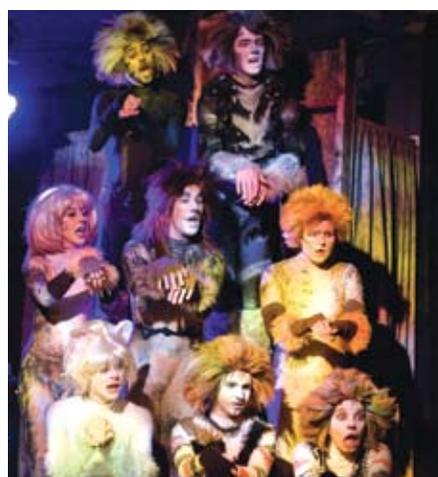
Spoken Klingon combines German consonants with Japanese vowels, the actors' formal, vaguely Kabuki delivery in this production emphasizing aural cognates to compensate for the dual focus engendered by projected English subtitles (like at the opera). Klingon society being atheist—and, as such, having no direct equivalent to “Christmas”—our setting is the Festival of the Long Night, celebrated with quasi-Olympic



A Klingon Christmas Carol. Photo by Scott Pakudaitis

games and revels. SQuja' (pronounced “SKOO-ja”) shuns athletic pastimes, however, amassing his riches from the misfortunes of his fallen countrymen. But on this special night, the spirits of three ancient heroes instill in their lost pilgrim—through the example of his security guard's sickly, but brave, young son—a newfound appreciation for noble deeds reflecting courage, pride and honor.

Adjusting to Klingon culture requires a certain suspension of disbelief—their courting customs, in particular, may appear crude to our earthly sensibilities. And those unfamiliar with the source material risk missing a few of the more arcane references (e.g., the garb worn by qeylIS, analogous to *Ghost of Christmas Past*). But as long ago as 1996, Klingon had surpassed Elvish and Esperanto as the fastest-growing constructed language—its own dictionaries, operas and parts of Shakespeare and the Bible, now available intergalactically—making it increasingly advisable, if your imagination encompasses a holiday party where guests merrily spar with *bat'leths* (a sort of deer-antler quarterstaff), to take advantage of this rare educational opportunity to expand your horizons in pursuit of greater understanding between alien nations.



Cats. Photo by Gary Ward of G. Thomas Ward Photography

## THEATER REVIEW

### Cats

Playwright: music, lyrics and book by Andrew Lloyd Webber, based on T.S. Eliot's *Old Possum's*

*Book of Practical Cats*

At: Theo Ubique at the No Exit Café, 6970 N. Glenwood

Phone: 773-347-1109;

\$30-\$35 (add \$20 for dinner package)

Runs through: Jan. 2, 2011

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

There ought to be a sign at the entrance to the No Exit café warning playgoers, “Do not pat the cats.” When these tactile beasties, garbed in spandex fur, stretch lazily and wave their, ahem, tails within inches of our faces, or pounce on our tables to regard us with unwavering feline stares, the impulse to invite a friendly kitty into our laps for a doze is almost irresistible. (Ailurophobes whose dread extends

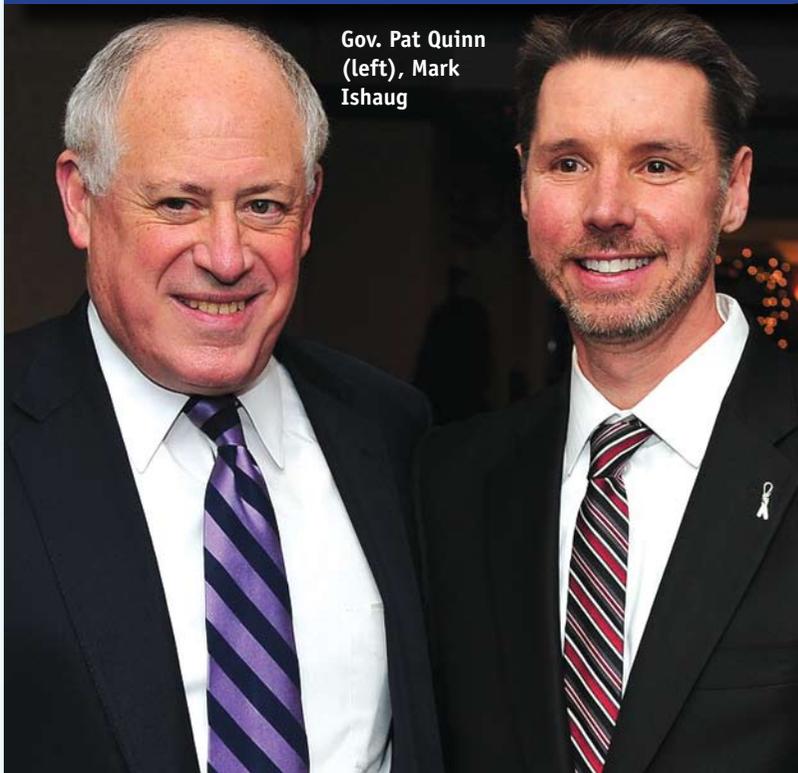
even to anthropomorphically costumed human beings can also view the, um, caterwauls from a safe distance.)

But this very proximity is what distinguishes the Theo Ubique experience from the extravaganzas we have come to associate with the Andrew Lloyd Webber canon. Big-budget scenic effects were harmless enough in the 1980s, but when was the last time you could understand every word of Webber's lyrics, let alone see each character-defining twitch of a whisker and hear the squeak of shoe-on-floor when a dancer executes those spectacular multiple-*fouetté* spins?

The slate for this revue inventories the types of cats prevalent in English society circa 1937: the “gumby” who loafs all day and carouses all night. Railroad ratcatchers and theatrical supernumeraries. Faithless toms, always on the roam. Velvet-pawed “cat-burglers” blamed for household infractions ranging from spilled milk to missing silverware. And a once-pampered pet, now abandoned to the streets. By way of a plot, there is the framing device of an annual ceremony observed by the “jellicle cats” (baby-talk for “dear little cats”) in which one of their number is selected to ascend to that great catnip garden in the sky.

The cast assembled by director/choreographer Brenda Didier is mostly young, with energetic flexibility befitting their ages. Rebecca Pink taps up a storm as the nocturnal Gumby, Maggie Portman lends a Kurt Weill slink to the ballad of the elusive “Macavity,” while Josh Huppert's LED-clad Mr. Mistoffelees charms with exuberant *pas de chats*. There's more than just catfooting around, however: Matt McNabb's delicate lyric tenor invokes a beatific aura for Old Deuteronomy, Brian-Alwyn Newland's rich baritone renders the operatic romance of Pirate Growltiger a show-stopper and Sydney Charles' poignant rendition of “Memory” transforms the familiar cabaret-warble into a prayer for all mortal creatures, great and small, confronting the ends of their ninth lives.

### Out of this 'World'



Gov. Pat Quinn (left), Mark Ishaug



Carol Ronen, Gov. Pat Quinn



From left: Alicia Ozier, Rahm Emanuel, Rev. Doris Green

Hundreds of patrons crowded the Hilton Chicago as the AIDS Foundation of Chicago (AFC) held its annual World of Chocolate Dec. 2. Attendees sampled chocolate creations from more than 30 of Chicagoland's finest restaurants, caterers and chocolatiers. Among those who attended were Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn, who spoke of the civil-union bill that the General Assembly had passed the previous evening, and mayoral candidate Rahm Emanuel.

This particular World of Chocolate was the last one with Mark Ishaug heading AFC, as he is moving on to head AIDS Action. "This has been a spectacular event," Ishaug told Windy City Times. "It's grown from a couple hundred people to 1,500 people, and tonight we have the governor and Rahm Emanuel. It is the holiday event of the season, and it's a party for a cause. I'm just so proud of this organization, and I'm proud of the Chicago community for rallying to make this event the huge success that it is."

In addition to the chocolate, there were buffet-dinner items; a rummage sale; and a stand for the new Quality of Life scratch-off ticket, "Red Ribbon Cash."

There was also an area for Celebrated Chefs (<http://www.CelebratedChefs.com>), at which attendees registered their credit cards; 5 percent of all purchases at a large group of restaurants (ranging from 312 Chicago to Zak's Place) will go to a particular organization. The Dec. 2 registrants' future purchases will go to AFC.

Among the honors celebrity judges bestowed at the event were: the Hot Chocolate Award to Terry's Toffee; the Loco Cocoa Award (most creative use of chocolate as an ingredient) to Hearty Boys; the Sweetbooth Award (best presentation) to the Peninsula Hotel; and the Chocoholic's Dream Award to the Peninsula Hotel. The Peninsula also received the People's Choice Award. Text by Andrew Davis and photos by Kat Fitzgerald ([MysticImagesPhotography.com](http://www.MysticImagesPhotography.com)), with many more online at <http://www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com>

### Vital Bridges' brunch



The HIV/AIDS agency Vital Bridges held its annual holiday brunch Dec. 5 at the Four Seasons Hotel, and attendees included Chicago mayoral candidate Rahm Emanuel (middle of upper left photo) and state Rep. Greg Harris (second from left in the above pic), who sponsored the civil-union measure that recently passed through the Illinois General Assembly. The 2010 Food for Life Award Recipients at the brunch were M•A•C Cosmetics and the M•A•C AIDS Fund; and Ryan Ruskin. Photos by Kat Fitzgerald ([MysticImagesPhotography.com](http://www.MysticImagesPhotography.com)), with many more online at <http://www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com>

"★★★★★"  
-Kris Vire, *Time Out Chicago*

"An apple pie of a play."  
-Steven Oxman, *Variety*

"Just plain excellent theatre."  
-Venus Zarris, *Chicago Stage Review*

"This play is near perfection" with "a dynamite cast."  
-Keith Ecker, *Chicago Theater Blog*



# Float



A New Play by Patricia Kane

Now Extended through December 18!

Love, About Face Theatre

@ Theater Wit (1229 W. Belmont)  
Visit [aboutfacetheatre.com](http://aboutfacetheatre.com) or call (773)975-8150

**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.

 Bristol-Myers Squibb

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**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.
- BIAxin® (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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Rev April 2010

# John Waters brings 'Christmas' to Chicago



BY JERRY NUNN

Groundbreaking filmmaker John Waters—known for beginning the careers of Divine, Mink Stole and Ricki Lake in such unforgettable films such as *Hairspray*, *Cry-Baby* and *Serial Mom*—is comin' to town and you better be naughty, not nice! The cult icon sat down with Windy City Times to talk about his book *Role Models*.

**Windy City Times:** Hi, John. I just plowed through your book. They just got it to me today.

John Waters: That's called cramming, isn't it?

