



**City Hall Protest**

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**Missy Higgins**

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## Clash at the Center

BY YASMIN NAIR



Members of Kansas' anti-gay Westboro Baptist Church who showed up Dec. 13 outside the Center on Halsted to picket were met by local pro-LGBT counterprotesters. Photos by Yasmin Nair

Things became quite intense at the Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted, when five members of God Hates Fags (GHF)—also known as Kansas' anti-gay Westboro Baptist Church (headed by the Rev. Fred Phelps)—showed up Dec. 13 near the facility before a forum was scheduled to take place.

According to Leslie DeMonte, director of the center's special events and volunteer services, the staff only heard about the proposed appearance of God Hates Fags at 3:30 p.m. the day before. The center was due to host a discussion, "LGBT Change Is Coming," and GHF was supposed to be making an appearance in order to protest the event.

The church group was met with more than 100 counter-demonstrators who rallied to the center's support. GHF was scheduled to show up outside the building at 1:45 p.m., and a crowd of supporters began marching outside the building at 1:30. Chants ranged from "Hey, hey, ho, ho, homophobia's got to go," to "Gay, straight, black, white, same struggle, same fight." At 2 p.m., five GHF members were seen standing at the corner of Halsted and Addison, outside the Lakeview police station. They held up signs that said, "Fags doom nations" and "Mourn your

Turn to page 7

## Blagojevich and gay politics

BY YASMIN NAIR

Illinois voters were stunned this past week by the news of Gov. Rod Blagojevich being arrested on corruption charges. Along with his chief of staff John Harris, who has since resigned, Blagojevich was charged with, among other allegations, holding out President-elect Barack Obama's soon-to-be-vacant Senate seat for a "pay-for-play" deal. The two men were both out on bail Dec. 9, the day of their arrest.

At press time, Blagojevich had not resigned, despite calls from Obama, Sen. Dick Durbin and others to do so. The situation puts the state in political flux, especially with regard to the Senate seat, which the governor can still fill by appointment. On Dec. 12, Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan filed a complaint with the Illinois Supreme Court, asking it to oust Blagojevich from office by considering him unfit for the position. On Dec. 15, Speaker of the Illinois House Mike Madigan announced that the legislature will form a committee to investigate the pos-

sible impeachment of the governor.

This recent scandal has drawn scrutiny to elected officials around Blagojevich. The gay community is significantly represented in Illinois and Chicago government. Blagojevich has enjoyed the support of the gay community, having signed a gay-rights measure that adds sexual orientation and gender identity to the state statute that protects against discrimination on grounds of race, gender or religion.

Among elected gay public figures are Blagojevich's sister-in-law, State Representative-elect Deb Mell, alderman Tom Tunney, and State Representative Greg Harris. Gays and lesbians are also among appointed officials and trusted advisors to elected officials.

How did Illinois, and Chicago in particular, come to be such a "gay-friendly" place? Does the significant presence of gays and lesbians in political organizing mean that the interests of the LGBTQ community are fully served? To answer such questions, Windy City Times spoke to a cross-section of people who have either

worked in political and grassroots organizing and/or observed the making of the lesbian and gay political machine.

Rick Garcia, political director of Equality Illinois, was instrumental in the passage of Chicago's Human Rights Ordinance in 1988. He has acknowledged that the ordinance's passage was enabled by the prior work of activists like Bill Kelley. However, one significant difference in 1988 was that gay and lesbian activists combined a get-out-the-vote campaign with a systematic effort to rally the City's crucial aldermanic votes. This let aldermen know that gays and lesbians had access to both money and votes.

In 1988, ACT UP Chicago was demanding that lawmakers pay attention to the AIDS crisis. Its tactics of public demonstrations were significantly different from those carried out by Garcia and his compadres.

Eventually, ACT UP dissipated, and gays and lesbians began to accrue mainstream political

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# WINDY CITY TIMES

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Chicago House hosted its annual Champagne Wrapture last week. Read and see more on page 9.

Photo by Kat Fitzgerald (MysticImagesPhotography.com)



Movie critic Richard Knight, Jr., examines Seven Pounds (with Will Smith, above) and The Wrestler. See page 18.

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Features include:  
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 -News: NYC Latina firm's condom ads  
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HAPPY EVERYTHING!  
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Photo by Ryan Kolodziej



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## LGBT leaders focus on Obama's agenda

BY LISA KEEN  
KEEN NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON, D.C.—There will be some real gains for LGBT people under the administration of President-elect Barack Obama, but there are some real caveats, too.

"Things may happen later than we want and in different packages than we expect," predicted Elizabeth Birch, former president of the Human Rights Campaign.

That prediction was echoed throughout the Gay & Lesbian Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C., which took place Dec. 4-7, by various people among the 600-plus gathering of LGBT elected officials and leaders and in varying contexts. The consensus seemed to be this:

The strategy of putting a big push behind one or two pieces of Congressional legislation is not as likely to reap tangible results nearly so quickly as a strategy of quiet, methodical work within the new president's own priorities. And while President-elect Obama's priorities—the economy, health care, tax cuts to the middle class and national security—may not seem to dovetail naturally with the LGBT movement's priorities, leaders meeting this past weekend said the areas of overlap are easy to find.

Current HRC President Joe Solmonese told one workshop audience, for instance, that one of the movement's first efforts under the new administration should be eradicating the unfair tax that gay employees must pay when they include their same-sex partners or spouses under their health coverage. Under federal law, the value of that health benefit is not added to the straight employee's gross income before assessing his or her tax bite. But for a gay employee, the fair-market value of that health coverage is added to the gross income on which the employee must pay taxes. (The Center for American Progress and the Williams Institute estimate that a gay employee pays more than \$1,000 per year more in taxes because of that disparity.)

Solmonese pointed to HRC's successful effort two years ago to use a pension-reform bill to change federal law to allow a surviving same-sex partner to inherit a 401(k) the same as a married spouse—to roll it into their own retirement account without paying taxes on it.

U.S. Rep. Tammy Baldwin, D-Wis., speaking to a luncheon audience Dec. 5, predicted many important advances toward LGBT equality would come through such means as presidential executive orders and changes in departmental policies. One such executive order, she said she hopes for is one that prohibits contractors hired by the federal government from discriminating based on sexual orientation.

Activists in specific areas had similar ideas about how improvements for LGBT people can be accomplished by President Obama acting independently or through specific departments. Paula Ettelbrick, head of the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission, said

that, with the appointments of U.S. Sen. Hillary Clinton to head the Department of State and Susan Rice to be the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, she hoped to see a stronger push for including LGBT groups at the U.N. She said she also hoped the United States will take a stronger leadership position around the world in the fight against HIV and anti-gay violence. Valerie Wagner of AIDS Project Los Angeles said she hopes to see more funding for HIV programs and less for anti-gay community organizations which have been using President Bush's "faith-based initiative" to promote anti-gay initiatives.

But while much of the discussion about what to do to advance LGBT equality in the new administration envisioned a studied, patient incremental approach, the "big four" legislative goals are still very much on the movement's agenda, said Rea Carey, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. Those are Hate Crimes Prevention Act, the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA), repeal of the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" law against gays in the military, and repeal of the anti-gay "Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA).

"We just want to make sure that, whenever our issues come up," said Carey, "we're successful." Carey and others predicted that hate crimes would probably be the first major bill up for the LGBT community under the new administration.

Random predictions throughout the conference suggested that, while the hate-crimes bill (including gender identity) might have a chance of passage during 2009, other bills would likely have to wait a little longer. An inclusive ENDA might have a chance at passage in two years, predicted one panel; repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" will likely have to wait until after mid-term elections. And the repeal of DOMA may be something that will have to be accomplished through small steps over the course of four or more years.

U.S. Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., in his remarks at a luncheon Dec. 6, struck an optimistic note about the chances of passing fully inclusive versions of the hate crimes and ENDA bills, saying that much work has been done since last year to lay the necessary groundwork. Just one year ago, Frank resisted efforts to insist upon a fully inclusive ENDA, saying that not enough education had been done on the gender identity aspect of the bill. The bill passed the House but included only sexual orientation and was not taken up by the Senate.

One thing the LGBT community won't have to worry about in Washington in 2009, said Frank, is anti-gay legislation. The anti-gay Federal Marriage Amendment, he said, "won't even come up." That is, of course, because the Democratic Party has an increased majority in both chambers of Congress and strong supporters in the leadership. Frank said LGBT people are no longer "a group on the outside" but a "major part of the governing coalition of this country."

### Not repeating the past

"We're also a lot more sophisticated and have a lot more talent than we did 16 years ago," said Tim McFeeley, who headed up the Human Rights

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## Iowa court hears marriage arguments

BY LISA KEEN  
KEEN NEWS SERVICE

The only same-sex marriage lawsuit currently pending before any court in the country took the seven justices of the Iowa Supreme Court through a dizzying tour of what have become classic same-sex marriage legal debates Dec. 9. Their questions, and the attorneys' answers, covered procreation, polygamy, the upbringing of children, the downfall of civilization, *Bowers v. Hardwick* and more.

Polk County assistant attorney Roger Kuhle beckoned the justices to "look into the future" and "picture," as he did, that the allowance of same-sex marriage in Iowa could lead to a "scenario" a generation from now "when the state says it's not relevant who raises a child." A few minutes later, he dismissed the stigma of barring same-sex couples from marrying and the harm that could do to their children as "hypothetical."

Former Iowa Solicitor General Dennis Johnson, representing the same-sex couples on behalf of Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, fended off concerns about same-sex marriages leading to polygamy by saying that marriage is an "institution" that has traditionally been between two people only.

"Aren't you doing the same boxing-in of the definition of marriage" as opponents of same-sex marriage, asked Justice Brent Appel, who is married and has six children. No, said Johnson, because the dispute is not over the definition of marriage; the dispute is over "who is allowed to participate" in marriage.

"If same-sex couples are allowed to marry, my marriage will not be affected at all," said Johnson. "They will operate under the same sex of laws."

Read the entire article at [www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com](http://www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com).

## DADT challenge passes legal hurdle

BY BOB ROEHR

A federal appeals court has declined to hear an *en banc* review of a lower-court ruling challenging the anti-gay military policy known as Don't Ask Don't Tell (DADT). The Bush administration may quickly file an appeal with the U.S. Supreme Court, or leave that decision to the incoming Obama administration.

Major Margaret Witt had an exemplary 18-year career as a nurse in the Air Force but was discharged in 2006 after her commander learned that she was a lesbian. She challenged the constitutionality of DADT in federal court in Tacoma, Wash., but lost.

A three-member panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit overturned that decision in May, saying, for the first time, that

the government must provide a more stringent justification for DADT than the "rational basis" required by earlier courts.

The panel based its ruling on the 2003 decision *Lawrence v. Texas*, in which the U.S. Supreme Court struck down all remaining state sodomy laws. It said the government must not merely have a reason for the policy, it must demonstrate that DADT significantly enhances discipline and unit cohesion, and balance that against how it impinges on the rights of gay Americans serving in the military.

Conservative justices argued that *Lawrence* was applied too broadly, it is only relevant to criminal statutes, and precedent requires deference to the military on personnel matters.

Lawyers for the Pentagon appealed the decision but the entire Ninth Circuit declined an *en banc* review of the case. Its decision came down Dec. 4.

Read the entire article at [www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com](http://www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com).

## NATIONAL ROUNDUP

BY ANDREW DAVIS

The 13-member New Jersey Civil Union Review Commission has unanimously recommended to Gov. Jon Corzine and the state legislature that **they pass a law that allows same-sex marriage as soon as possible** "because any delay in marriage equality will harm all the people of New Jersey," according to PR Newswire. The commission includes LGBT leaders, clergy, government officials and a pro-life Republican. A spokesperson for Corzine told the Philadelphia Gay News that the governor would sign a measure that legalizes same-sex marriage.

Richard Cizik, the longtime vice president for governmental affairs at the National Association of Evangelicals (NAE), **stepped down from his post after experiencing backlash for saying that he supported same-sex unions**, according to World Magazine. Leith Anderson, president of the NAE, said that Cizik "made statements that did not appropriately represent the values and convictions of [the organization] and our constituents."