**WCT:** Yes; I really liked it. It was injected with your life but such an homage to other people.

JW: Well, it was a memoir and it was reporting. It was a couple of genres turned into one.

**WCT:** Was there anyone you felt that you left out?

JW: Sure, but I did an initial list. There were no B-list role models. There is not going to be a sequel. They were people that I realized that I had talked about before with *Crackpot*, my past book, or in interviews. I didn't want to write about anyone else that had been in a lot of trouble. With Leslie Van Houten, I wanted to keep that separate and very serious. I wanted the tone to be correct.

**WCT:** I forgot about Captain Kangaroo and how much I loved him until reading your book.

JW: And he was Clarabell the Clown on *The Howdy Doody Show*—talk about a lunatic life! He was both of them—imagine! He should run from the sight of any children, I would think. [Both laugh.]

**WCT:** I thought your book would make a good documentary.

JW: I guess, except a lot of them are dead. I always thought that Zorro's daughter would be a good movie. Growing up with Zorro, you think *Mommie Dearest*, but yet she turned out great. It seemed like *Mommie Dearest's* daughter turned out to be no fun.

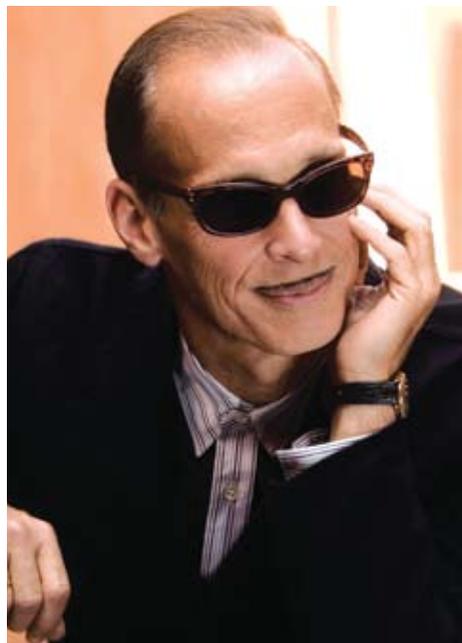
**WCT:** Right! My friend dresses up like Joan Crawford and performs in a rock band called *The Joans*.

JW: I think Joan Crawford has inspired many spin-offs, certainly. I don't know what her daughter could ever say after, at the end of her career, she appeared onstage at *The Castro* with drag queens dressed as her mother. Talk about a serious book; I have deep reservations about that one. It came to that once she had no more stories to tell. Obviously she thought her mother didn't love her but in my book with the *Baltimore Heroes* chapter they knew they parents were insane but they loved them and they turned out fine. That's all that counts.

**WCT:** I love how your pencil-thin moustache even has a role model.

JW: Yes, it definitely does—a couple of them. Little Richard was who I always wanted to be. There were also evil people in thirties movies that had them. Also, in the singing group *The Platters* had one also. They were never white people. It's harder to grow.

**WCT:** Who are newer role models for you?



John Waters.

JW: As far as filmmakers, I like Todd Solondz. There are lots of them. I still go out all the time and see movies. But to become a role model they have to be around for a while. To me, calling someone a role model is a tribute to them. So you have to make sure they are one before you grant them that title. You can't just do something for a second.

**WCT:** I was thinking of Lady Gaga and how Madonna was her role model, and now she is a role model to many people.

JW: Well, she certainly is going to be a role model for millions of kids because role models are the first people that change you. They are the first thing that you see. The people that say Lady Gaga is their role model don't care about Madonna because, to them, Gaga was the first thing they saw. I felt the same way when I saw Elvis Presley and Little Richard. They outlived any rockabilly people ever or even up until today. I think role models are going to be the first way you rebel or the first thing you like that your parents hated. That's really important. Now there are so many hip parents, it's so hard. I am surprised there are not more Republicans!

**WCT:** I like that you said you only voted for Obama because he was a friend of Bill Ayers.

JW: That was the only thing the *New York Times* review said that wasn't funny.

**WCT:** I thought that was funny!

JW: I thought it was funny, too, but you never answer your critics. It was a nice review. I know it's funny because I have been saying it at college lectures, and everybody laughs!

**WCT:** I love your sense of humor. I am looking forward to the Chicago Christmas show.

JW: That's a Christmas show, a totally different thing. I love Chicago. It is the only place that I actually had a job. I worked in a nightclub. What do you call the subway there?

**WCT:** The L.

JW: Yes, it was a nightclub right under the L. It was a beautiful jazz club. It looked to me like a movie set. I always think Superman is going to jump off a building every time I am in Chicago. I love the weather in Chicago. I hate hot weather!

**WCT:** You are always on the opposite side of everyone else. You even have a book list of obscure books.

JW: Yes, some of them are obscure. "We Need to Talk About Kevin" was a hit book but most of them were not airport books.

**WCT:** You have to seek them out.

JW: I keep saying that my book is a beach book now that beaches are polluted.

**WCT:** Your current book costs the same as the amount you made your first movie for.

JW: Oh, yeah. It was made for 30 bucks.

**WCT:** Isn't that funny to think about?

JW: Yes, but way more work.

**WCT:** I interviewed Mink Stole last year and told her I wanted to talk to you so here you are.

JW: I see Mink all the time now that she moved home to Baltimore. She is doing great.

**WCT:** She is a sweet person—nothing like the characters in the movies.

JW: She is a really great singer. Did she sing there?

**WCT:** She didn't sing. She was in town for a movie festival but we talked about her band.

JW: She's good. She is in the movie *All About Evil*, which I went to the premiere of in *Castro* in San Francisco.

**WCT:** So what is going on with your movie *Fruitcake*?

JW: Who knows? You know the film business, and not just for me but everyone that I know, all

the mid-price independent movies are not getting made right now. It is very different but who knows? I am trying to. If I don't do a movie then I will do an art show or write another book. I tour with my one-man show all the time. I've got jobs! I am not unemployed. I wonder if I could get unemployment? I guess not, because I am self-employed. I could go in and say, "Yes, I am the puke king and here for work!"

**WCT:** You will always have a job in Chicago. I loved the book and look forward to the show.

JW: Thanks. Well, come say hi!

**WCT:** I will.

A John Waters Christmas arrives at the Harris Theater, 205 E. Randolph, for its Chicago premiere on Tuesday, Dec. 14, at 7:30 p.m. If you want to say "hi" to John Waters also, a hundred tickets to the meet-and-greet following the performance are available at <http://www.HarrisTheaterChicago.org> or call 312-334-7777.

## NUNN ON ONE: MUSIC

### Crystal Bowersox: 'Idol' sensation set to release first CD

BY JERRY NUNN

Crystal Bowersox dominated the ninth season of *American Idol* (finishing as runner-up to Lee Deweyze) and, now, is releasing her debut album, *Farmer's Daughter*, Dec. 14. She appeared at the recent Festival of Lights event on Michigan Avenue and sang out *Nunn on One*.

**Windy City Times:** Hey, Crystal. You were originally born in Ohio?

Crystal Bowersox: Yes. I was born Toledo, Ohio.

**WCT:** It's interesting that you have a twin brother.

CB: Yes, I have a twin brother, Karl. I have an older brother, Will.

**WCT:** Do they sing?

CB: Not really. We had a little band when we were younger but they never really stuck with it.

**WCT:** I bet they are kicking themselves now.

CB: Yeah, they are both pretty square, they like playing video games.

**WCT:** When did you move to Chicago?

CB: The beginning of 2004. I was in Lakeview at first, playing in the subways, lots of open mics—stuff like that.

**WCT:** You sang at train stations.

CB: Red Line, Jackson, Lake and the Blue Line as well. There are only four stops that you are allowed to play at, technically.

**WCT:** What made you audition for season nine of *American Idol*?

CB: My son. I would never have auditioned for *American Idol* if I didn't have a kid. For a year people had been telling me to try out for the show. It just wasn't my thing. I didn't want to take a fast track to fame. I tried out for him, to provide a home and made it.

**WCT:** How was the overall experience?

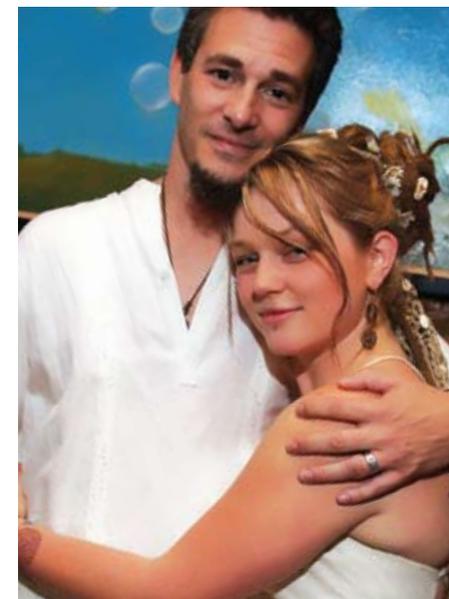
CB: It was awesome. It opened a lot of doors for me. I got to work with amazing performers such as Alanis Morissette and Harry Connick, Jr. I think I would have made it there eventually anyway, but it has been a rush this way.

**WCT:** You have a song called "Up to the Mountain." [Editor's note: This song is a single and is not on *Farmer's Daughter*.]

CB: Yes; it was a suggestion by my friend to sing. It was written by Patty Griffin and was based on Martin Luther King, Jr.'s, speech. I felt it was appropriate of my life and my own story.

**WCT:** So you have your first album coming out.

CB: Yes, I just recorded it in New York. It is



Crystal Bowersox and husband Brian Walker's wedding photo. Pic by Kat Fitzgerald

going to be cool and all original material. We did the photo shoot for the cover in Ohio.

**WCT:** Nice! What style will the album be?

CB: I grew up on country and classic rock so it will be in the middle somewhere. It will be country, folk, blues all fused together.

**WCT:** I was talking with Melissa Etheridge about you.

CB: Oh! How was that?

**WCT:** She loves you and was calling you "Mama Sox."

CB: She's amazing.

**WCT:** I went to her concert and she played for three hours!

CB: She kills it. For the *Idol* tour there was a rehearsal space next door to each other so while the other *Idols* were doing their thing, I would run over to her space and hang with her.

**WCT:** How fun!

CB: Yeah, she's been a great mentor to me. She has given me a lot of advice on how to be a strong independent woman in this business and not take crap from anybody. It is not easy.

**WCT:** Do you want people to know about your bisexual past?

CB: Hmm. Do I want to come out in *Windy City Times*?

**WCT:** It is completely up to you.

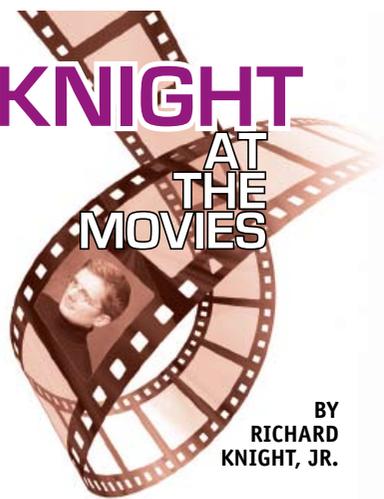
CB: I believe in love, Jerry.

**WCT:** I love you! Where can people keep up with you?

CB: My website, <http://www.crystalbowersox.com>, is being revamped with new information being put on there and they can follow me on Twitter. It is my personal Twitter so I can talk to people. It's Crystal Bowersox.

**Farmer's Daughter** debuts Tuesday, Dec. 14. For more information and to purchase it, visit <http://www.crystalbowersox.com>.

# KNIGHT AT THE MOVIES



BY  
RICHARD  
KNIGHT, JR.

## I Love You Phillip Morris; film note

I imagine that just about now Jim Carrey is feeling a little bit like Jessica Lange did back in 1994 when *Blue Sky* finally, finally hit theatres after languishing in a vault for years, winning her critical kudos that carried her all the way to an Oscar win for Best Actress. Based on Carrey's performance as the conman Steven Russell in the eagerly anticipated same-sex comedy *I Love You Phillip Morris*, it's not far-fetched to suggest that Carrey is looking at his best shot at some award attention since *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*. If nothing else, it's a cinch that Carrey is going to feel validated for making the much-beleaguered movie in the first place.

That goes as well for Glenn Ficarra and John Requa, the writers of the movie who are also making their directing debut here. Like *Bad Santa*, their previous writing project, *Phillip Morris* is twisted and funny. And the outrageous story has a bonus: It really happened. What's surprising—given the offending, dark tone of *Bad Santa*—is the light touch the duo bring to the material. Like the title character (played with an endearing, befuddled innocence by Ewan McGregor), Phillip Morris is also sweet, charming and genuinely romantic. It's close to being a modern day screwball comedy and it's only the movie's darker moments that help it miss that mark.

Carrey plays a former straight, born-again Christian who has an epiphany after a serious car accident that he's gay. Quickly ditching his wife (Leslie Mann in a nicely understated part) and kids, moving to Florida and finding a really hot boyfriend (300's Rodrigo Santoro), Steven



Jim Carrey (left) and Ewan McGregor in *I Love You Phillip Morris*.

declares that "being gay is really expensive"—at least the "gay lifestyle" that he embraces. So he starts conning insurance companies with false personal injury suits and works his way up to impersonating a corporate financial whiz and then, even more improbably, a lawyer able to handle his own defense when caught. In the midst of these shenanigans he goes to jail, where he meets the doe-eyed Phillip. From that point Steven's besotted and nothing will keep him from being with his True Love; not even repeated returns to jail (where he works out inventive, successful escape plans) keep the two apart for long.

With Russell, Carrey has found a part that perfectly taps into his goofy, over-the-top talents like nothing since the multiple comedic roles he played in the criminally overlooked Lemony Snicket's *A Series of Unfortunate Events*. Carrey brings such sunny self-confidence to Steven's various deceptions—the lawyer, the finance bigwig, the disco dandy—you can see that this is a large part of his turn-on. Like a drag queen at a vogueer's ball, Steven is determined to win the prize for "realness," and you instinctively root for him. But it is as a man so head over heels in love—with another man—that is the real acting triumph for Carrey (and the movie, which doesn't stint on the unabashed passion Russell and Morris have for one another).

*I Love You Phillip Morris* has had one of the most tortuous paths to distribution of just about any movie that I can recall. After being tremendously received at Sundance in early 2009 the movie, even with high-profile stars Carrey and McGregor, left the festival without a distributor and didn't get one for what seemed like ages—

apparently because of the film's unapologetic gay content.

It turns out that, although the movie does offer a few scenes of simulated gay sex, it's that "anything for love" plot line that may seem so "daring" for mainstream audiences. Titillating straight audiences with suggestive gay sex scenes for laughs is one thing, but a romantic comedy that embraces the idea of a man doing anything to be with ... another man? And no one dies? No one apologizes for being gay? For liking gay sex? For being in love, deeply, with someone of their own gender? Shocking! Horrifying! Catastrophic!

What's perhaps more shocking, horrifying and troubling than this is realizing that it might not be true. In fact, there's already been a great movie based on a gay man doing anything for the love of another man—including committing crimes—and it not only thrilled huge audiences but won critical hosannas and Oscar nominations to boot.

This happened 35 years ago.

That's how far mainstream audiences—or rather, those nervous about mainstream audiences accepting gay themed material—have inexplicably regressed in that time. The movie was *Dog Day Afternoon*, and in 1975 audiences, critics, studio executives, etc., had no trouble when Al Pacino expressed his love for Chris Sarandon (albeit without the physicality of Phillip Morris) and went so far as to rob a bank in order to finance his lover's sex-change operation.

I think Shirley MacLaine hit the nail on the head with regard to this subject when she commented in *The Celluloid Closet*, "The public is always ahead of us about what they're ready for

... and if you do it right, if you piece the heart-truth of what the public is feeling and thinking, you have a hit."

So c'mon Hollywood: Let's have a lot more *I Love You Phillip Morris* movies—sooner rather than later.

**Of related interest:** Jim Carrey stars as the holiday's eternal skinflint Ebenezer Scrooge in Robert Zemeckis's 2009 motion-capture version of *A Christmas Carol*. This lavish version, which features a raft of British actors (including Colin Firth), is now out on DVD and Blu-ray from Walt Disney Studios.

### Film note:

—In a very special edition of TCM's "Private Screenings" series, Liza Minnelli sits down with host Robert Osborne Dec. 11 and 15 to discuss the films and careers of her famous parents, actress-singer Judy Garland and director Vincente Minnelli. The duo's masterpiece, 1944's *Meet Me In St. Louis*, and highlights from many of their other films are interspersed throughout the interview. Clips from 1976's *A Matter of Time*, the only time Minnelli was directed by her famous father (in his final movie), are also included. The series is supported by showings of many of the movies discussed, along with a rare television showing of Minnelli's 1991 musical *Stepping Out*. Complete listings are at <http://www.tcm.com>.

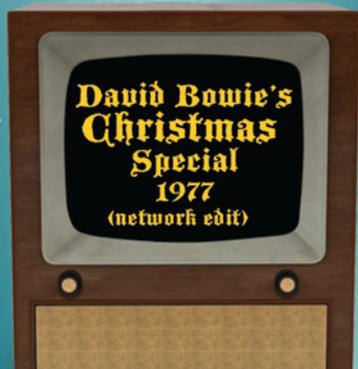
Check out my archived reviews at <http://www.windycitytimes.com> or <http://www.knightatthemovies.com>. Readers can leave feedback at the latter website.



Liza Minnelli and Robert Osborne. PR photo

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# HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE: WEEK TWO OF TWO

## LIVIN' THE GOOD LIFE

Listen up because these gift ideas practically scream class.

**A**

### Fast car

A bit on the extravagant end, **the 2010 Porsche Panamera 4S** (\$93,800) justifies its price, with even CNET proclaiming, "the 2010 Porsche Panamera delivers a spectacular driving experience in a surprisingly practical car, while modern cabin tech satisfies navigation and entertainment."



**B**

### I'll drink to that

If you're going to drink, you might as well look stylish doing it. **Wine Enthusiast** (<http://www.wineenthusiast.com>) helps you to do just that, thanks to the Mad Men inspired Madison Avenue Whiskey Glasses (\$24.95 for a set of two) and the tech-lover's Electric Blue Push-Button Corkscrew (\$29.95). I wish I could say that Jon Hamm comes with it, but you can't have everything.



**C**

### Bowled over

Who doesn't like to spoil Chester or Mr. Whiskers now and then? **Platinum Pets** (<http://www.platinumpetsusa.com>) offers leashes, collars and bowls for dogs and cats—and they're certainly affordable. (Collars start at \$7.99, while bowls are \$4.99-\$16.99 and leashes are \$19.95, but they look a lot more expensive.) In addition, they come in colors such as 24-karat gold, Caribbean teal and black chrome.



**D**

### Apple bottom

An apple a day may keep the doctor away, but Lord knows what these concoctions might do regarding the medical community. **Mrs. Prindable's gourmet apples** (<http://www.MrsPrindables.com>; \$22.95) are dipped by hand in creamy, smooth caramel cooked that same day. The caramel is prepared in traditional copper pots in small batches that allow for precise monitoring of the quality and consistency, and there are flavors such as Double Chocolate Mocha. If I eat only these, am I a vegetarian?



**E**

### 'End' game

**Lands' End** (<http://www.landsend.com>) is known for warm, comfortable clothes, but it sells a lot more than that. For example, check out the sweets—like Peppermint Crunch Cookies and English Butter Toffee (\$22.50 each)—that'll have you glad you have warm, comfortable clothes. Lands' End also has items such as stylish totes, knit throws and leather collars (the last one, presumably, for your pet).

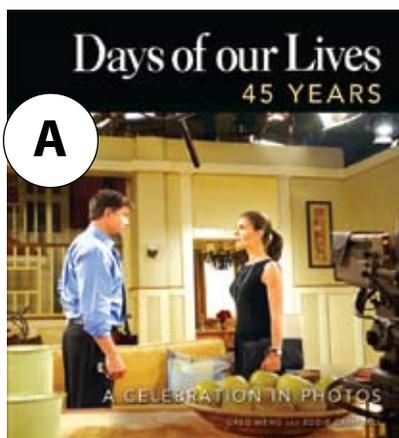


# ENTERTAINMENT VALUE

Books and DVDs to keep your interest up in the down-low winter chill.

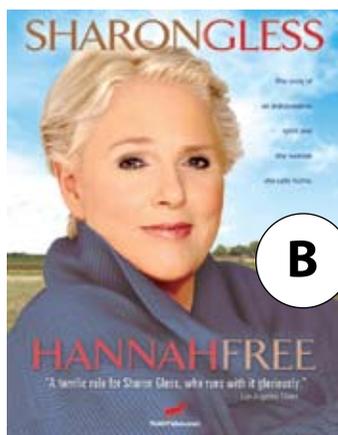
## A Like sands through the hourglass...

**Days of Our Lives 45 Years: A Celebration in Photos** (<http://www.amazon.com>; \$29.99) offers a rare glimpse of more than 500 behind-the-scenes photographs connected to the long-running daytime serial. This hardcover, full-color coffee table book will take readers on a journey starting with the first cup of coffee in the morning through the production day, until the director says, "It's a wrap!" or "You're fired!"—although it's more likely to be the first one.