**Cleveland now has a domestic-partner registry**, according to the Associated Press. Councilmembers approved the measure 13-7 on Dec. 8, making Cleveland the third city in Ohio (besides Toledo and Cleveland Heights) to have such a registry.

**Kalamazoo, Mich., has passed an ordinance banning sexual-orientation discrimination** regarding housing, public accommodations and employment, according to the Kalamazoo Gazette. The city's commission unanimously passed the measure.

**Larry Craig, R-Idaho, has lost his latest attempt to withdraw his guilty plea** after being caught in a sex sting in a Minneapolis airport, according to the Associated Press. Craig was arrested last year after being accused of soliciting sex from an undercover cop.

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Protesters in City Hall. Photo by Yasmin Nair

## 'Day Without a Gay' supporters picket City Hall

BY YASMIN NAIR

In the wake of Proposition 8 in California, gay groups across the country urged people to take a day off from work by calling in "gay for a day" and refusing to spend any of their dollars contributing to the economy. They chose Dec. 10, which is also International Human Rights Day.

In Chicago, approximately a hundred demonstrators showed up outside City Hall, 121 N. LaSalle, to participate in the event. In a rapidly worsening economy, taking time off appears to be a luxury few can afford. Most of the demonstrators were students with flexible schedules, worked for their own businesses, or had gay or gay-friendly bosses who supported them. Aaron was a rare exception in that he didn't have a flexible job; he works as a barback and happened to have a day off. Would he have faced repercussions if he'd called in gay? Yes, "and I don't care." Maggie, passing out flyers to passersby, felt she was making a point: "This helps bring attention to our cause, to our fight for gay marriage rights."

After 20 minutes of marching and chanting, demonstrators went into the Cook County Clerk's office and stood outside the office while a few gay male couples talked to the clerks in charge of dispensing licenses. They asked for marriage licenses but their demands were not met (the state of Illinois does not recognize same-sex marriages). Brett Holman Gomez said that he and his partner Luis Gomez "were asked if we were both of the same sex. We said yes, and they declined to give us our marriage licenses. We said, 'David Orr [Cook County Clerk]: Marry us now; we will pay your fine. Do something historic now!'"

## MBC to sell building

The board of directors of Chicago's Museum of Broadcast Communications (MBC) voted Dec. 10 to sell its building because of a lack of state funds that Gov. Rod Blagojevich reportedly promised.

Bruce Dumont, who heads the museum, sent out a letter to supporters that stated, in part, "The failure of Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich to keep his \$6-million promise to the Museum—and the economic downturn that followed that broken promise has forced this decision. Much time and money has been lost due to the failure of the state to act. This is a very disappointing development."

He added, "what began as a dream for many has turned into a nightmare thanks to Governor Blagojevich."

Construction of the museum began at Kinzie and State, with organizers banking on state money.

The museum was the source of much controversy with the LGBT community this year when the organization's Radio Hall of Fame inducted the James Dobson, leader of the anti-gay organization Focus on the Family—so much so that hundreds of LGBT activists and their allies picketed Nov. 8 outside the Renaissance Hotel, where induction ceremonies were held.

## Madigan to head Equality Illinois

Attorney Jim Madigan has been named interim executive director of the LGBT-rights group Equality Illinois. He will assume the post Dec. 20.

Madigan comes to Equality Illinois from the Chicago office of Lambda Legal, the nation's largest legal organization committed to achieving full recognition of the civil rights of the LGBT and HIV communities. Among other things, Madigan assisted lawmakers in drafting the Illinois civil-union bill, now pending in the General Assembly.

"I am honored to serve my community. I look forward to helping Equality Illinois shepherd the civil union bill and other important reforms needed to treat LGBT citizens with the respect they deserve," Madigan said.

### PASSAGES

#### Donald J. Andries

Donald J. Andries, a 15-year resident of Oswego and a veteran police officer, passed away Dec. 13, at his home. He was 47.

Andries was the brother of Dan Andries, co-producer of the LGBT-focused TV program Out & Proud, which aired on WTTW-11 in June.

Donald Andries is survived by his loving wife of 24 years, Mary (nee McNellis); his devoted sons, 2nd Lt. Timothy Joseph Andries and Brian Donald Andries; his brothers, Daniel Albert (Ann), David Delacoma (Paula) and Darrill James Andries; and many other relatives and friends.

Visitation was Dec. 15, at the Friedrich-Jones Funeral Home, Naperville. Mass of Christian Burial took place Dec. 16 at SS Peter & Paul Catholic Church, 36 N. Ellsworth, Naperville.

## CENTER from cover

sins," among others. Instantly, Center supporters marched up to the group and surrounded it, shouting, "Bigots!" and "Racist, sexist, anti-gay, right-wing bigots go away." A few held up a giant purple banner to shield the signs from pedestrians and traffic.

The GHF contingent included two very young children, a boy and a girl. As the counter-demonstrators chanted, the boy and his accompanying adult left, leaving only the girl with two women. One of the supporters began screaming, "Child abuse!" and others relentlessly shouted at GHF to go away. After about 15 minutes, the three went into the police station, escorted by police.

Many of the counterdemonstrators clearly considered the event a success. However, there were mixed feelings about the presence of the children. Counterprotestor T. J. Houlihan said that "It's incredibly sad [to see children being used in this way]. We keep seeing [religious fundamentalists] preach family values, but hate is not a family value. They're here under a pretense of religion and God."

This was GHF's second appearance in less than a week. On Dec. 8, five church members stood opposite the Democratic National Committee (also President-elect Barack Obama's transition headquarters) at 233 N. Michigan, with signs that depicted Obama as "The Beast" (antichrist).

Jon Trott, of Jesus People, the lone counterprotestor, stood on the opposite side of the street with a sign that said, "Gays Are Our Neighbors." He was concerned about the group's use of religion: "They're cartoon theologians. I don't want to return hate with hate, but I certainly hate their message."

### "Change is coming" forum

The specific object of the Westboro Baptist Church's protest was an afternoon discussion, "LGBT Change Is Coming," that immediately followed the demonstration. The event was billed as an opportunity for the community to "review the current LGBT policies of President-elect Obama and provide constructive community feedback via the format suggested by the transition team," according to the agenda. This meant two hours of approximately 20 community organizers, leaders of nonprofits and LGBT elected officials speaking for two minutes each on the issues of concern to them.

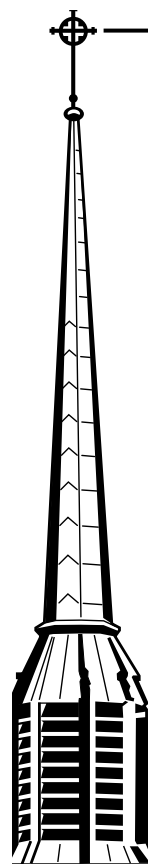
Nearly 70 attendees listened as James Madigan, incoming executive director of Equality Illinois (in place of Amy Bloom), spoke about



Counterprotesters confronted God Hates Fags Dec. 13 near Center on Halsted. Photos by Yasmin Nair

adding sexual orientation and gender identity to current hate-crimes legislation. Jean Albright of Servicemembers Legal Defense Network talked about the effects of Don't Ask, Don't Tell while Lynn Johnson of the Chicago Foundation for Women addressed the need to improve clinical research on microbicides and eliminate "abstinence only until marriage" programs. Jack Pevenstein and Earl Battles of SAGE (Services and Advocacy for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Elders) spoke of the urgency of services and training focused on LGBT elderly, while Shannon Sullivan of the Illinois Safe Schools Alliance called for policies inclusive of gender identity in Chicago public schools.

A concluding session featured LGBT elected officials like State Rep. Greg Harris and Cook County Judge Mary Colleen Roberts giving advice on enabling concrete legislative change. Harris pointed out that the vast majority of LGBT issues were local, needing action on either the state or county level and being outside the purview of the president's office. Like others on the panel, he pointed out the importance of making elected officials accountable for their promises. Deb Mell, the recently elected 40th District state representative and sister-in-law of embattled Gov. Rod Blagojevich, was scheduled to appear but was instead represented by her spokesperson, Leah Pouw.



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**Jon Erickson,**  
**Alexander Ruppert's attorney.**

## Ruppert case settled

BY ANDREW DAVIS

City attorneys have settled with Alexander Ruppert, who said he was arrested and beaten by Chicago police because he was gay—and the development occurred as the civil trial was about to start, according to The Chicago Tribune.

According to a release from the Law Office of Erickson & Oppenheimer, which represented Ruppert, on March 5, 2006, two officers (identified in the suit as Vincent Torres and Kent Pemberton) took Ruppert, an AIDS patient, from the Uptown Lounge, 1136 W. Lawrence, and went a block away, where they beat him and called him homophobic slurs.

Ruppert suffered multiple injuries, including a head wound that need 16 stitches, the release noted. After beating Ruppert, the officers charged him with aggravated battery, one officer claiming that his knuckles were injured. The felony battery charges were later dropped when the officers refused to testify.

Ruppert's attorney, Jon Erickson, told Windy City Times that "Mr. Ruppert is extremely pleased."

A jury has been selected and opening statements given by both sides Dec. 8. The settlement occurred the following day.

## AIDS Foundation of Chicago sets agenda

BY SAM WORLEY

The AIDS Foundation of Chicago held a policy priority meeting Dec. 11 with the aim of mapping out a legislative agenda for 2009. Roughly 30 community advocates, experts and service providers discussed the current political atmosphere in Illinois—unusual, at best—and identified goals for the coming year.

AFC Director of Governmental Affairs John Peller addressed the "really big elephant that's in the room"—the recent arrest of Gov. Rod Blagojevich on corruption charges, which may mean a "really rudderless governor's office" in terms of HIV/AIDS policy. Given Illinois' precarious financial situation, "we have to prepare for the worst," Peller said, suggesting the possibility of social service cuts and delayed Medicaid payments.

Peller also listed unfinished priorities from 2008, including drug overdose prevention; sexually transmitted infection (STI) prevention and treatment; and the repeal a 1987 law mandating the disclosure of students' HIV status to school principals.

AFC Vice-President for Policy and Communications David Munar spoke about national HIV politics. Though the incoming Obama administration has a "very detailed" HIV/AIDS platform—including the implementation of a cohesive national AIDS strategy—Munar said advocates need to hold the administration to its promises: "We have to flex our advocacy muscle."

Among the legislative goals that were laid out for the coming year were an emphasis on prioritizing public health on a state level; the development of a statewide prevention strategy; and greater access to, and simplification of, benefits such as health care.

## Chicagoans among those in LGBT inaugural band

BY KAITLYN MCAVOY

President-elect Barack Obama's inaugural parade will no doubt be a historic event. Not only will it be a celebration for our nation's first Black president, but it will also mark the first time an LGBT group will participate in the mile-and-a-half march.

The Lesbian and Gay Band Association (LGBA), a musical organization made up of over 30 concert and marching bands throughout the United States and countries like Canada and Australia, has been selected to have its members march in the parade on Jan. 20, 2009.

Lakeside Pride Freedom Band in Chicago is a member of LGBA and several of Lakeside's musicians were chosen to participate in the parade. Some say they couldn't be more excited to be part of the historic event.

## POLITICS from cover

power. One symptom of this newfound legitimacy was that gay bars were no longer regularly raided. John D'Emilio, professor of history at the University of Illinois at Chicago answered the question, "How does police harassment of bars go from being pervasive to being occasional and sporadic?" He acknowledged the persistence of activists who protested the raids. But he also emphasized that shifts in the political machinery had a tremendous influence on gay and lesbian politics.

The old Daley machine was notorious for its overt racism and discrimination against sexual minorities. But, according to D'Emilio, Chicago Mayor Harold Washington's brief tenure eventually opened up the possibilities for new ways of operating: "When the new Mayor Daley became mayor, it saw a new kind of machine, a machine that recognizes the need for representatives from all kinds of constituents." With a laugh, D'Emilio added, "Under the best conditions [for them], these would be their chosen representatives. But it's more inclusive than exclusive."

Eventually, said D'Emilio, gays and lesbians were represented by an increasingly large number of professionalized activists, "and such organized constituents are the one in the best position to take advantage of the structure."