## B 'Free' to be

**Hannah Free** (<http://www.hannahfree.com>; \$19.95)—the award-winning lesbian-themed film starring Sharon Gless—is now out on DVD (and as a book). The movie—directed by Wendy Jo Carlton, written by Claudia Allen and filmed in Chicago, is about the enduring love affair between two women.



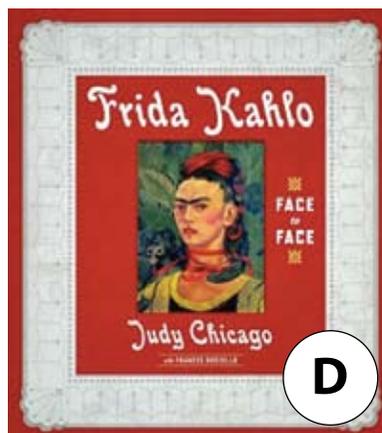
## C Movie time

What do All About Eve, Miracle on 34th Street, Gentlemen Prefer Blondes, The Hustler, Cleopatra, The Sound of Music, Planet of the Apes, Poseidon Adventure, Star Wars, Alien, Cocoon, Working Girl, Mrs. Doubtfire, Boys Don't Cry, X-Men, Moulin Rouge!, The Devil Wears Prada and Juno all have in common? They're just some (yes, some) of the movies in the **20th Century Fox: 75th Anniversary Collection** (<http://www.amazon.com>; \$357.49), a 75-film, three-volume set. That's a lot of classics—and a lot of popcorn-eating.



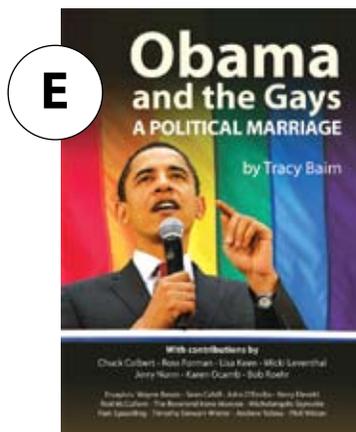
## D Art and soul

In the retrospective **Frida Kahlo: Face to Face** (<http://www.amazon.com>; \$40.95) Judy Chicago and Frances Borzello hand-picked a selection of Kahlo's work—a hundred portraits that speak to the full spectrum of women's experience. Designed to evoke a Mexican *retablo*, or altarpiece, this volume reframes Frida Kahlo for a contemporary audience.



## E President and accounted for

In the book **Obama and the Gays: A Political Marriage** (<http://www.obamaandthegays.com>; \$17.99), Windy City Times Publisher Tracy Baim presents an in-depth look at Obama's trajectory on gay issues. The book contains items by highly acclaimed writers such as Wayne Besen, Lisa Keen, Michelangelo Signorile and Phill Wilson—and think how smart you (or your gift recipient) will sound at the next dinner party by quoting this book.



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# TECH SAVVY

The future is NOW with these timely technical treasures.

**A**

## Feeling Blu(-ray)

You could do a lot worse than the **LG BD530 Network Blu-ray Disc Player** (<http://www.amazon.com>; \$69.28)—which proves that the prices of these items have definitely decreased over the years, while the players still perform wonderfully. This player supports YouTube streaming, DivX HD, Picasa and BD Live. Even if you don't know that those last items are, you'll appreciate this Blu-ray player.



**B**

## Say you, say me

Nuance's **Dragon NaturallySpeaking** (<http://www.nuance.com>; \$99) lets you control virtually every aspect of your computer by speaking. Yes, you can actually speak to write e-mails, draft memos, surf the Web, start and close programs, use menus, etc. (And, for Mac users, Dragon recently added Dragon Dictate 2.0 to its product line.) There's no word on if the computer can get you coffee.



**C**

## Glove love

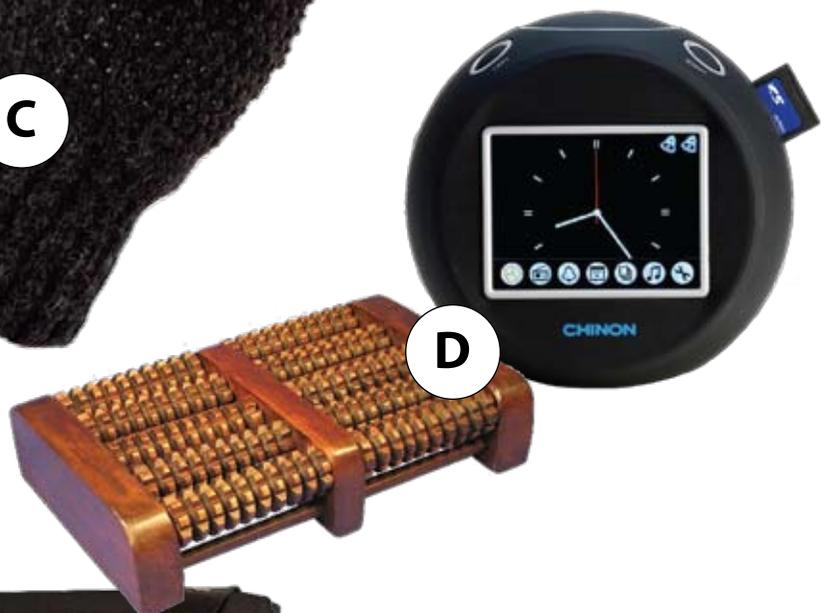
Reflecting one of the hottest trends of the season, **Freehands gloves** (<http://www.freehands.com>) are designed to help people keep in touch by making it easy to use handheld devices without removing gloves in cold weather. A quick flick of the caps exposes the user's thumb and index fingers to text, e-mail and play games.



**D**

## (Over)stock characters

**Overstock** (<http://www.overstock.com>) has been known for years for offering cool items at rock-bottom prices (as well as occasional free shipping)—and this year's no exception. The **Chinon CH-210 3.5-inch TFT Display Digital Photo Frame Alarm Clock/FM Radio/ Music Player-4** (\$47.99) plays slide shows directly from your camera's SD card, while the **Fuji Depot Black Galaxy 15.4-inch Laptop Messenger Bag** is a stylish way to carry your computer. Lastly, after a long day, who wouldn't want something like a **hand-crafted teak wood foot massager** (\$33.49) to make life a little bit more bearable?



**E**

## Feel the noise

**Phiaton's PS 20 NC Earphones** (<http://www.phiaton.com>; \$149) can make that next "L" ride a lot more pleasant because it features noise-cancellation technology—therefore, saving you the displeasure of hearing someone yap on his or her cell phone about how that doctor's visit went. Moreover, the "half in-ear" design provides maximum comfort and delivers carefully balanced bass and treble equalization for enhanced sound quality.



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**nightspots**

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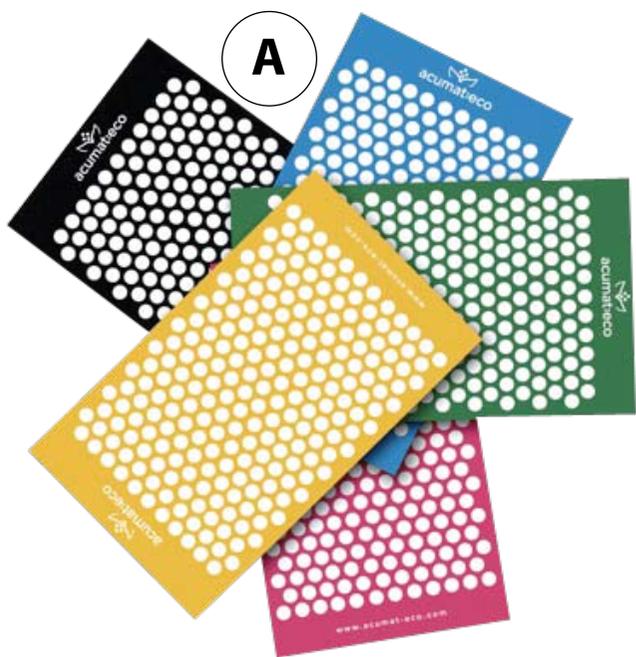
calendar

page 32

**Q**

# FOR YOUR HEALTH

Be the best you can be with these gifts for the body and soul.



**A**



**B**



**C**



**D**

**A**

## On the mat

Get ready for the next trend in fitness—acu-pressure mats. The **acumat:eco** (<http://www.stylewellness.com>; \$29.99) has been used for yoga and meditation for quite some time. The green (as related to the environment, not the color) mat consists of a foam mattress, an organic-cotton mattress sheet with plastic spikes, a carrying case and an instruction book. Better yet, prices are 20-percent off for orders before Dec. 12.

**B**

## Count on it

**Count Me Healthy** ([www.countmehealthyjewelry.com](http://www.countmehealthyjewelry.com); \$80-\$88) aims to combine beauty with functionality. These so-called “health journals for your wrist” can be worn solo or stacked, and with most clothing. With the sterling silver beads, you can assign a daily goal, such as drinking 12 glasses of water; each time, you drink a glass you can slide a bead from one side to the other.

**C**

## Dental-health facility

You can be fashionable and helpful at the same time by giving someone a stylish **REACH toothbrush** (<http://www.drugstore.com>; \$3.49-\$5.99) as a stocking stuffer. (No, really...) The limited-edition series curated by interior designers Tom Delavan, Celerie Kemble and out celebrity stylist Brad Goreski (from The Rachel Zoe Project) offers supplements cleaning with style.

**D**

## Lube and lascivious

**Astroglide** (<http://www.astroglide.com>) and **K-Y Jelly** (<http://www.kyshopdirect.com>) have been, uh, on the scene for years—and both have come out with new products. Astroglide Natural is a “green” item that is described as “all natural and botanical.” K-Y has unveiled K-Y® **YOURS+MINE® Kissable Sensations™** for the Body, which “encourages couples to explore each other.” Nothing more needs to be said (or written).

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# PRETTY, PRETTY THINGS

Feast your eyes on these prizes.

## A Very contemporary

For the person who likes the finer things, the **Museum of Contemporary Art** store ([www.mcachicago.org/](http://www.mcachicago.org/)) has intriguing items that won't break the bank. For example, the peanut bowl (\$55) is cast from real peanuts, and is perfect for serving nuts. (Insert your own joke here.) Also, there's the Sambonet Cocktail Fork Set (\$40), which has 12 forks with different designs so people can identify their plates. There's free ground shipping on online orders of at least \$75—but you probably can walk or take the train there, anyway.



## B A sporting chance

Give your favorite sports-lover (and, yes, there are some out there) a gift from **ESPN** (<http://www.espnshop.com>). Those who want to practice their aim will love the ESPN 3 in 1 Skills Challenge, while others may simply be content with ornaments or bedroom decor. (I'm assuming the last item is for kids, but you never know.)