Not everyone who's queer-identified has chosen to enter that professional class of gay organizers and activists. Many of those who participated in organizing in the 1980s continue their political works in venues and ways that aren't strictly gay. Michael Thompson began his activist career in the Vietnam era as a war protestor. He went on to work in the prison-reform movement, to which he's still connected. Today, he's the director of the Chicago Honey Co-Op, which provides employment to the underemployed, especially ex-prisoners, and practices sustainable urban farming.

Thompson joined ACT UP Chicago because he found like-minded people interested in the intersection of prison reform and health care. While he doesn't disparage the work of today's gay activists, he doesn't think of himself as one. He echoed the thoughts of Jean Genet who would fight for liberation struggles, but up to a point: "When they gained power, he was no longer interested in them."

Jeanne Kracher, like Thompson, was also a member of ACT UP. As executive director of Crossroads Fund, which is not gay-specific but supports LGBTQ causes, Kracher today oversees the funding of groups "who don't get a slice of

the pie." [This reporter has been involved with groups that received funding or support from Crossroads Fund.] She was realistic about gay and lesbian organizing energy today: "With any group of people who've been marginalized, and who [attain] a certain amount of power and traction, there's bound to be an assimilationist segment. [Some] people can't believe the amount of progress, but I think progress is a relative term. Today's [gay] movers and shakers are effective at creating institutions ... that serve some and not others." Kracher pointed to mainstream gay and lesbian organizers' focus on marriage, "Gay marriage has become the *de facto* position. Nobody would have talked that way 20 years ago."

Both Kracher and Garcia were concerned with the issue of gay leadership, but with different communities and goals in mind. Kracher saw gay leadership "not dealing with the intersectionality of issues." For her, that meant the ability to see how identities, like race and gender, intersect with issues like AIDS. She pointed out that Chicago currently does not have a single Black-led AIDS network, despite the fact that the great majority of people affected by the epidemic in the country are Black and female.

Garcia was optimistic about the growth of political organizing in Illinois, and said he was unfazed by the Blagojevich scandal: "Getting support of our issues is not contingent upon [the governor]." As this goes to press, the Illinois Civil Rights Act, introduced last year by Greg Harris, is doomed to die as the state tries to deal with the combined effects of a nationwide economic crisis and a home-grown political scandal. Harris is committed to refiling the bill should it die this session.

In the meantime, segments of the LGBTQ community continue to escape the notice of most gay organizers. D'Emilio pointed out that trans youth are among those most vulnerable to police harassment. Thompson's work puts him in contact with communities of color, where AIDS is a reigning issue.

The mainstream gay power machine is here to stay. The political clout of gays and lesbians in Illinois has as much to do with their economic and political presence as society's acceptance of them. Today, there's not much chance that a gay bar will be raided as in the days of old. It's more likely to be simply gentrified out of existence.

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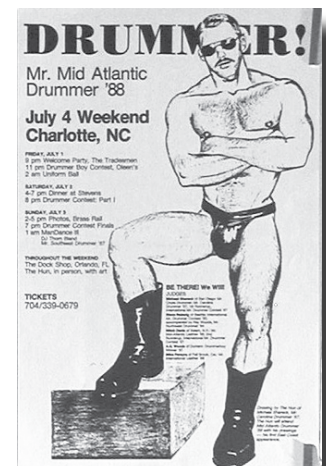
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## Food pantries face more demand

BY KAITLYN MCAVOY

Chicago food pantries say the holiday season is the time of the year they receive the most donations but it is also the time of year when they experience the highest number of people needing food. And with the nation's grim economy and Illinois' unemployment rates soaring, more and more Chicagoans are turning to their local food pantries for help than in previous years.

The Greater Chicago Food Depository (GCFD) reports the number of people going to food pantries in 2008 has increased 33 percent compared 2007, said Bob Dolgan, director of communications at the GCFD, who distributes food to 600 food pantries, shelters and soup kitchens in Cook County.

The GCFD has also distributed a record-breaking amount of food this year, said Dolgan. The Depository gave out 37 percent more food from June to December than the same period of last year, he said.

Lakeview Pantry, 3831 N. Broadway, whose majority of food comes from the GCFD food bank, has had a 15 percent increase of clients, said Gary Garland, executive director of the North Side pantry that has been around for 38 years and serves about 2,000 people. And with no optimistic outlook on the economy improving, Garland expected those people are still going to need their services after the holidays.

However, the problem for many pantries is twofold. While demand for their services is high, donations are low.

Read the entire article online at [www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com](http://www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com).

## Dignity/Chicago joins those against Vatican's stance

Members of Dignity/Chicago—the local chapter of a national advocacy organization for GLBT Catholics—and Catholic reform group Call to Action united with supporters Dec. 10, International Human Rights Day, outside the official offices of the Catholic Archdiocese of Chicago to challenge the church's opposition to global decriminalization of homosexuality, according to a

Dignity/Chicago press release.

Leaders in other cities such as Boston, Dallas, San Francisco and New York City also held vigils and protests. Michael Herman, a local resident who is a former Catholic priest, said, "I cannot understand how the same church that wants to protect life from the moment of conception seems willing to allow nations around the world to kill gays and lesbians."

## Hollibaugh joins Howard Brown

Howard Brown Health Center has announced that celebrated author and activist Amber Hollibaugh has joined the organization as chief officer of elder and LGBTI women's services.

Before joining Howard Brown, Hollibaugh served as senior strategist for the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. Previously, she was the director of national initiatives at SAGE (Services and Advocacy for GLBT Elders).

As the leader of the Elder Services Community Initiative, Amber will ensure Howard Brown Health Center is able to provide LGBT older adults personalized medical attention and inclusive LGBT elder care. Hollibaugh is also charged with facilitating the development of a comprehensive and focused program that addresses the needs of all LGBTI women who come to Howard Brown.

## Businesses and artist team up for anti-Prop 8 fundraiser

The Glenwood Bar, 6962 N. Glenwood; Sofo, 4923 N. Clark; and T's, 5025 N. Clark are currently exhibiting four special works by local artist Eric Paige that comment on the passage of Proposition 8. The pieces will be raffled off Sunday, Dec. 21, at 8 p.m., with the proceeds being donated to Equality Illinois, The Human Rights Campaign and Lambda Legal.

Tickets may be purchased for \$2 each or three for \$5. Call 312-206-7644 or e-mail [eeart@gmail.com](mailto:eeart@gmail.com).

Read the world roundup and even more national news at [www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com](http://www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com).

# QUOTELINES

BY REX WOCKNER

"(HARVEY MILK'S) MOST FATEFUL RELATIONSHIP WAS WITH DAN WHITE, a seemingly straight member of the Board of Supervisors, a Catholic who said homosexuality was a sin and campaigned with his wife, kids and the American flag. An awkward alliance formed between Milk and White, who was probably gay and used their areas of political agreement as a beard. 'I think he's one of us,' Milk confided. The only gay supervisor, Milk was the only supervisor invited to the baptism of White's new baby. White was an alcoholic who all but revealed his sexuality to Milk during a drunken tirade, became unbalanced, resigned his position and on Nov. 27, 1978, walked into City Hall and assassinated Milk and Mayor George Moscone." — *Chicago Sun-Times* movie reviewer Roger Ebert, Nov. 24.



There has been a paradigm shift in the movement...

—Wayne Besen



"WHEN POLITICAL ATTACKS ARE LAUNCHED FROM CHURCHES, political responses will be delivered to churches. If goddamned McDonald's had organized and paid for Prop 8, we'd be marching on goddamned McDonald's." — *Gay writer Dan Savage on his blog*, Nov. 15.

"WHEN A CHURCH, LIKE THE MORMON CHURCH, MAKES A CONCERTED EFFORT to enter the public square and strip a small minority of basic civil rights, it is simply preposterous for them then to argue that the Mormon church cannot be criticized and protested because they are a religion. ... (W)hen they use their money and power to target my family, to break it up, to demean it and marginalize it, to strip me and my husband of our civil rights, then they have started a war." — *Gay writer Andrew Sullivan on his blog*, Nov. 17. *Mormons contributed as much as 50 percent of the money to the campaign to pass Proposition 8, its backers have said.*

"WE NEED NEW LEADERSHIP. THIS PAPER COULD BE FILLED WITH THE NUMBER OF people who wanted to work with the campaign to defeat Prop 8 but were turned away at the door—told they weren't needed—people like Molly McKay from Freedom to Marry, who is one of the best grassroots activists ever when it comes to mobilizing for marriage rights. People like Robin Tyler, who put together an effective series of PSAs to reach people of color who may have voted with us had there been any outreach before the last week of the campaign. And hundreds upon hundreds (thousands, most likely) of regular community people who wanted to volunteer. ... (A)ll that experience and expertise—all of that heart—was turned away by our so-called 'leaders.' In the most elitist, clique-ish, private clubbish way imaginable, old political scores and turf wars were prioritized by the No on 8 leadership, who listened to no one outside their elite group. ... The No on Prop 8 campaign was a disaster from the top down." — *San Francisco Bay Times Publisher Kim Corsaro, writing in the Nov. 27 issue.*

"IF THE BIGOTS THOUGHT THEY WOULD SLAP DOWN GAY MEN AND LESBIANS by passing Proposition 8, or if they thought it would end the gay civil rights movement, they were mistaken. I haven't seen the gay community this galvanized in a long time. The passage of Proposition 8 might be this generation's 'Stonewall,' the 1969 riot that began after an

unprovoked police raid on a gay bar in Greenwich Village and that marked the start of the gay rights movement. If we can somehow harness the energy unleashed by California's Proposition 8 vote, we can achieve tremendous gains for us and for future generations of gay men and lesbians." — *Writer Dan Wentzel writing in the Washington Post*, Nov. 24.

"WHAT COMES AFTER THE (PROP 8) PROTESTS? ... We need a real campaign, a real war, real strategies—mean, nasty, vicious and, above all else, effective strategies targeted at achieving a concrete goal that moves our movement, moves our rights, forward. This is why I've talked endlessly about the role the Mormons had in making Prop 8 a reality. They are willing to be hate's banker, and we need to make sure that their moral bankruptcy becomes a fiscal one as well. Whether that means targeting key Mormon donors, targeting the entire state of Utah, or finding another means to make the price far too high for anyone willing to finance hate. I'm not sure what the answer is. But we need one. We are a people without leadership at the moment. The California groups who got us into this mess seem downright terrified that gay people are finally rising up and demanding their rights, and the national groups, rightfully, to a degree, are butting out of what is California's own business. ... Gay people want change. But politics, like war, best achieves its goals when someone with experience and vision is at the helm. And for whatever reason, no one is stepping up." — *Gay blogger John Aravosis*, Nov. 24.

"THERE HAS BEEN A PARADIGM SHIFT IN THE MOVEMENT following marriage defeats in California, Florida and Arizona. ... The leaders of what is being billed as Stonewall 2.0 are not coming from large, established organizations. ... That this huge outpouring of organic outrage is not being channeled through official organizational channels has enormous implications. ... We are not the same movement we were prior to Nov. 4. ... Organizations that do not adjust to this new reality will wither and die." — *Syndicated gay columnist Wayne Besen*, Nov. 17.

"(THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST PROP 8) WAS GUIDED THROUGHOUT, alas, by the same mentality that plagues the Human Rights Campaign. They are poll-obsessed, focus-group manic, and devoid of real, gut-level conviction. They ran a Clinton-style campaign in an Obama-style environment." — *Gay writer Andrew Sullivan on his blog*, Nov. 6.

—Assistance: Bill Kelley



## I'll drink to that

Chicago House returned with its glamorous Champagne Wraiture Dec. 9 at The James Hotel, 55 E. Ontario. Attendees sampled champagne from Veuve Clicquot, specialty martinis by Belvedere Vodka, desserts by Sweet Miss Giving's and hors d'oeuvres. In addition, guests were able to bid (at a silent auction) on bottles of Clicquot artfully dressed by Chicago's premier designers, among other items. Photos by Kat Fitzgerald; see [www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com](http://www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com) and [www.MysticImagesPhotography.com](http://www.MysticImagesPhotography.com) for more.