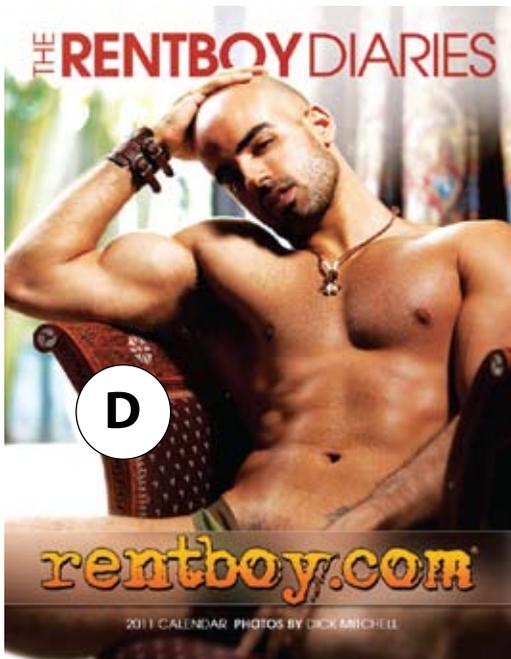
## C ZAGG reel

We all have the need to express our individuality—hence, the masses of people who get identical tattoos. Anyway, **ZAGGskins** (<http://www.zagg.com/personalize/zaggskins/index.php>; starting at \$19.99) provides yet another (and less painful) way to stick out from the crowd. You can take one of hundreds of designs to customize your own ZAGGskin—protecting your Apple product while looking stylish. (You can even have a photo put on, making it truly personal.)



## D (Rent)boy's town

You can watch and drool over the hard-working guys at Rentboy.com with the **Rentboy Diaries** calendar (<http://www.rentboy.com>; \$15.95). Sagi (pictured), Gio, Junior, Rick and others show (in various eye-popping ways) why 2011 will be hot—and it's not just because of global warming.

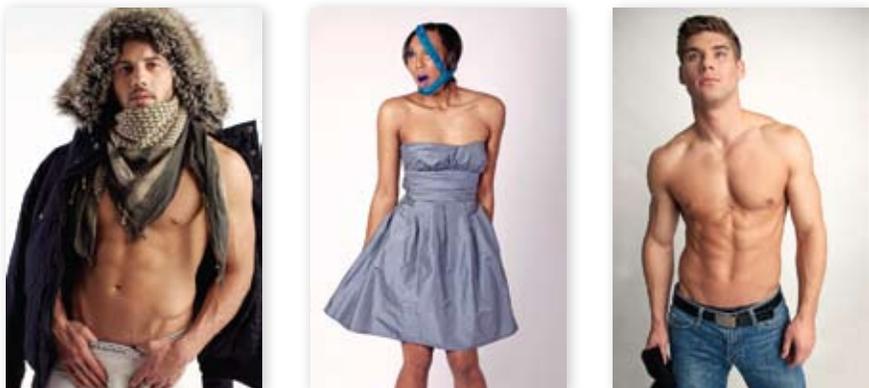


## E It's a date (or 365)

The next year will be a lot easier to deal with, thanks to the **Village Lighthouse, Inc.'s** calendars ([www.villagelighthouse.com/calendars](http://www.villagelighthouse.com/calendars)). With calendars that cover everything from hairy men to guys in uniform, there's something for almost everyone.

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# STYLE COUNCIL

It's fashionable to give and receive this holiday season.

## A Mitchells' merch

The **Mitchells Family of Stores** (<http://www.mitchellstores.com>) is a group of family owned, high-end men's and women's specialty stores based in Connecticut. (Even the hosiery has a line called "Mario.") However, there's much more than socks—with everything from the Kimberly McDonald earrings (as seen in *Sex & the City 2*, and worth a cool \$48,400) to a hanging dopp kit (for men's toiletries).

## B Hitting the bag time

Talk about a gift that keeps on giving! **Miche bags** (<http://www.michebag.com>: \$39.95 for a base bag and \$14.95 for a shell) offer purses that can be configured to constantly have a different look. The bag is one purse that, through 40 interchangeable shells that fit snugly over the outside and attach via magnets, instantly changes its color and look; it is the equivalent of 40 handbags in one—a plan that seems designed to save money so you can actually put things in that purse.

## C He's like the Wind

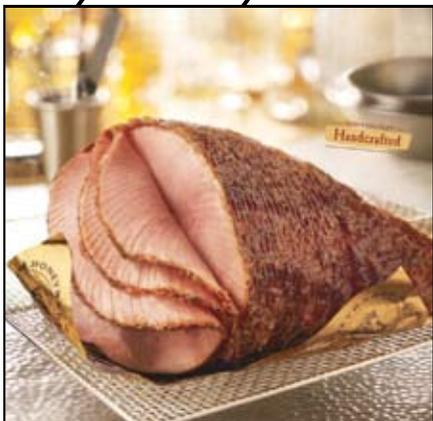
Philadelphia-based artist and jewelry designer **John Wind** has crafted two limited-edition pieces, a keychain and bracelet, adorned with charms symbolizing the fight against AIDS (and available at (<http://maximalart.com/aids.html>; \$49-\$125). The keychain, priced at \$49, features a key to unlock the mysterious door to a cure and a four-leaf clover for good luck. The bracelet features a locket in memory of loved ones, a horseshoe for good luck, a heart for love and compassion, a shield to offer protection, a crystal disco ball for joy and optimism, a guardian angel and a four-leaf clover.

## D Fun, fun, fun

**Zazzle** (<http://www.zazzle.com>) has, literally, millions of fun T-shirts and novelty items for practically everyone on your list. From Bayside High T-shirts (an homage to TV's *Saved by the Bell*) to custom postage to an "I Am Fierce" mousepad (and how many gay boys want THAT one?), you really can't go wrong.



### "I love my HoneyBaked Ham"



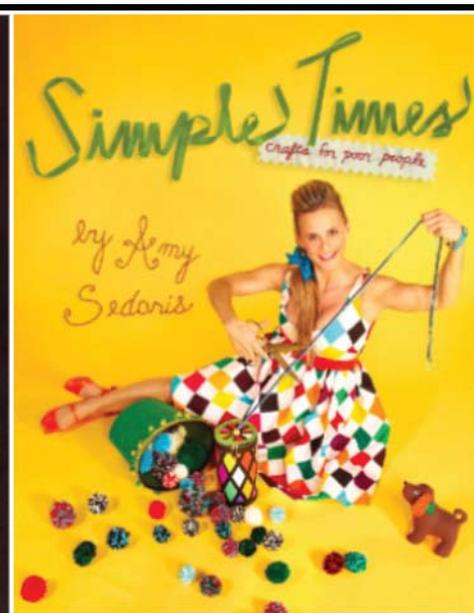
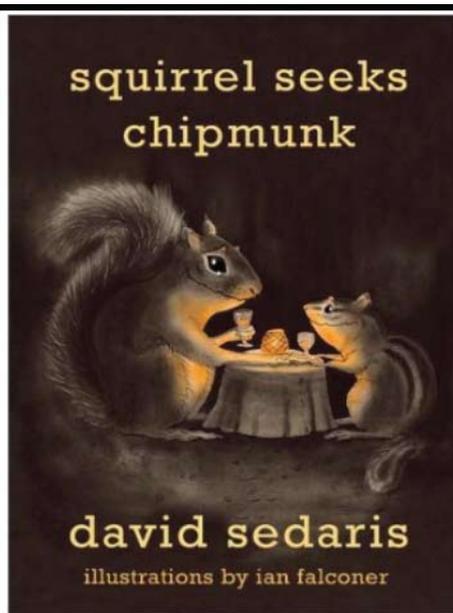
Visit our new Lakeview location at 2815 N. Ashland Avenue (at Diversey)

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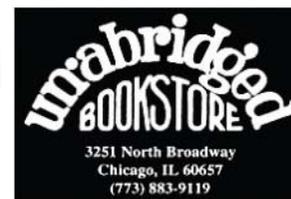
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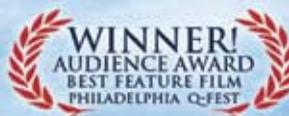
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# "A terrific role for SHARON GLESS, who runs with it gloriously."

- Los Angeles Times



Starring multi-award winner Sharon Gless (*Burn Notice, Queer as Folk, Cagney & Lacey*) in a tremendous performance, *Hannah Free* tells the moving story of the lifelong love affair between two very different women. Directed by Wendy Jo Carlton and written by Claudia Allen.

"Gless's free-spirited butch lesbian bridling against authority conveys the same punchy heartiness she brought to... *Queer as Folk*" - *The New York Times*



"This level of interpersonal lesbian drama definitely gives the women of *The L Word* a run for their money" - *AfterEllen.com*

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# JUSTICE

Let us realize: the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends towards

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**The battle for full equality is not yet over, but with your continued support, it will be won!**

**Special thanks to  
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# calendar

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WINDY CITY TIMES



## Wed., Dec. 8

**It's Not Just "Faggot!"** Town Hall event to strategize to end homophobia: institutionalized discrimination, bullying, increasing HIV rates and legal inequality with Project CRYSP, Equality Illinois and Chicago Black Gay Men's Caucus. Doors 6, event 7. 7 p.m., Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted, <http://www.centeronhalsted.org>

**Amy Armstrong and Freddy Allen Live at Rehab** Join the zany and talented Amy Armstrong and Freddy Allen for a night of cabaret and comedy at Rehab. 9 p.m., Rehab Lounge, 3641 N Halsted, <http://www.amyfreddy.com/music-and-comedy/>

**Holidaze Book Sale** Book Sale of over 50 categories of books, including LGBT; large selection of gift books; silent auction for goods and services; through Dec. 12. 6 p.m., 773-381-8030, Gerber/Hart Library, <http://www.gerberhart.org>

**GL Chamber Holiday Party** Private evening at Aria bar, Fairmont Chicago's new world Asian experience, with a special menu, two complimentary drinks, an amazing atmosphere and silent auction ever. Honored guest: State Representative Greg Harris; 6 p.m., 773-303-0167, Fairmont Chicago, 200 N. Columbus, <http://www.glchamber.org>

**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, Dec. 9

**Chicago House Speaker Series Luncheon featuring Madeleine Albright** Madeleine Albright was the 64th secretary

## SING THEORY Sat-Sun., Dec. 11-12

Windy City Performing Arts will sing at Mayne Stage, 1328 W. Morse.