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**MARIE-JO PROULX**

## Obama's reach in Freetown

I had been in Freetown, Sierra Leone, for almost a month. People here are huge supporters of Barack Obama. For obvious reasons, they believe American foreign policy under his leadership would prove more favorable to Africa. They figure he would at least know where it is, and what it is. Newsweek's recent revelation that Sarah Palin "didn't understand" that Africa is a continent is deeply disturbing to many here.

In the days leading up to the vote, Obama's name was on everybody's lips. BBC Africa was in full campaign coverage mode. Monday evening, our group of ex-pat and local runners went on its weekly ramble around Freetown. As we made our way up narrow mountain roads and then passed by crowded backyards in our fancy running shoes, young boys on a porch began to shout "Obama, Obama!"

On election night (still only midday EST), I attended a reception at the U.S. Embassy, where Ambassador June Carter Perry addressed a crowd of more than a hundred guests. Whatever the outcome at the polls, a historical precedent would be set, she said, also stressing that America would emerge as a united nation, firmly rooted in democratic principles, and looking to the next generation for inspiration. Later, one of

her assistants announced the results of the mock voting booth, where non-American citizens had been invited to cast a paper ballot. Obama had won in a landslide.

Following the reception, a colleague and I got a ride back in town on the shuttle bus taking the large day-shift squad of security guards down Signal Hill. Although their conversations were mostly in Krio, it was easy to get a sense of their enthusiasm for Obama's chances of becoming the first African American U.S. president. Their admiration for him appears boundless, their belief in his power to change the world, unshakable. Only one of them said he was a McCain fan. His reason had something to do with the Middle East. The others boisterously argued with him, asking if he wanted to be sent to Iraq.

A few hours later, some of us watched the coverage on MSNBC. By 1 a.m. local time, Pennsylvania was called. When Ohio and then Florida also turned blue, it became clear that the voodoo vote counts of the past would not taint nor invalidate Obama's victory. As the sun came up in West Africa, TV sets and radios were tuned to Grant Park. In the heat of the night, the world had indeed changed. Everybody knew it. Nobody missed the old days. I suspect even that security guard will get used to the new paradigm.

The following day's local papers were printed well before the first polls closed. One of them stretched its deadline and put Obama's win in New Hampshire on the front page. But on Thursday, articles about the new President Elect filled the news and commentary sections. Sierra Leone's president, Ernest Bai Koroma, also released a long statement of congratulations.

While we think of "elect" as "in-waiting," people here focus on the plain definition of the word. I teach journalism at a college in town. My students were fascinated by McCain's conces-



Residents in Sierra Leone. Photo by Marie-Jo Proulx

sion speech and his promise to collaborate with the new administration. In a country that last year saw its first peaceful transition of power in over a decade, young adults are learning new political habits. For them, "elect" simply means "legitimate," a rare and precious assurance that the inauguration of a new leader will not lead to civil unrest and violence.

By embodying the democratic process's transformative potential, a victorious Barack Obama has already begun to influence the world community. For one week in Freetown, the daily miseries of life in one of the world's least developed countries were put on hold. But in January, when the Harmattan wind begins to blow, people will expect it to bring change. Africa is used to waiting. Maybe this time it won't be in vain.

**Marie-Jo Proulx is a former Windy City Times writer. She is currently the lead trainer in Sierra Leone for Journalists for Human Rights, a Canadian NGO that mentors individual reporters and tries to raise awareness of the challenges facing the media when reporting on human rights violations. You can follow her blog at [www.mediafrica.blogspot.com](http://www.mediafrica.blogspot.com).**

## LETTERS

### Coming together

Letter to the Editor:

All of us at Roscoe's would like to say thanks to the many friends, neighbors, businesses and members of the community who have reached out to us in response to our recent fire. The kindness and support shown by all is sincerely heartwarming. Especially appreciated are the thoughtful offers and gestures of assistance to help our staff.

The prompt and professional response by all the emergency units from the Chicago Fire and Police departments was awesome. And 44th Ward Alderman Tom Tunney's office knows how much a business depends on it in such a time.

Finally we thank our customers for their patience and support as we work on repairing the damage. We all look forward to the return of "dancing at Roscoe's" and hope you will visit us in the interim.

With thanks and warmest holiday wishes to all,  
 Roscoe's Tavern

### Shutdown smackdown

Chicago's Museum of Broadcast Communications (MBC) announced Dec. 12 that it has put its partially built \$22 million headquarters building up for sale. The MBC has been without a home since leaving the Chicago Cultural Center in 2003. Putting the unfinished building on the block in a bear real estate market is another demonstration of the sort of incompetence seen in the MBC's recent honoring of anti-gay bigot James Dobson, the head of Focus on the Family.

The Gay Liberation Network (GLN) and Truth Wins Out initiated a huge protest Nov. 8 against the MBC annual fundraising dinner, during which

Dobson received the accolades of an audience made up largely of fellow Focus on the Family staffers and supporters. Many in the city, gay and non-gay alike, were appalled that the MBC would honor someone like Dobson who campaigns against legal equality for a whole group of people.

The MBC stepped into this mess by making a bone-headed change to its Radio Hall of Fame selection process this year. For the first time, the Hall of Fame honor was chosen by a ballot stuffing-friendly Internet-voting process open to the general public.

GLN and others pointed out that if such a selection process resulted in the choosing of a notorious racist or anti-Semite, the process would have been junked and no award given. But apparently MBC Executive Director Bruce Dumont felt that a different standard should apply when the faulty process chose a notorious hater of gays, James Dobson. Dumont plowed ahead with the honoring of the anti-gay bigot despite months of protest. As a result, MBC's reputation is perhaps irretrievably tarnished.

Now we see that the same managerial incompetence that led to the decision to plow ahead with the anti-gay honor has lost the MBC its prospective new home. In an e-mail to supporters, Bruce Dumont conveniently skirted responsibility for the fire sale of the MBC headquarters: "The failure of Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich to keep his \$6 million promise to the Museum—and the economic downturn that followed that broken promise has forced this decision."

Sorry, Bruce, but as much as we'd all like to help pile on Blago right now, the originally scheduled reopening of the MBC in its new digs was the spring of 2005—well before the current recession hit—and your new HQ has been nothing but a pile of concrete and rebar for years. As one blog noted in February 2007, "construction has only come in spits and spurts, a month or

two of concrete pouring followed by six or seven months of idled equipment and boarded-up entryways. As the 'coming soon' sign announcing MBC's arrival weathered and faded, rumors of the museum's impending arrival began to reify into myth." (ChicagoCarless.com)

And as for Blago's alleged promise of money for your building, at the same time that every Chicago area politico is desperately distancing themselves from the tainted governor, do you really think this is the smartest time to say that you had cut a deal with him?!

With his wrecking of the museum's reputation though his tolerance of anti-gay bigotry and now his failure to secure a home for the museum after five years and millions of wasted dollars, Bruce Dumont has driven the MBC into the ground.

If the MBC is to be saved, Dumont should do it a favor and resign. Perhaps a new management team could reverse the series of disastrous mis-steps which have nearly destroyed the institution. One first step in the right direction would be to restore its integrity by disavowing the earlier award to America's leading hater of gays, Focus on the Family's James Dobson. Only then should supporters of civil rights extend any aid to the MBC.

Gay Liberation Network

Send your letters to [Editor@WindyCityMediaGroup.com](mailto:Editor@WindyCityMediaGroup.com) or [Andrew@WindyCityMediaGroup.com](mailto:Andrew@WindyCityMediaGroup.com).

Letters may be edited for length or clarity.

## GOINGS-ON

WINDY CITY TIMES' ENTERTAINMENT SECTION



Photo courtesy of David Zak

## SCHOONER OR LATER

The Bailiwick Repertory's production of The Christmas Schooner is reviewed on page 16.

## THEATER

'Spare' time.  
page 17

Photo by Bob Knuth

## MOVIES

Will do.  
page 18

## MUSIC

Aussie, yay.  
page 20

Photo courtesy of Warner Bros.

'Dinner' break  
with Jeffrey  
Donovan

BY ANDREW DAVIS

Jeffrey Donovan may be best known for being on TV's *Burn Notice* and in the Clint Eastwood-directed film *Changeling* with Angelina Jolie, but the handsome 40-year-old is an accomplished theater veteran as well, having appeared in Boston's Shakespeare in the Park, among many other shows. Windy City Times recently talked with him about being in the acclaimed theatrical production *Don't Dress for Dinner*, which will run at the Royal George Theatre, 1641 N. Halsted, through Sunday, Jan. 11.

**Windy City Times:** You're quietly becoming a triple threat. [*Donovan laughs.*] I loved you in *Changeling*, by the way; I really wanted to hurt [your character].

Jeffrey Donovan: Yeah. I get that a lot—not just on-screen. [*Laughs*]

**WCT:** Then there's *Burn Notice*, which I like primarily because the chemistry you have with Sharon Gless, Gabrielle Anwar and Bruce Campbell is very palpable. [*Donovan smiles.*] I'm sure everyone's been asking you what it's like to work with Angelina Jolie or Clint Eastwood, but what's it like working with Bruce?

JD: What a hoot he is. I didn't know who he was before the show, and then I looked him up and watched a few of his movies—and I love that this guy is doing this campy stuff. I thought he was going to be a guy who was fly-by-the-seat-of-his-pants, but he is such a student of comedy, acting and film, and he takes it all quite seriously—and that kind of campy horror [as in *Evil Dead* and *Army of Darkness*] is as hard to pull off as farce, which is what we're doing in the play. And, to some degree, there's even some correlation with what we do in *Burn Notice*: How do you make something funny but never take away the seriousness of the moment?

He and I talk about that a lot.

He's a great collaborator and such a great guy. He also has a smile for me every morning and calls me "Number One"—which is what I am on the call sheet. But on *Star Trek*, they call the first mate "number one," who is actually the person under [the captain]. So I wonder if he's actually making fun of me. [*Laughs*] "Make it so, number one."

**WCT:** You know that Sharon Gless [was] in town, filming [*Hannah Free*].

JD: Yes—and she's great, too. She's a pro, and I turn to her a lot for advice because, you know, she did Cagney and Lacey for like eight or nine years. She had some advice for me, and she's just been very maternal. I'm very happy and proud to be on TV with her.

**WCT:** I've read that *Don't Dress for Dinner* is a "sex farce." Is that an accurate description?

JD: It's a "naughty farce." It's about sexual liaisons, affairs. It's about a married British couple in Paris; the wife is having an affair with an American—that's me—and the English husband is having an affair with an American model, who's visiting. We all show up at the same time at the house, and hijinks ensue. It's one of the funniest things I've ever been a part of—I crack up on stage sometimes, although I hide it. The other cast members, the pros that they are, never crack up. That cast is so talented.

**WCT:** Yes, Patricia Kalember is part of the cast; I remember her from [TV's] *Sisters*. By the way, that's how you can tell a man is gay, no matter how he looks: If he says that he remembers someone from *Sisters*... [*Sustained laughter from Donovan*]

JD: That's so funny! The other day, the director said some musical-theater term and one of the other actors laughed. I [asked], "What's so funny?" They both looked at me and said, "Not gay." [*Laughs*]

**WCT:** You are a theater veteran. What brought you back to theater?

JD: I miss it. I've done more theater than TV and film combined—two Broadway shows, six



Jeffrey Donovan.

off-Broadway shows and at NYU, I did 11 productions. I've created a theater company in L.A., and just did a play by Mike O'Malley, who was on [TV's] *Yes, Dear*; the play is called *Searching for Certainty*.

Theater is incredibly important to me—probably more than the other two—not just because it's the basis of how I started but because it feeds me. It feeds my soul, and that's not a disparaging comment on TV or film. It's a mechanical venue that you work in; therefore, it's not live. The transaction is inorganic, whereas the transaction on stage with the audience is organic—and you get literal feedback from that. Every three years or so I need to go back to theater, and my agents have been really understanding about that.

Plus, I've *always* wanted to do theater in Chicago. Chicago is a big theater town—and, in some ways, I think this city is savvier and smarter than New York. Sometimes, I think it's a little too chic to go to theater in New York these days. I saw Chicago Shakespeare Theater's *Edward II*, and I plan to see [*Gatz*] and *The Seafarer*, with John Mahoney.