Photo from Cliff McReynolds



of state of the United States. In 1997, she 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 America's alliances, advocated democracy and human rights and promoted American trade and business, labor and environmental standards abroad. 11:30 a.m., 773-248-2300, [http://www.chicagohouse.org/event\\_chicago\\_house\\_speaker\\_series.html](http://www.chicagohouse.org/event_chicago_house_speaker_series.html)

**GayCo Productions presents Scream If You Love Christmas** Chicago's LGBT-comedy company's second original holiday revue unwraps like an explosion of tinsel-laden satire on the one time of year that has everyone shrieking ... in ecstasy or pain through Dec. 30. \$15; 8 p.m., Annoyance Theatre, 4830 N Broadway, <http://www.theannoyance.com>

**Community Forums on Civil Unions** Equality Illinois and Metro East Gays and Straights discussion about the civil union bill. Speakers Rick Garcia (Public Policy Di-

rector) and Brian Tiemann (Attorney) from McDermott, Will & Emery will lead the discussion. First of several forums. [cstaerk@eqil.org](mailto:cstaerk@eqil.org). 6:30 p.m., 773-477-7173, St. Paul's UCC, St. Paul's Cinema, 115 W.B., Belleville

**Naughty & Nice Party** Come and celebrate the holidays with Marc and the boys from CRAM FASHION at our Naughty & Nice Party! There will be music playing all night long as well as complimentary beverages available (21+) and raffles! Sexy male models wearing our latest fall/winter fashions! 8 p.m., Cram Fashion, 3331 North Broadway

**Tajma Hall & The Velvet Ladies** Welcome Miss Tajma Hall to Velvet Rope with a brand new show. Tajma is joined by numerous gorgeous ladies. Show begins at 9:30. \$6 Menu Martinis, \$6 Margaritas. Contact us for a VIP table. 9:30 p.m., Velvet Rope, 728 West Lake Street, <http://www.velvetropoakpark.com>

## Friday, Dec. 10

**MORE for Gay Men Movie Night** MORE for Gay Men Movie Night; featuring the movie Parting Glances; 6:30 p.m., 312-329-1200, Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted, <http://moreforgaymen.com>

**Amy Armstrong & Freddy Allen "How the Diva Stole Christmas!"** Hydrate Nightclub is proud to present this Chicago tradition: Amy and Freddy: How the Diva Stole Christmas! Two Nights only, Friday, December 10 and Saturday, December 11, 2010! 7 p.m., Hydrate, 3458 N. Halsted, <http://www.hydratechicago.com/home/Rudolph>

**Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer** Hell in a Handbag Productions is proud to remount David Cerda's parody of the classic children's television special "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer," now in its 13th year! Thursdays through Saturdays, thru Jan. 1. The North Pole is in crisis. Nobody believes in Santa anymore! Elves have been laid off and the morale and morals are at an all time low. 7:30 p.m., Mary's Attic, 5400 N. Clark, <http://www.handbagproductions.org>

**Queer Noise 3: Save Howard Brown!** Join The Impact Chicago will be hosting its 3rd Queer Noise open mic event at New Wave Coffee. We encourage you to attend not only because it displays some of the awesome talents within our community, but also because this is a SPECIAL fundraiser to help SAVE HOWARD BROWN! There is no cover, however we encourage anyone who attends to bring some cash and throw it in our bucket to raise some much-needed money for our beloved Howard Brown Health Center. 8 p.m., New Wave Coffee, 2557 N. Milwaukee

## Saturday, Dec. 11

**CASTING or HGTV's Design Star** Open casting: bring application, two photos of yourself, portfolio, design expertise, personality and passion. 10am, Affina Hotel, 166 E. Superior, <http://www.castingdesignstar.com>

**LGBTQ Experiences in Africa: Seeking Justice, Keeping the Faith** The Very Rev. Rowan Q. Smith, retired dean of St. George's Cathedral in Cape Town, South Africa for a discussion on LGBTQ experiences in Africa and showing of segments of the film Voices of Witness Africa. Reception follows. 1 p.m., All Saints' Episcopal Church, 4550 N. Hermitage

**Family Holiday Party** LGBT & Ally families can join in the fun with holiday movies, crafts, snacks, and tasty treats galore (suggestions for activities and food items are welcome). It's a fun-filled day for all families! Free. RSVP [lnemani@centeronhalsted.org](mailto:lnemani@centeronhalsted.org); 2 p.m., Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted, <http://www.centeronhalsted.org>

**Windy City Performing Arts: Holiday Express** Windy City Performing Arts, Chicago's Premier LGBT Choral Arts Organization, kicks off its 31st season Dec. 11 and 12, 2010, at Mayne Stage in the city's Rogers Park neighborhood. 5 p.m., 773.661.0928, Mayne Stage, 1328 W. Morse Ave., <http://www.windycitysings.org>

**i2i Winter Social Pot Luck and Fundraiser** Fundraiser for Creating Change Conference (the national conference for LGBTQ activists and organizers), with host Liz Thomson and I Li Hsiao, suggested donation of sliding scale \$5-20 at the door, 312-371-8426; 5 p.m., 312-371-8426, Faerie Castle, 2nd floor, 1623 W. Estes, <http://www.chicagoi2i.org>

## Sunday, Dec. 12

**Urban Village Church service** LGBT-welcoming worship services at Urban Village Church 10:15am, Spertus Institute, 610 S. Michigan, <http://www.newchicagochurch.com/>

**Holiday Magic** Holiday Magic!: a benefit show for Windy City Rodeo. Holiday show, 12 Day of Xmas raffle, Mr. & Miss Mary Christmas pageants. 8 p.m., Charlie's, 3726 N Broadway, <http://www.charlieschicago.com>

**An Octave Above Free Holiday Concert** The Irving Park Fine Arts Committee presents An Octave Above, an a cappella group. An Octave Above will perform holiday favorites, doo wop, jazz and pop standards in a musical celebration of the season. Admission is free, although donations are welcome. 2 p.m., 773-267-1667, Irving Park Lutheran Church 4100 N. Harding, <http://www.carlsoncommunityservices.org>

## Monday, Dec. 13

**St. Lucia Festival of Lights** Andersonville tradition that includes holiday carols and a candle-lit procession down Clark Street. 4:45 p.m., Swedish American Museum Center, 5211 N. Clark St. Chicago

## Tuesday, Dec. 14

**Workshop: Pastie Making and Twirling** Leave with a sparkly pair of tassels, a new party trick and the secret behind the twirling tassels and bejeweled nips of burlesque darlings. 7:30 p.m., Early to Bed, 5232 N. Sheridan, <http://www.early2bed.com>

**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.

**Roscoe's Drag Race with Frida Lay** Chicago's only amateur drag contest has been a hit at Roscoe's since its premier in 2000. 11 p.m., 773-281-3355, Roscoe's Tavern, 3356 N. Halsted, <http://www.roscoes.com>

## Wed., Dec. 15

HIV and the Holidays: A Supportive Dis-



## LIFE'S A CABARET

Wed., Dec. 8

Freddy Allen and Amy Armstrong will perform live at Rehab, 3641 N. Halsted.

Photo by Kat Fitzgerald (MysticImagesPhotography.com)

**Discussion** The holidays can lead to complications and added stress for persons living with HIV: whether or not to disclose your status to friends and family, how to explain the medications you're taking, and others. Refreshments. Free, but RSVP required to Gregory Gross, Clinical Manager of the HIV Testing & Prevention Program, [ggross@centeronhalsted.org](mailto:ggross@centeronhalsted.org) or 773-472-6469 x 478. 6 p.m., 773-472-6469, Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted, <http://www.centeronhalsted.org>

**Chicago-based Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis Study Team** forum Chicago-based Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis Study Team responds to recent iPREx study results and its potential impact on the future direction of Project PREPare, co-facilitated by Jim Pickett, Director of Advocacy for the AIDS Foundation of Chicago and Chair of the International Rectal Microbicide Advocates. 6:30 p.m., 773-864-8003, Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted, <http://www.projectpreparechicago.org>

## Thursday, Dec. 16

**Chicago Gay Idols Unite For Cause** Sofo Bar 2010 Gay Idol Mark Ortega has joined forces with reigning 2010 Windy City Gay Idol Matt Rivera and Idol finalists Michael McBride and James Gavin for a night of entertainment to benefit Howard Brown Health Center. 8:30 p.m., 714-392-3356, Sofo, 4923 N. Clark, <http://www.sofobar.com>

**Community Forums on Civil Unions** Equality Illinois discussion about civil union bill. CEO Bernard Cherkasov and Director of Public Policy Rick Garcia will lead a discussion and questions-and-answer session. 6 p.m., Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted, <http://www.centeronhalsted.org>

## Saturday, Dec. 18

**Sappho's Solstice Salon benefiting Broadway Youth Center** In addition to raising funds, we will be collecting supplies for BYC, including toothbrushes deodorant, feminine hygiene products, new socks, hats, scarves, gloves, and CTA fare cards. 7:30 p.m., Women & Children First, 5233 N. Clark, <http://www.womenandchildren-first.com>

**Shangela & Jade LIVE** RuPaul's Drag Race stars Shangela & Jade LIVE. Two shows: midnight and 1am \$5 cover, \$10 with VIP meet and greet. VJ Riley York, DJ Teo. 11 p.m., Spin Nightclub, 800 W. Belmont, <http://www.spin-nightclub.com>

## Friday, Dec. 31

**7th Annual Dinner & A Movie 'Women Coming Together'** Relaxing overnight getaway for a few hundred women who love women presented by Class 'C' Entertainment. 3 p.m., 312-399-9669, Sheraton Gateway Suites, 6501 N. Mannheim, Rosemont, <http://www.classceechicago.com>



## 'STATE' OF MIND

Thursday, Dec. 9

Former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright will be featured at the Chicago House Speaker Series Luncheon at the Palmer House Hilton, 17 E. Monroe.

Photo from 2009 by Kat Fitzgerald (MysticImagesPhotography.com)

# BILLY MASTERS

"And so I actually told this woman who was the Disney-ite, 'But didn't you know that all my characters are gay?' Which really made her nervous."—Johnny Depp discusses his portrayal of Jack Sparrow in *Pirates of the Caribbean*. We also learn something else—the role was written for Hugh Jackman. Hugh as a swarthy, drunken pirate with lots of eye makeup? Be still my heart.

Dec. 1 was World AIDS Day—a day where we remember all the people we've lost to the disease, but raise awareness regarding HIV. While I know it's almost sacrilege to make any barbs about AmFAR Founding National Chairman Elizabeth Taylor, I do need to report on a story that I find somewhat implausible. According to an article La Liz wrote for the British newspaper *The Independent*, while volunteering at a syringe-exchange center in New York City she was stunned to learn that this was the first time many drug users reported receiving any medical attention. What I'm stunned to hear is that Elizabeth was well enough to be volunteering anywhere. The frail old lady I saw dozing off in a wheelchair in mid-conversation with Prince Charles a few months back looks more like she'd be mistaken for a patient than someone showing up for volunteer duty. Back in 2001, she could barely figure out how to present an award at *The Golden Globes*—how well do you think she's gonna be nine years later handling sharp objects? With junkies? I'm guessing most of the people there didn't get any new syringes—they just got spritzed with White Diamonds as Liz said, "These have always brought me luck!"