**WCT:** You've been talking about feedback. Do you get something from every bit of feedback, whether positive or negative? Some people appreciate positive feedback, but get defensive with the negative.

JD: It's important to measure the positive and the negative. I've said that to friends who get hurt by bad reviews: If you believe the good, then you have to believe the bad. Don't discount them, but measure them.

A review is a piece of entertainment. John Simon, the despicable critic for *The New York Magazine*, [once] said, "I don't write reviews. I write entertainment." That's how he defended his despicable reviews, but there are lines.

If someone says to me, "You're horrible in *Changeling*. I despise you," then they're lumping my performance in with my character. But if someone says, "*Burn Notice* is one of the worst shows on television," I could sit there and defend it or just say, "Alright." I have to measure that—I can't please everyone.

**WCT:** Or you could say, "I didn't want Bruce on the show..."

JD: [*Laughs*] Or "I'm trying to get Gabrielle fired..."

I think the hardest part of acting is the stage, and the hardest part of stage acting is farce. It is so meticulous and exact. That's why farce is very seldom done—because of its difficulty.

**WCT:** And on TV and film, there's always a second take. On stage...

JD: ...there's no hiding. And if you're supposed to be funny and you get no laughs—there's instant feedback for you.

See [www.dontdressfordinner.com](http://www.dontdressfordinner.com).



**Please read Important Safety Information below, and talk to your healthcare professional to learn more about PREZISTA.**

### ABOUT PREZISTA

PREZISTA (darunavir) is a prescription medicine. It is one treatment option in the class of HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) medicines known as protease inhibitors.

PREZISTA is always used with 100 mg ritonavir (Norvir®) in combination with other HIV medicines for the treatment of HIV infection in adults.

- The use of other medicines active against HIV in combination with PREZISTA/ritonavir (Norvir®) may increase the likelihood of your overall treatment response. Your healthcare professional will work with you to find the right combination of other HIV medicines

- The long-term effects of PREZISTA therapy are unknown at this time. It is important that you remain under the care of your healthcare professional

PREZISTA is not approved for the treatment of HIV infection in pediatric patients.

**PREZISTA does not cure HIV infection or AIDS, and does not prevent passing HIV to others.**

### IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

- **PREZISTA, together with Norvir® (ritonavir), has rarely been observed to cause liver problems that may be life-threatening. It was not always clear if PREZISTA caused these liver problems because some patients had other illnesses or were taking other medicines. Your healthcare professional should do blood tests prior to initiating combination treatment including PREZISTA. If you have chronic hepatitis B or C infection, your healthcare professional should check your blood tests more often because you have an increased chance of developing liver problems**

**Talk to your healthcare professional about the signs and symptoms of liver problems. These may include yellowing of your skin or whites of your eyes, dark (tea-colored) urine, pale-colored stools (bowel movements), nausea, vomiting, loss of appetite, or pain, aching or sensitivity on your right side below your ribs**

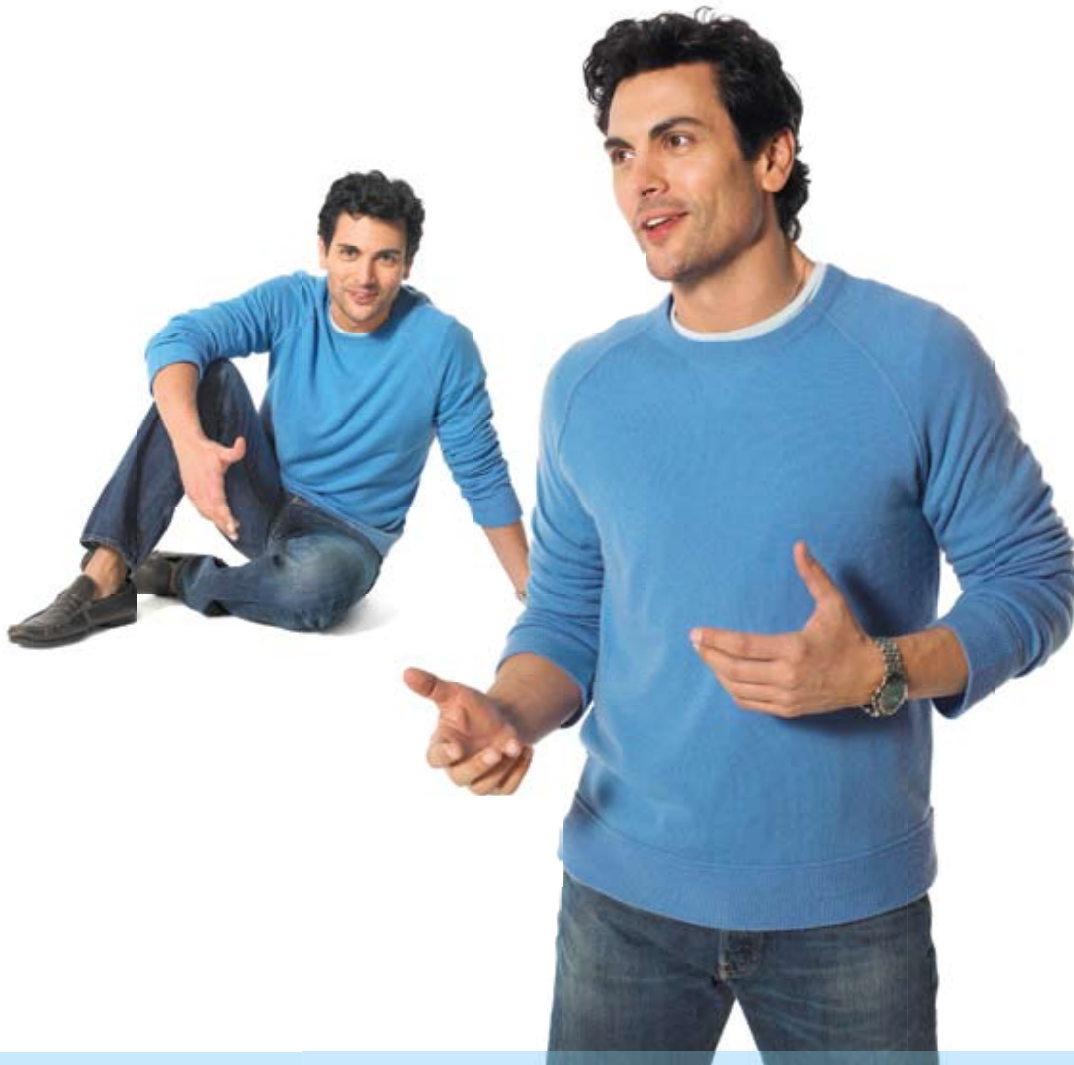
- **Skin rashes have been reported in patients taking PREZISTA. Rarely, PREZISTA has been reported to cause a severe or life-threatening rash. Contact your healthcare professional if you develop a rash**

- **Taking PREZISTA with certain medicines could cause serious and/or life-threatening side effects or may result in loss of its effectiveness. Do not take PREZISTA if you are taking the following medicines:** dihydroergotamine (D.H.E.45®, Migranal®), ergonovine, ergotamine (Wigraine®), Ergostat®, Cafergot®, Ergomar®, methylethylergonovine, cisapride (Propulsid®), pimozone (Orap®), oral midazolam, triazolam (Halcion®), rifampin (Rifadin®, Rifater®, Rifamate®), indinavir (Crixivan®), lopinavir/ritonavir (Kaletra®), saquinavir (Invirase®), lovastatin (Mevacor®), pravastatin (Pravachol®), simvastatin (Zocor®), or products containing St. John's wort

- **Before taking PREZISTA, tell your healthcare professional if you are taking sildenafil (Viagra®), vardenafil (Levitra®), tadalafil (Cialis®), atorvastatin (Lipitor®), atorvastatin/amlodipine (Caduet®), or rosuvastatin (Crestor®). This is not a complete list of medicines. Be sure to tell your healthcare professional about all the medicines you are**

# Belief

{ in myself  
in my doctor  
in my care



PREZISTA now offers **ONCE-DAILY** dosing for adults taking HIV meds for the first time.

PREZISTA must be taken with 100 mg ritonavir (Norvir®) and with food. PREZISTA must be taken in combination with other HIV meds.

Talk to your healthcare professional to see if PREZISTA is right for you.

 **PREZISTA**<sup>®</sup>  
(darunavir) tablets  
**NOW ONCE DAILY**

Please visit [www.PREZISTA.com](http://www.PREZISTA.com)

#### taking or plan to take, including prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements

- Tell your healthcare professional if you are taking estrogen-based contraceptives (birth control). PREZISTA might reduce the effectiveness of estrogen-based contraceptives. You must take additional precautions for birth control, such as condoms
- Before taking PREZISTA, tell your healthcare professional if you have any medical conditions, including allergy to sulfa medicines, diabetes, liver problems (including hepatitis B or C), or hemophilia
- Tell your healthcare professional if you are pregnant or planning to become pregnant, or are breastfeeding
  - The effects of PREZISTA on pregnant women or their unborn babies are not known. You and your healthcare professional will need to decide if taking PREZISTA is right for you
  - Do not breastfeed if you are taking PREZISTA. You should not breastfeed if you have HIV because of the chance of passing HIV to your baby

- High blood sugar, diabetes or worsening of diabetes, and increased bleeding in people with hemophilia have been reported in patients taking protease inhibitor medicines, including PREZISTA
- Changes in body fat have been seen in some patients taking HIV medicines, including PREZISTA. The cause and long-term health effects of these conditions are not known at this time
- As with other protease inhibitors, taking PREZISTA may strengthen the body's immune response, enabling it to begin to fight infections that have been hidden. Patients may experience signs and symptoms of inflammation that can include swelling, tenderness, or redness
- The most common side effects related to taking PREZISTA include diarrhea, nausea, headache, and abdominal pain. Uncommon but severe side effects such as inflammation of the pancreas and increased blood fat levels have also been rarely reported. This is not a complete list of all possible side effects. If you experience these or other symptoms, talk to your healthcare professional. Do not stop taking PREZISTA or any other medicines without first talking to your healthcare professional

- Please refer to the ritonavir (Norvir®) Product Information (PI and PPI) for additional information on precautionary measures

**For adults taking HIV meds for the first time: PREZISTA 800 mg (two 400-mg tablets) must be taken at the same time with 100 mg Norvir® once daily every day. PREZISTA must be taken with food (the type of food is not important).**

**You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA.**

**Visit [www.fda.gov/medwatch](http://www.fda.gov/medwatch) or call 1-800-FDA-1088.**

**Please see Important Patient Information on the next page for more information, or visit [www.PREZISTA.com](http://www.PREZISTA.com).**

## IMPORTANT PATIENT INFORMATION

### FDA-Approved Patient Labeling

### PREZISTA® (darunavir) Tablets

Patient Information about

#### PREZISTA (pre-ZIS-ta)

for HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) Infection

Generic name: darunavir (da-ROO-nuh-veer)

**ALERT: Find out about medicines that should NOT be taken with PREZISTA.** Please also read the section "Who should not take PREZISTA?".

Please read this information before you start taking PREZISTA. Also, read the leaflet each time you renew your prescription, just in case anything has changed. Remember, this leaflet does not take the place of careful discussions with your doctor. You and your doctor should discuss your treatment with PREZISTA prior to the first time you take your medicine and at regular checkups. You should remain under a doctor's care when using PREZISTA and should not change or stop treatment without first talking with a doctor.

### WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION I SHOULD KNOW ABOUT PREZISTA?

PREZISTA, together with NORVIR® (ritonavir), has rarely been observed to cause liver problems which may be life-threatening. It was not always clear if PREZISTA caused these liver problems because some patients had other illnesses or were taking other medicines. Your healthcare professional should do blood tests prior to initiating combination treatment including PREZISTA. If you have chronic hepatitis B or C infection, your healthcare professional should check your blood tests more often because you have an increased chance of developing liver problems. Please also read the section "What are the possible side effects of PREZISTA?".

Rarely, PREZISTA has been reported to cause a severe or life-threatening rash. Contact your healthcare provider if you develop a rash. Your healthcare provider will advise you whether your symptoms can be managed on therapy or whether PREZISTA should be stopped.

### WHAT IS PREZISTA?

**PREZISTA is an oral tablet used for the treatment of HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) infection in adults. HIV is the virus that causes AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome).** PREZISTA is a type of anti-HIV medicine called a protease (PRO-tee-ase) inhibitor.

### HOW DOES PREZISTA WORK?

PREZISTA blocks HIV protease, an enzyme which is needed for HIV to multiply. When used with other anti-HIV medicines, PREZISTA can help to reduce the amount of HIV in your blood (called "viral load") and increase your CD4 (T) cell count. HIV infection destroys CD4 (T) cells, which are important to the immune system. The immune system helps fight infection. Reducing the amount of HIV and increasing the CD4 (T) cell count may improve your immune system and, thus, reduce the risk of death or infections that can happen when your immune system is weak (opportunistic infections).

PREZISTA is always taken with and at the same time as 100 mg of ritonavir (NORVIR®), in combination with other anti-HIV medicines. PREZISTA should also be taken with food.

### DOES PREZISTA CURE HIV OR AIDS?

PREZISTA does **not** cure HIV infection or AIDS. At present, there is no cure for HIV infection. People taking PREZISTA may still develop infections or other conditions associated with HIV infection. Because of this, it is very important for you to remain under the care of a doctor. Although PREZISTA is not a cure for HIV or AIDS, PREZISTA can help reduce your risks of getting illnesses associated with HIV infection (AIDS and opportunistic infection) and eventually dying from these conditions.

### DOES PREZISTA REDUCE THE RISK OF PASSING HIV TO OTHERS?

PREZISTA does **not** reduce the risk of passing HIV to others 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 method to lower the chance of sexual contact with any body fluids such as semen, vaginal secretions, or blood. Never re-use or share needles.

Ask your doctor if you have any questions on how to prevent passing HIV to other people.

### WHAT SHOULD I TELL MY DOCTOR BEFORE I TAKE PREZISTA?

Tell your doctor about all of your medical conditions, including if you:

- are allergic to sulfa medicines.
- have diabetes. In general, anti-HIV medicines, such as PREZISTA, might increase sugar levels in the blood.
- have liver problems, including hepatitis B and/or C.
- have hemophilia. Anti-HIV medicines, such as PREZISTA, might increase the risk of bleeding.
- are pregnant or planning to become pregnant. The effects of PREZISTA on pregnant women or their unborn babies are not known. You and your doctor will need to decide if taking PREZISTA is right for you. If you take PREZISTA while you are pregnant, talk to your doctor about how you can be included in the Antiretroviral Pregnancy Registry.
- are breastfeeding. Do not breastfeed if you are taking PREZISTA. You should not breastfeed if you have HIV because of the chance of passing HIV to your baby. Talk with your doctor about the best way to feed your baby.

### WHO SHOULD NOT TAKE PREZISTA?\*

Together with your doctor, you need to decide whether taking PREZISTA is right for you.

#### Do not take PREZISTA if you:

- are allergic to darunavir or any of the other ingredients in PREZISTA
- are allergic to ritonavir (NORVIR®)
- take any of the following types of medicines because you could experience serious side effects:

Type of Drug	Examples of Generic Names (Brand Names)
Ergot Derivatives (to treat migraine and headaches)	dihydroergotamine (D.H.E. 45®, Migranal®) ergonovine ergotamine (Cafergot®, Ergomar®) methylegonovine cisapride
Gastrointestinal Motility Agent (to treat some digestive conditions)	
Neuroleptic (to treat psychiatric conditions)	pimozide (Orap®)
Sedative/hypnotics (to treat trouble with sleeping and/or anxiety)	oral midazolam triazolam (Halcion®)
Herbal Product	St. John's wort ( <i>Hypericum perforatum</i> )
HMG-CoA Reductase inhibitors (also known as statins) (to lower cholesterol levels)	lovastatin (Mevacor®, Altoprev®, Advicor®) simvastatin (Zocor®, Simcor®, Vytorin®)
Antimycobacterial (to treat tuberculosis or <i>Mycobacterium avium</i> complex)	rifampin (Rifadin®, Rifater®, Rifamate®, Rimactane®)

### CAN PREZISTA BE TAKEN WITH OTHER MEDICATIONS?\*

Tell your doctor about all the medicines you take including prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. PREZISTA and many other medicines can interact. Sometimes serious side effects will happen if PREZISTA is taken with certain other medicines (see "Who should not take PREZISTA?").

Tell your doctor if you are taking estrogen-based contraceptives (birth control). PREZISTA might reduce the effectiveness of estrogen-based contraceptives. You must take additional precautions for birth control such as a condom.

Tell your doctor if you take other anti-HIV medicines. PREZISTA can be combined with some other anti-HIV medicines while other combinations are not recommended.

Tell your doctor if you are taking any of the following medicines:

Type of Drug	Examples of Generic Names (Brand Names)
Antiarrhythmics (to treat abnormal heart rhythms)	bepidil lidocaine (Lidoderm®) quinidine amiodarone (Cordarone®) digoxin (Lanoxin®) flecainide (Tambocor®) propafenone (Rythmol®) warfarin (Coumadin®)
Anticoagulants (to treat and prevent blood clots)	
Anticonvulsants (to treat epilepsy and prevent seizures)	carbamazepine (Tegretol®, Carbatrol®) phenobarbital phenytoin (Dilantin®, Phenytek®)
Antidepressants (to treat depression)	trazodone (Desyrel®) desipramine (Norpramin®) clarithromycin (Biaxin®)
Anti-infectives (to treat bacterial infections)	
Antifungals (to treat fungal infections)	ketconazole (Nizoral®) itraconazole (Sporanox®) voriconazole (Vfend®) rifabutin (Mycobutin®)
Antimycobacterials (to treat tuberculosis or <i>Mycobacterium avium</i> complex)	
β-Blockers (to treat high blood pressure, heart attack, or heart failure or to lower pressure in the eye)	metoprolol (Lopressor®, Toprol-XL®) timolol (Betimol®, Combigan®, Istalol®, Cosopt®, Timoptic®)
Benzodiazepines (to treat anxiety and/or trouble with sleeping)	midazolam administered by injection
Calcium Channel Blockers (to treat heart disease)	felodipine (Plendil®) nifedipine (Adalat®) nicardipine (Cardene®)
Corticosteroids (to treat inflammation or asthma)	dexamethasone fluticasone propionate (Advair Diskus®, Cutivate®, Flonase®, Flovent Diskus®) atorvastatin (Lipitor®) pravastatin (Pravacho®) rosuvastatin (Crestor®)
HMG-CoA Reductase Inhibitors (also known as statins) (to lower cholesterol levels)	
Immunosuppressants (to prevent organ transplant rejection)	cyclosporine (Sandimmune®, Neoral®) tacrolimus (Prograf®) sirolimus (Rapamune®) methadone
Narcotic Analgesics (to treat narcotic withdrawal and dependence)	
Neuroleptics (to treat schizophrenia or bipolar disorder)	risperidone (Risperdal®, Risperdal® Consta®, Risperdal® M-TAB®) thioridazine
PDE-5 Inhibitors (to treat erectile dysfunction)	sildenafil (Viagra®) vardenafil (Levitra®) tadalafil (Cialis®)
Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors (SSRIs) (to treat depression, anxiety, or panic disorder)	paroxetine (Paxil®) sertraline (Zoloft®)

Tell your doctor if you are taking any medicines that you obtained without a prescription.

This is **not** a complete list of medicines that you should tell your doctor that you are taking. Know and keep track of all the medicines you take and have a list of them with you. Show this list to all of your doctors and pharmacists any time you get a new medicine. Both your doctor and your pharmacist can tell you if you can take these other medicines with PREZISTA. Do not start any new medicines while you are taking PREZISTA without first talking with your doctor or pharmacist. You can ask your doctor or pharmacist for a list of medicines that can interact with PREZISTA.

### HOW SHOULD I TAKE PREZISTA?

**Take PREZISTA tablets every day exactly as prescribed by your doctor. You must take ritonavir (NORVIR®) at the same time as PREZISTA.**

- For adults who have never taken anti-HIV medicines, the usual dose is 800 mg (two 400 mg tablets) of PREZISTA, together with 100 mg (one 100 mg capsule) of ritonavir (NORVIR®), once daily *every day*.
- For adults who have taken anti-HIV medicines in the past, the usual dose is 600 mg (one 600 mg tablet or two 300 mg tablets) of PREZISTA, together with 100 mg (one 100 mg capsule) of ritonavir (NORVIR®), twice daily *every day*.

PREZISTA and ritonavir (NORVIR®) should be taken together at the same time every day. If you have questions about when to take PREZISTA and ritonavir (NORVIR®), your doctor can help you decide which schedule works for you.

**Take PREZISTA and ritonavir (NORVIR®) with food.** The type of food is not important. Swallow the whole tablets with a drink such as water or milk. Do not chew the tablets.

Continue taking PREZISTA and ritonavir (NORVIR®) unless your doctor tells you to stop. Take the exact amount of PREZISTA and ritonavir (NORVIR®) that your doctor tells you to take, right from the very start. To help make sure you will benefit from PREZISTA and ritonavir (NORVIR®), you must not skip doses or interrupt therapy. If you don't take PREZISTA and ritonavir (NORVIR®) as prescribed, the beneficial effects of PREZISTA and ritonavir (NORVIR®) may be reduced or even lost.

#### Patients taking 800 mg of PREZISTA once daily

**If you miss a dose of PREZISTA (two 400 mg tablets) or ritonavir (NORVIR®) by more than 12 hours, wait and then take the next dose of PREZISTA (two 400 mg tablets) and ritonavir (NORVIR®) at the regularly scheduled time.** If you miss a dose of PREZISTA (two 400 mg tablets) or ritonavir (NORVIR®) by less than 12 hours, take your missed dose of PREZISTA (two 400 mg tablets) and ritonavir (NORVIR®) immediately. Then take your next dose of PREZISTA (two 400 mg tablets) and ritonavir (NORVIR®) at the regularly scheduled time.

## IMPORTANT PATIENT INFORMATION

### Patients taking 600 mg of PREZISTA twice daily

If you miss a dose of PREZISTA (one 600 mg tablet or two 300 mg tablets) or ritonavir (NORVIR®) by more than 6 hours, wait and then take the next dose of PREZISTA (one 600 mg tablet or two 300 mg tablets) and ritonavir (NORVIR®) at the regularly scheduled time. If you miss a dose of PREZISTA (one 600 mg tablet or two 300 mg tablets) or ritonavir (NORVIR®) by less than 6 hours, take your missed dose of PREZISTA (one 600 mg tablet or two 300 mg tablets) and ritonavir (NORVIR®) immediately. Then take your next dose of PREZISTA (one 600 mg tablet or two 300 mg tablets) and ritonavir (NORVIR®) at the regularly scheduled time.

You should always take PREZISTA and ritonavir (NORVIR®) together with food.

If a dose of PREZISTA or ritonavir (NORVIR®) is skipped, do not double the next dose. Do not take more or less than your prescribed dose of PREZISTA or ritonavir (NORVIR®) at any one time.

### WHAT ARE THE POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF PREZISTA?

Like all prescription drugs, PREZISTA can cause side effects. The following is **not** a complete list of side effects reported with PREZISTA when taken either alone or with other anti-HIV medicines. Do not rely on this leaflet alone for information about side effects. Your doctor can discuss with you a more complete list of side effects.

PREZISTA, together with NORVIR® (ritonavir), has rarely been observed to cause liver problems which may be life-threatening. It was not always clear if PREZISTA caused these liver problems because some patients had other illnesses or were taking other medicines. Your healthcare professional should do blood tests prior to initiating combination treatment including PREZISTA. If you have chronic hepatitis B or C infection, your healthcare professional should check your blood tests more often because you have an increased chance of developing liver problems.

Talk to your healthcare professional about the signs and symptoms of liver problems. These may include yellowing of your skin or whites of your eyes, dark (tea colored) urine, pale colored stools (bowel movements), nausea, vomiting, loss of appetite, or pain, aching or sensitivity on your right side below your ribs.