You may have heard about the murder of Hollywood publicist Ronni Chasen, who was shot five times while driving home from the *Burlesque* premiere. What was initially considered a random shooting is now being considered a premeditated murder. The police are reviewing surveillance video from the widow of Buddy Hackett, whose home is adjacent to where the shooting took place. When the cops went to interview a person of interest, he shot himself in the head. That person, known only as Harold, claimed to be a hit man. This gets more and more intriguing, but let's not lose sight of the real tragedy—the last thing poor Ronni did was sit through *Burlesque*!

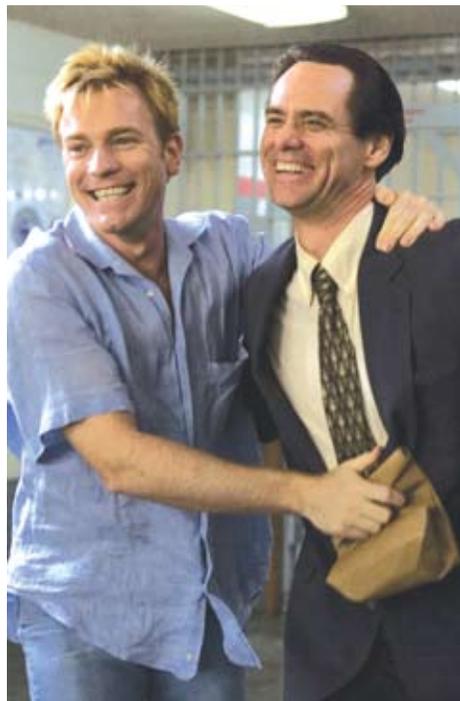
The big entertainment news of the week is that James Franco and Anne Hathaway will co-host the 2011 Academy Awards. They're two hot young actors and I'm sure the Academy is hoping they'll bring in younger viewers. At least Hathaway has been nominated for an Oscar and is probably a member of the Academy. And Franco—well, maybe he'll bring in some viewers from *General Hospital*!

Daniel Radcliffe is no stranger to gay rumors. What's refreshing is he not only doesn't seem to care, but he's also fueling the fire. In the latest *Harry Potter* flick, he has to slip on the clothes of a female character, Fleur Delacour, after she drank some potion—or perhaps someone put on a Gloria Gaynor record. Anyhoo, Danny said, "I was actually quite pleased, and this is only going to add fuel to the fires of the rumour that I'm gay. I don't really care. I'm sort of passed the point of caring. I looked fantastic in Fleur's outfit! I think I looked really good. It was these sort of skin tight trousers with a clingy top and a nice little cropped blue jacket on top. Really nice. I was really pleased." I bet—it sounds eerily similar to the ensemble I wore to Thanksgiving dinner with the folks!

Like Radcliffe, Jim Carrey doesn't care if anyone thinks he's gay. With the imminent release of *I Love You Phillip Morris* (which you can still watch on *BillyMasters.com* and catch the review of in this week's issue of *Windy City Times*), Car-

rey revealed that he took a cut in pay: "There are very few scripts that I would come across that I would pay to do and this was one of them. I didn't mind taking a big salary cut. I'm here to do extreme and interesting things." He also says he thoroughly enjoyed making out with Ewan McGregor: "It was a dream come true. I mean, look at the guy. I have to say, he is a great kisser."

Apparently we've come to the end of the Michael Verdugo saga. He's the Hollywood, Fla., cop who was on HGTV's *Design Star* and also



**Jim Carrey (right) said that he absolutely loved making out with *I Love You Phillip Morris* co-star Ewan McGregor. Who can blame him?**

starred in the gay porn fetish flick *Rope Rituals*. After the Florida Department of Law Enforcement ruled that he should not be stripped of his license, he attempted to be reinstated to his previous position claiming that the arbitrator handling the original case was biased. However, last week a judge ruled there was no bias and denied the request. Verdugo is free to apply for work at any other police force in Florida—or perhaps return to gay porn, where I'm sure he would be welcomed with open arms. And if you forget what all the fuss was about, head to *BillyMasters.com*, where you can see every inch of Mikey in action.

Could it be that those oh-so-close reality stars have had a falling out? So say people on the sidelines who whisper that the up-and-comer has had enough of the golden boy's ego and cut off all ties. While everyone knows their professional collaboration ended earlier this year, it was kept kinda quiet that the reason was their personal break-up. Kinda tricky working together, but both boys are fast on their feet.

When my blind item subjects are footloose and fancy free, it's definitely time to end yet another column. I must tell you that I'm really getting into the holiday spirit. Why just yesterday I was laying on the beach in Fort Lauderdale in my festive red Speedo and thinking of jingling some bells. Instead, because I've devoted to you readers, I dashed home and spent time on *www.BillyMasters.com*—the site that always gives you a reason to celebrate. If you've got a question or concern, just drop a note to *Billy@BillyMasters.com* and I promise to get back to you Carrey and Radcliffe fight over a fetching frock for the Oscars. Until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible.

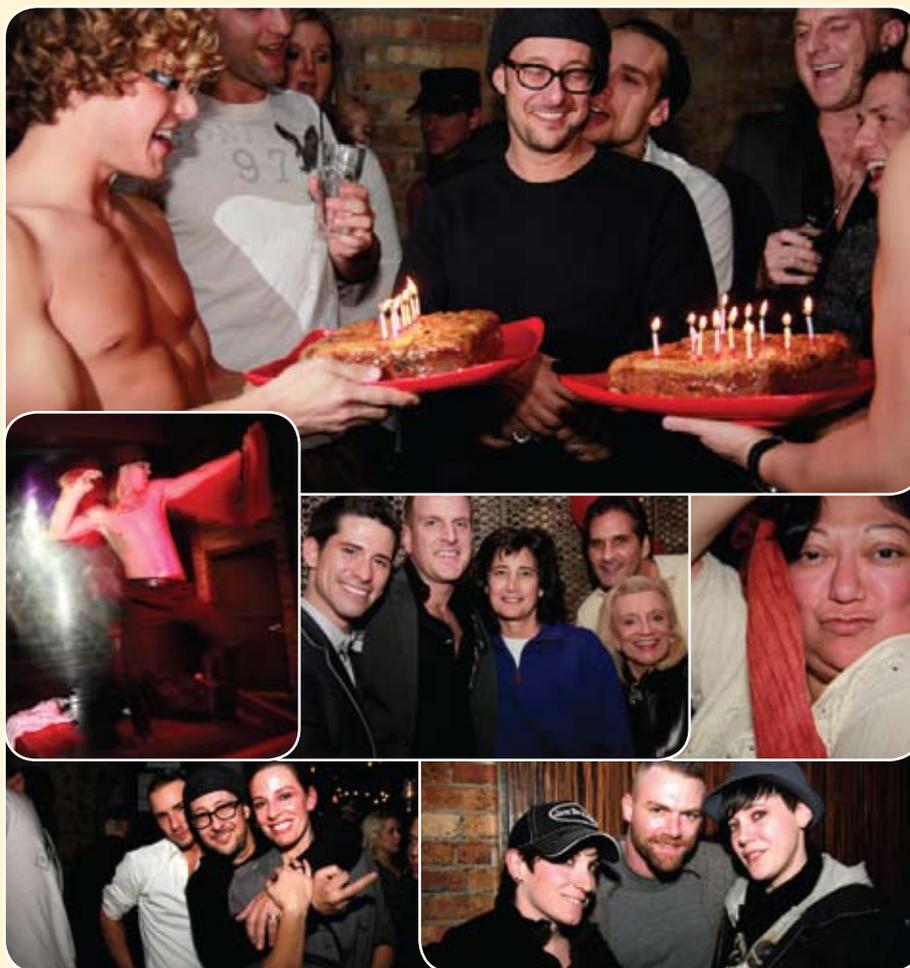


For the month of December, Nightspots is doing something a little different with the Gift Guide (December 8) and the year-end retrospective issue (December 22).

Never fear! Turn to this space each week in December for all your nightspots-y goodness. Also, "like" our Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/nightspots](http://www.facebook.com/nightspots)) for even more pictures of all your favorite nightlife denizens.

## Blow them candles, baby!

The crowd at Cocktail celebrated geNo's birthday Tues., Nov. 30. Photos by Dave Ouano



## On the "list"

Mike Ruiz (of LOGO TV's *The A-List*) and Jade stopped into Spin Sat., Dec. 4. Photos by Pubert



## UNIONS from page 11

ing: "Success has many fathers but failure is an orphan."

When the legislature is in session, there are [normally] hundreds of people wandering around the floor. There are conversations, there are golf games going on, there are children screaming, there are people watching God-knows-what on their computers—it's chaos. You have 118 members, plus staff and lawyers; it's mayhem.

None of my colleagues can remember it being [so quiet]. Jay Hoffman, who's been there nearly two decades, said he never remembered an issue being debated where the chamber sat in silence—and it was like that for almost an hour and a half. I think the realization of the gravity of the moment hit us.

**WCT: How would you assess your success in reaching across the aisle? I noticed that six Republicans in the House voted for the bill.**

GH: I think that shows that it's not a Republican-Democrat issue, and it's not a Chicago-



Christin Baker (left) and state Rep. Deb Mell on Nov. 30. Photo ©2010 Catherine Sikora

downstate issue. I think that people who worked on this across the state—advocates, lobbyists, seniors, people at churches—have managed to craft this as an issue of fairness, not a political advantage for one party or another and not an issue for personal glamour. Tens of thousands of people from every walk of life worked on this, and that showed. If you look at the roll call, you'll see that there were Black, white, Latino, men, women, city, suburban, downstate folks who were out to do the right thing.

I had never seen such a media barrage like we did the last couple of days. The [Springfield] State Journal-Register wrote an editorial—and I had never thought of it this way—that said, "The Illinois General Assembly made a triumphant return to the national headlines over the past two days, this time for actions that did not involve investigating, impeaching or expelling a disgraced governor.

"The results of the House and Senate votes on the Religious Freedom Protection and Civil Unions Act speak for themselves." It then went on to say, "Does the mature discussion of the civil-union bill indicate a maturing of social attitudes on equal treatment for all under civil law? We hope so."