Rash has been reported in 10.3% of subjects receiving PREZISTA. In some patients, PREZISTA has been reported to cause a severe or life-threatening rash. Contact your healthcare provider if you develop a rash. Your healthcare provider will advise you whether your symptoms can be managed on therapy or whether PREZISTA should be stopped.

Other relevant severe side effects reported at an uncommon or rare frequency were inflammation of the liver or pancreas, increased blood fat levels, diabetes, and changes in body fat.

Some side effects are typical for anti-HIV medicines in the same family as PREZISTA. These are:

- high blood sugar (hyperglycemia) and diabetes. This can happen in patients taking PREZISTA or other protease inhibitor medicines. Some patients have diabetes before starting treatment with PREZISTA which gets worse. Some patients get diabetes during treatment with PREZISTA. Some patients will need changes in their diabetes medicine. Some patients may need new diabetes medicine.
- increased bleeding in patients with hemophilia.
- changes in body fat. These changes can happen in patients taking anti-HIV medicines, including PREZISTA. The changes may include an increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck, breast, and around the back, chest, and stomach area. Loss of fat from the legs, arms, and face may also happen. The exact cause and long-term health effects of these conditions are not known.

- immune reconstitution syndrome. In some patients with advanced HIV infection (AIDS) and a history of opportunistic infection, signs and symptoms of inflammation from previous infections may occur soon after anti-HIV treatment, including PREZISTA, is started. It is believed that these symptoms are due to an improvement in the body's immune response, enabling the body to fight infections that may have been present with no obvious symptoms.

The most common side effects include diarrhea, nausea, headache, and abdominal pain.

Tell your doctor promptly about these or any other unusual symptoms. If the condition persists or worsens, seek medical attention.

### WHAT DO PREZISTA TABLETS LOOK LIKE?

PREZISTA 300 mg tablets are orange, oval-shaped, film-coated tablets mentioning "300" on one side and "TMC114" on the other side.

PREZISTA 400 mg tablets are light orange, oval-shaped, film-coated tablets mentioning "400" on one side and "TMC" on the other side.

PREZISTA 600 mg tablets are orange, oval-shaped, film-coated tablets mentioning "600" on one side and "TMC" on the other side.

### HOW SHOULD I STORE PREZISTA TABLETS?

Store PREZISTA tablets at room temperature (77°F (25°C)). Short-term exposure to higher or lower temperatures [from 59°F (15°C) to 86°F (30°C)] is acceptable. Ask your doctor or pharmacist if you have any questions about storing your tablets.

**This medication is prescribed for your particular condition. Do not use it for any other condition or give it to anybody else. Keep PREZISTA and all of your medicines out of the reach of children. If you suspect that more than the prescribed dose of this medicine has been taken, contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately.**

This leaflet provides a summary of information about PREZISTA. If you have any questions or concerns about either PREZISTA or HIV, talk to your doctor.

For additional information, you may also call Tibotec Therapeutics at 1-877-REACH-TT or 1-877-732-2488.

\*The brands listed are the registered trademarks of their respective owners and are not trademarks of Tibotec Pharmaceuticals, Ltd.



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Tibotec Therapeutics

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Patent Numbers: 5,843,946; 6,248,775; 6,335,460 and other US patents pending

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## THEATER REVIEW

### Faith

Playwright: Nathaniel Wright

At: Sandhill Theatre Company at

Stage 33 Chicago, 3657 N. Kedzie

Phone: 773-648-0583; \$10-\$15

Runs through: Jan. 4

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

Sandhill Theatre Company is one of Chicago's newest acting troupes, making its home in the postage stamp-sized Stage 33 Chicago.

Sandhill's mission to present "Stories from the Midwest" certainly is noble. But pray that this upstart company will find better material for its next show, since its Chicago premiere of Nathaniel Wright's *Faith* is so dire.

*Faith* is described as a semi-autobiographical look at a severely dysfunctional Midwestern evangelical family during the holidays. How dysfunctional, you may ask?

Well, the play opens with a postal worker's corpse at the dinner table. Not long after that, an African-American drag queen in full Carmen Miranda regalia walks into the room.

With such a bizarre opening, we could very well be in the dark-comedy territory of playwright Christopher Durang. But unlike Durang, Wright fails to create a consistent tone that allows you to simultaneously laugh at the mother's severe addiction to antidepressant medications (which Wright presents seriously) or to be horrified by the mass-murderer father whose motives might stem from his self-loathing gay tendencies (presented by Wright with an eye-winking smirk).

With such extreme tonal shifts and characters created as if to fill a diversity quota for conflict, it's no surprise that *Faith* falls apart in director Brandon Hayes' hands. The cramped performance space also doesn't help, since the broad comedy needed to put over much of the play comes off as far too big up close.

As the title character of Faith Armstrong, Sharon Emeigh does her best to emote an evangelical woman's inner turmoil. But since Wright makes Faith so passive and meek, it's hard to



**Faith.** Photo courtesy of the Sandhill Theatre Company

really care about her.

Michael Shepherd looks lovely in his Superman underwear as the gay son Jedediah, but we're not getting much depth or reasoning why he just doesn't run off with his boyfriend, Shawn Jackson (Raymond K. Cleveland as an amusing, if slightly hackneyed, super-sassy drag queen).

Nothing seems to be wrong with Shawn's mother, Delia, so Chezik Smith's performance similarly doesn't register. In contrast, the murderous father seems to receive less stage time than Delia, so actor Daniel Vuillaume never convincingly offers a reason why Dr. John Armstrong would kill 13 people.

Rounding out the cast is Ashlee Hardgrave as the disapproving Catholic mother Josephine Carnaghi. (Hardgrave is funny, if not really age-appropriate for the role.) As the corpse, Charles Wimmer also gets to cavort as a religious apparition.

If *Faith* is trying to make some sort of grand statement on the disintegration of the Midwestern families or on America's tumultuous battles over diversity, you'd be hard pressed to find it in Wright's convoluted and dissatisfying script. Do pray that Sandhill finds a better show about the Midwest next time.

## THEATER REVIEW

### The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde

Playwright: adapted by Frederic Fort

from the novella by Robert Louis Stevenson

At: The Bricklayers at the

Bailiwick Arts Center, 1229 W. Belmont

Phone: 773-655-7325;

free (donations accepted)

Runs through: Dec. 20

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

There are fundamentally two kinds of clown shows: the family-friendly romps featuring child-like buffoonery (e.g., chase-and-tag games), and the darker Guignol satires, peopled by grotesque caricatures engaging in sinister, often violent, activities. In attempting to meld Robert Louis Stevenson's Victorian horror tale with masked *commedia dell'arte*, the Bricklayers ensemble walks an uneven line between the dissimilar stylistic motifs.

The production currently playing at the Bailiwick Arts Center (soon to be renamed by new owners, Theater Wit) originated with *Annibal et ses Elephants*, a French troupe whose artistic director, Frederic Fort, authored the adaptation later translated into English by Bricklayer Kyle Cadotte. The story recounts the familiar tale of the virtuous Dr. Jekyll, whose experiments in human psychology lead to a split in his personality, releasing his alter ego, the loathsome Mr. Hyde.

Medical scenarios are standard repertoire in the clown's catalogue, but we are presented with no hack-and-slash stage business here, no confetti exanguinations or ribbon-streamer dismemberments. The doctor's agony at his transformation is conveyed by moans and cries from his locked laboratory, while his worse half is muffled in a cowed cloak that conceals his terrifying visage, the repugnance he inspires suggested by his eerily-serpentine walking stick. Mr. Utterson, Jekyll's attorney and confidant—who also acts as our narrator—breaks a promise made to a street beggar (with harrowing results), but otherwise mocks his profession with transgressions not nearly so offensive as a shrill-voiced servant's habit of sneezing into the tea tray.

So while children are unlikely to be traumatized by this interpretation—indeed, will probably delight in the false noses and exaggerated maquillages of the principal characters—audiences unaccustomed to the conventions of its genre may take awhile to acclimate to the actors' propensity for delivering all their speeches full-front, a holdover from its roots in Medieval street-fair spectacle. But under Patrick Goulding's direction, the five performers sprint through their nine roles with alacrity and agility (in particular Tabitha Noble as Jekyll's shrewish mother). Oh, and did I mention the songs?

December is the month for huge glittery big-ticket holiday extravaganzas, but a 55-minute indoor frolic charging no admission save the donations of its patrons offers playgoers a welcome break from all the fa-la-la. Or you can make a Saturday double-header of it, along with The Christmas Schooner, playing in the same building.



The Christmas Schooner. Photo courtesy of David Zak

## THEATER REVIEW

# The Christmas Schooner

**Playwright:** music & lyrics by Julie Shannon, book by John Reeger  
**At:** Bailiwick Repertory Theatre at the Bailiwick Arts Center, 1229 W. Belmont  
**Phone:** 773-883-1090; \$20-\$25  
**Runs through:** Jan. 4

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

What a long strange journey it's been! Who knew when this homegrown musical premiered at Bailiwick Repertory in 1995, that in the next 13 years, it would be restaged in maritime cities throughout the Great Lakes region, in landlocked outposts where sailing ships are as exotic as rickshaws (Arizona, Colorado, Texas) and even in seafaring towns across the Atlantic (Bristol—the English one—in 2003).

Part of the answer lies in its historical roots. John Reeger's book recounts the real-life story of the Michigan captain who braved the win-

ter storms in 1882 to bring trees to Chicago's German immigrants, homesick for their tannenbaums. More than this, however, is the manner in which this deed invokes a central theme in American literature—that of the lone individual whose convictions spur him to venture forth on a mission to create a legacy that lives on after his death. And it doesn't hurt that the cast is a veritable catalogue of popular American archetypes: a happily married couple, their dutiful son (whom we meet both in pre-puberty and in adolescence), a wise old grandfather, hearty sailors and sturdy wives.

What distinguishes the 2008 production from its previous incarnations is not only that it marks Bailiwick's farewell to its space on Belmont Avenue (recently purchased by Theater Wit), but that, for the first time, Julie Shannon's intricate score replaces the customary single piano with a five-piece orchestra, placed upstage center (*à la* Black Ensemble's Jimmy Tillman) and led by Jeremy Ramey. This, in turn, pushes the action farther downstage, rendering the words more audible than in recent memory. And though Mary Beidler Gearen's direction sacrifices none of the intimate warmth that made this show what it is today, the escalated volume of the accompani-

ment forces the vocalists to sing in a broader fashion, with a corresponding increase in the dramatic size of their various characters.

But if this almost—dare we say it?—operatic interpretation less resembles the Christmas Schooner we remember, it represents the Christmas Schooner that we are likely to see in 2009—and long thereafter. The voyages of the good ship Molly Doone and the universal appeal inspired by its philanthropic lesson have already delighted holiday audiences in ports as diverse as North Dakota secondary schools, Kansas churches and California resorts. Recall that when the first Christmas vessel finally sank—as even the best of ships will do—others stepped forward to carry on the tradition.

## Dick O'Day/ Sunday School at Royal George

Dick O' Day's Big Lovely Bingo and Sunday School Cinema will run at the Royal George Theatre, 1641 N. Halsted, during the holiday season. The production will take place Sundays at 3 p.m. through Dec. 21.

A ticket for both shows is \$35. Call 312-988-9000, or see [www.dickoday.com](http://www.dickoday.com) or [www.nuns4fun.com](http://www.nuns4fun.com).