**WCT: Legislators often say that they vote in line with their constituents. Do you feel that people voted that way, or voted out of personal belief?**

GH: I've virtually talked with every member of the legislature. Many of them made the judgment that was right for them; they had to do what their constituents wanted. Many felt that this was one of those transformative issues of justice, and that they had to follow their conscience. There were others who struggled—they really struggled—to try to find the right place to be on this. I think we won because of some of those who struggled; they struggled with how Illinois will be perceived in history, and how history will remember them.

There are 6,000 things we vote on that no one



State Rep. Greg Harris addressing the bill's merits in Springfield Nov. 30. Photo ©2010 Catherine Sikora

will remember. This may be the one vote that, when their grandchildren go to school years from now, will be remembered.

**WCT: How confident were you going in that you had the necessary number of votes?**

GH: The biggest fear I had—if you watch how votes go on tough issues—would be that votes would be slow to go up [on the board]. Even if you go in with 60 votes, if the green ["yes"] votes only go up to 51 and the speaker of the House asked, "Have all voted who wished?" for the second time and they know that the third time he asks that the roll will be taken, suddenly people will get off, and we'd be stuck with 42 or 43 votes.

In the New York Senate, when they decided to do the slow roll call. There was one guy at the front of the alphabet, and everyone was wondering how they were going to vote. When he voted a particular way, the rest of them fell off.

All of us who have tough bills are always talking to our "yes" [people], saying "Push the button fast." In the old days, that was a different kind of strategy than it is today. Now, people have video—and I can assure you that people on all sides of every issue are recording that board, and they will see if somebody has switched a vote, and will hold that person accountable.

**WCT: Could you talk about the impact state Sen. [David] Koehler had on the bill? [Note: Koehler sponsored the bill in the state Senate.]**

GH: He's a clergyman and small-business owner. He's from Peoria. He's well-respected. And his daughter is a lesbian. His daughter and her partner—they must've been so proud that day—were sitting in the gallery watching their father pass this bill. A sponsor like Dave Koehler makes all in the difference in the world just because of the respect people have for him, and the way he can present the issue to people.

**WCT: I'm going to ask you the same question I asked Rick [Garcia of Equality Illinois]: How soon will you consider starting the fight for marriage equality?**

GH: Well, I will say this: I can want everything in the world but in my job I have to be able to count to 60 [the number of votes needed to pass a bill in the state House].

**WCT: So what's next for you?**

GH: We return because we have a budget prob-

## Illinois lawmakers pass civil-unions bill

BY ANDREW DAVIS

The Illinois Senate passed the Illinois Religious Freedom Protection and Civil Union Act Dec. 1 by a 32-24 vote—completing a two-day, two-chamber sweep for the historic measure. Gov. Pat Quinn has already said that he will sign the bill, ensuring that Illinois will become the second state (after New Jersey) to have civil unions.

The law will become valid July 1, 2011.

There were some interesting developments in the voting: Dan Rutherford (who was recently elected state treasurer) was the only Republican who voted in favor of the measure. (Christine Radogno, a Republican some view as pro-LGBT, voted against it.) The Rev. James Meeks—a Democrat and Chicago mayoral candidate—also voted against the bill.

Bernard Cherkasov, CEO of Equality Illinois, told Windy City Times that the passage "feels really good." He added that he felt "a sense of relief and a sense of jubilation because, finally, after so many years of waiting, tens of thousands of couples across the state will have the protections they have needed for so long.

"For me, it's [also] a bittersweet moment; it's sweet because they have [the protections], and it's bitter because it they've had to do without. I've heard horror stories about families being denied hospital visitation and emergency medical-decision rights."

The Illinois House approved the measure the previous day by a vote of 61-52, with one vote to spare.

Before the vote, Harris urged colleagues to help make history: "We have a chance today to make Illinois a more fair state, a more just state, and a state which treats all of its citizens equally under the law. We have a chance here, as leaders have had in previous generations, to correct injustice and to move us down the path toward liberty."

According to the Chicago Tribune, Mell (who plans to marry fiancée Christin Baker in Iowa next year) tearfully urged her fellow legislators to pass the bill: "If God forbid something happens to Christin, and she cannot make a decision, by law the doctor cannot ask me anything. I am not able to speak for her wishes. Under the law the doctor has to go to her family and I'm not considered family."

Quinn has said he expects to hold a ceremony to sign the measure early next year.

A bill that has passed both chambers must be presented to the governor within 30 days of its passage. (The state Senate passed the civil-unions bill Dec. 1, while the House passed it the previous day.) The governor then has 60 days beyond that to take action.

lem in this state that has to be dealt with—13 and a half billion dollars, or about 50 percent of all the money we take in. And there's no good answer; there's going to be a lot of pain.

**WCT: Anything you wanted to add?**

GH: The reason this [win] happened is because—in every one of the 102 counties in the state of Illinois—young people; parents who want their gay child to be loved and protected as much as their straight child; grandparents who hoped that their daughter and lover won't move away and they won't see their grandchild because they can't enjoy equal rights; senior citizens who worry about their own futures; faith-based communities who took this on as a social-justice issue; university groups who thought this was the equal-rights movement of their generation ... Tens and tens of thousands of people across Illinois made this happen.

# Obama and the Gays

## A POLITICAL MARRIAGE

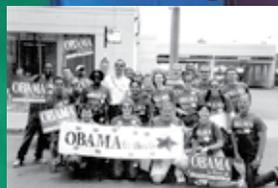
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## I'm afraid you'll tell me when I'll die

As you can imagine, my line of work evokes different reactions when asked the typical party question: "So, what do you do for a living?" Most often, people are intrigued by what I do, and we spin off into a wide array of interesting topics.

But there are those who, once they find out what I do, avoid me like the bubonic plague. The most common fear that arises is that I will tell them when they will die. My response is always the same: I have never been given the exact day and time when someone is going to pass.

I did not get into this line of work to focus on death, but rather on how to maximize our time here on earth. Before each session, I ask that I be made a clear and accurate channel so that I may deliver messages that are for the highest good of my clients. These messages can range from detecting energetic or emotional blocks to discussing medical concerns that need attention, to connecting people with their highest purpose.

With the help of my guides, I focus on what will make people live more productive and happier lives. I particularly like when I am given medical information because it usually comes in the form of symptoms and suggested remedies.

For example, I was giving a read to a woman in her early fifties at one of my psychic parties. I experienced a tightness in my chest, and I told her she needs to get her heart checked right away.

"I don't have heart issues," she responded.

I gently urged her to go to the doctor just to humor me. I received a call from her niece three weeks later. The doctors had found 50% blockage in two of her arteries.

I like to call my guides "helper bees." They tend to focus on what will help people act and feel their best. Many people come to me simply to be better at things they are already good at. They see me as their "intuitive cheerleader."

There is far too much living left to do to focus on death. All we have is this moment, so make the most of it. And, if you really, really want to know when you are going to pass, I will simply ask and deliver the answer I receive.

*Delphina, a Chicago-based psychic medium, is a columnist for Windy City Times. See Spiritguiding.com or email questions to spiritguiding@gmail.com.*

# CONNEXIONS

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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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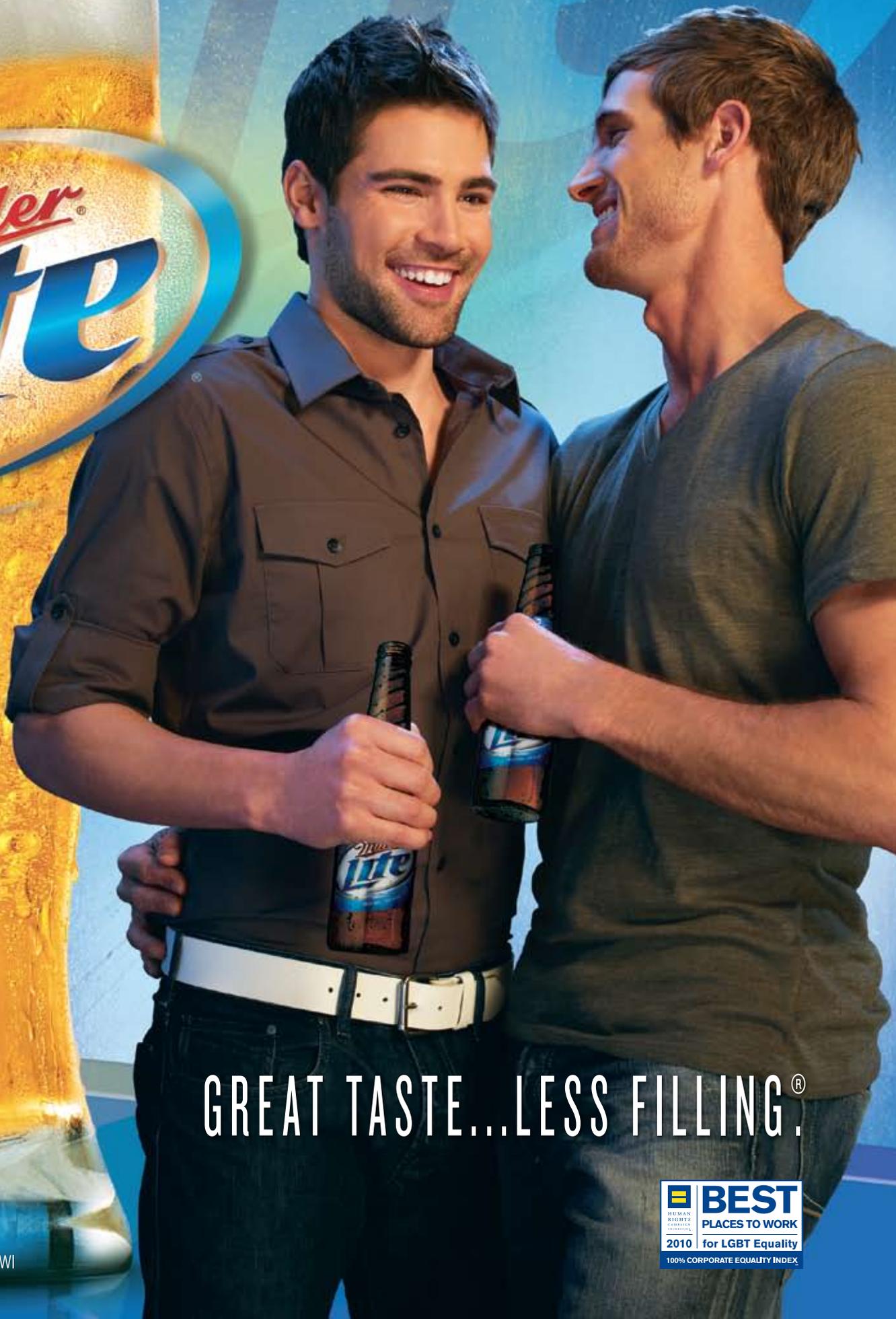
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