## SPOTLIGHT



You could just watch Frank Capra's film classic on a flat TV, or you could experience *It's a Wonderful Life* live with actors performing it as a classic radio play. American Theater Company brings back its acclaimed radio version for its seventh season, complete with old-fashioned radio adverts and sound effects. And don't forget the free milk and cookies served afterwards. **It's a Wonderful Life: The Radio Play** plays 8 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays; 3 and 8 p.m. Saturdays; and 3 p.m. Sundays through Dec. 28 at American Theater Company, 1909 W. Byron. Tickets are \$35-\$40; call 773-409-4125 or visit [www.atcweb.org](http://www.atcweb.org). Photo by Michael Brosilow



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Brother, Can You Spare Some Change? Photo by Bob Knuth

## THEATER REVIEW

# Brother, Can You Spare Some Change?

**Playwright:** The cast, Christina Anthony, Amanda Blake Davis, Tom Flanigan, Laura Grey, Timothy Edward Mason and Andy St. Clair  
**At:** The Second City e.t.c., 1608 N. Wells  
**Phone:** 773-337-3992; \$20-\$25  
**Runs through:** Feb. 28

BY CATEY SULLIVAN

Who had the toughest job in town the second week in December? Not Gov. Rod Blagojevich, despite the staggering (and staggeringly entertaining) charges that prompted him to ask "Is this a joke?" before being hauled out of bed and led off in sweatpants and handcuffs less than 48 hours after the Second City e.t.c. opened its latest revue.

Of course, it was no joke. But while all Blago had to do was come up with a plea, the e.t.c.

cast had to retool its whole show. Thanks to all those bleeping wiretaps, e.t.c.'s Brother, Can You Spare Some Change? was dated two days after it opened.

Based on the Dec. 12 performance—the second after the governor's arrest—the e.t.c. cast still has plenty of work to do. Other than calling the governor a nimrod and singing an ode to Obama that praises the President-elect's magical ability to keep Illinois governors from turning into "lying sacks of shit," e.t.c. does nothing with the comic gold that is Patrick Fitzgerald's greatest hit to date.

That's one disappointment inherent in Brother. It's also a problem that will probably be solved as the production's writers/performers (Christina Anthony, Amanda Blake Davis, Tom Flanigan, Laura Grey, Timothy Edward Mason and Andy St. Clair) keep their collective funny bones pressed to the improv grindstone and crank out more new material.

But there's a second problem with Brother—one that will take more than topical material to solve. This is the rare Second City outing wherein the ensemble never fully clicks. And despite occasional flashes of brilliance, Brother is

disjointed. Worse, it often seems downright serious. The final number, for example, is an earnest anthem that feels more like an Up With People anthem than irreverent comedy. In a similar vein, a monologue about "the Michelle Obama" cocktail falls short because it comes across as a lecture in an anthropological phenomenon—interesting, but not that funny. Also problematic: A sing-a-long lullaby chockablock with language wholly inappropriate for lullabies ("cock, cock, balls, balls, dildo, Robot Sex"). The ditty plays to that lowest common denominator (you know, the frat boy mentality that finds any mention of reproductive organs hilarious.) That might be the point, but it still comes across as obvious and lazy.

Brother isn't without glints of sublime funny business. An opera about Mayor Daley is an instant classic. A bit about a bailout plan for individual families is both hilarious and a jaw-dropping economic revelation.

Even so, director Bruce Pirrie and his cast need to hunker down at the drawing board and come up with some fresh irreverence. It's not like there's any lack of bleeping good material out there.

## South Asian version of Vagina Monologues at Strawdog

Rasaka Theatre Company will present the Chicago premiere of *Yoni Ki Baat*—a South Asian-focused event loosely inspired by Eve Ensler's *The Vagina Monologues*—at Strawdog Theatre, 3829 N. Broadway, Jan. 4-Feb. 1, 2009.

The show will include six new monologues by local writers, including ensemble members Anita Chandwaney and Mary Anne Mohanraj. Tickets are \$10-\$20; call 312-777-1070 or visit [www.strawdog.org](http://www.strawdog.org).

## CRITICS' PICS

**A Christmas Carol**, Goodman Theatre, through Dec. 31. Nobody utters the word "bailout," but Dickens' humanitarian fable hits close to home at a time when many people (some of whom *you* might know) see a veritable feast in the Cratchits' meager dinner. MSB

**Grey Gardens**, Northlight Theatre, through Dec. 28. Hollis Resnik's performance is a must-see in this unusual, highly acerbic musical portrait of mother and daughter Big Edie and Little Edie Beale, based on the 1975 documentary film about Jackie O's relatives. JA

**Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol**, Theatre Wit, through Jan. 3. Tom Mula deserves a Best Ensemble Jeff Award for his one-man show about the ultimate fate of Jacob Marley. A storyteller of glorious gifts, Mula makes it impossible to leave the theater without feeling joyously hopeful about the fate of humankind. CS

**Porgy and Bess**, Lyric Opera of Chicago, through Dec. 20. Consider yourself lucky if you have tickets to George Gershwin's great American opera. Not only is Francesca Zambello's production marvelously sung and acted, but *Porgy and Bess* is virtually sold out. SCM

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge, Morgan and Sullivan

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## TELEVISION

## Paging Dr. Bowers: Talking about Sex Change Hospital

Dr. Marci Bowers (left) has performed over 100 gender-reassignment surgeries in the "sex-change capital of the world": Trinidad, Colo. In addition, she is featured in the documentary drama *Sex Change Hospital* on WeTV. Read the exclusive online interview at [www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com](http://www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com) and find out what Bowers has to say about several topics, including the intricacies of those operations.

## KNIGHT AT THE MOVIES



## The Wrestler; Seven Pounds

BY RICHARD KNIGHT, JR.

Before I Forget—a French film written and directed by Jacques Nolot (who also starred in it) was my favorite gay-themed movie last year. The film deals with the reduced circumstances of an aging, 58-year-old gay ex-hustler entering his autumn years without a smidgen of regret or sentimentality (it's out on DVD from Strand Releasing and is a must see). Now Mickey Rourke, bad boy star of the 1980s (remember how many different ways he bedded Kim Basinger in 9 1/2 Weeks?) and more recently a tabloid darling (thanks to his public scrapes and many plastic surgeries) is back in *The Wrestler*, a rich character study from director Darren Aronofsky that, in many ways, mirrors Nolot's film.

Like Pierre, Nolot's character in *Before I Forget*, Rourke plays a man who has been venerated for his physical attributes. But unlike Pierre, who has learned to leave the past adoration behind thanks to a healthy dose of cynicism, Randy "The Ram" Robinson hasn't a clue how to walk away from the intense hothouse of professional wrestling that has given him everything publicly and left him with nothing personally. As the film opens, Rourke has been reduced to random matches on the indie wrestling circuit. He's still a big enough draw to headline these small town events and enough of a pro to give the fans a show. But the money's not good enough to keep up with his bills, even with a part time job at a grocery store. Divorced, estranged from his daughter, who he discovers is a lesbian (a bitter, humorless Evan Rachel Wood), and alone, Randy reaches out to another aging loner, Cassidy (Marisa Tomei), a stripper who seems open to having a relationship with Randy beyond the occasional lap dance and barfly talk.

Then one night after a particularly bruising match, Randy suffers a heart attack and is forced to have heart surgery. The surgeon warns him that any undue strain will kill him so Randy retires and attempts to repair the relationship with his daughter and move things forward with Cassidy. But will The Ram, who only really seems to come alive in the ring, truly be able to retire especially when a lucrative rematch with a former opponent offers a chance to return to glory, at least temporarily?

The movie follows the all-too familiar theme of the once glorious career of the lead character now in tatters thanks to mounds of egomaniacal behavior (movies as diverse as *I'll Cry Tomorrow* and *La Vie en Rose* have followed this same path) but Aronofsky's film (working with the script by Robert D. Siegel) captures the gritty existence the characters inhabit which gives the film a tawdry realism and helps elevate it. As does Rourke's intensely emotional performance. With his shoulder length, rat tail blonde hair, collagen plumped lips and muscular carcass, and his eyes—mostly filled with pain and loneliness—Rourke is a wonder to behold. The scene in which he awkwardly attempts to hand the daughter a gift is beautifully played by both Rourke and Wood, as is the scene in which Rourke and Tomei have gone shopping for the gift in a second hand store.

There's also the lurid fascination of watching Rourke play a character that we imagine hits rather close to home. The actor is winning kudos for this "daring" feat—something of a last shot at fame; a comeback role that sentimental filmgoers will find oddly endearing. This is where Rourke and Aronofsky's film part company with Nolot's *Before I Forget*. Compelling and watchable as *The Wrestler* is, it's also as sodden and emotionally awash in sentimentality as the girliest chick flick. It's not going too far to say that with a gender reversal, this is a part that Susan Hayward would have killed for.

Will Smith, like many great movie stars, is a true acting schizophrenic. The Will Smith that I love—the great movie personality who has headlined blockbusters like *I Am Legend*, *Men in Black* and *Independence Day*—is nowhere to be found in his latest movie, *Seven Pounds*. Like his last venture into Acting Land, *The Pursuit of Happyness*, Smith's new movie presents him in *Serious Actor Mode* and though he pouts, glowers, has moo cow eyes, and sobs beautifully on cue, he isn't enough of an actor to give you anything beyond the surface. Without his patented blitz of energy, his contagious, cocky enthusiasm and confidence, Smith simply disappears onscreen for me, making *Seven Pounds* a very long haul indeed.

It's a movie about death and taxes (yes, really), a phony baloney tearjerker in which Smith portrays a man who plays at being a sort of friendly angel of death. It's one of those "noble" dramas that movie stars love (and oftentimes audiences, too); filled with characters heavy with the weight of regret. The use of metaphor throughout is smothering—Smith fixes Rosario Dawson's old printing press but he can't repair her heart, the rain snuffs out the candles which signals the end of hope and a potential romance, a slightly out of tune piano sounds on the soundtrack cuing the audience to get out their hankies, etc.

To give away any more secrets of *Seven Pounds*, be it either the farfetched, calculated plot or the meaning of its banal title would be to spoil the picture for those who still like a healthy dose of hyper emotionalism in their movies. So I will leave you to your own devices, tissue in hand, and simply sit here quietly waiting for the exuberant, alien butt kicking Smith to return.

Check out my archived reviews and Knight at Home at the Movies column for DVD recommendations at [www.windycitytimes.com](http://www.windycitytimes.com) or [www.knightatthemovies.com](http://www.knightatthemovies.com). Readers can leave feedback at the latter Web site.

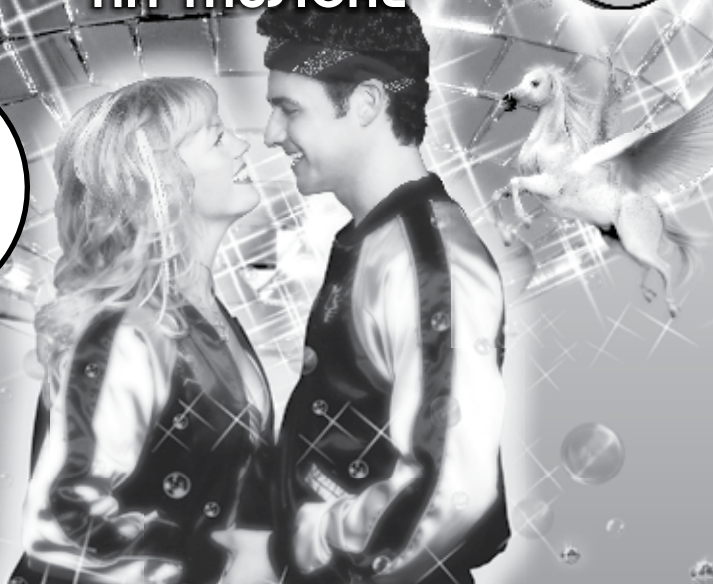
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Missy Higgins. Photo courtesy of Warner Bros.

## MUSIC

## Missy Higgins: On the move

BY SAM WORLEY

When I talked to Missy Higgins, she was in a car on the way to Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport. From there she'll fly to Minneapolis, and from there to Chicago: In fact, she sounds to be constantly *en route* to somewhere or another. "I don't feel like I've been living anywhere," she confessed.

And it's true—it has been a busy couple of years for Higgins, the Australian singer-songwriter who recently moved, burgeoning career in tow, to Los Angeles. Her second album, *On a Clear Night*, was released in the U.S. to enthusiastic reviews in February 2008. Produced by Mitchell Froom (Crowded House, Elvis Costello), the album was recorded in California in late 2006 and includes the singles "Where I Stood," "Steer," and "Peachy." Though Higgins is not on tour currently, she travels frequently for publicity, appearing on local radio and television shows around the country (she was briefly in Chicago last Friday for an appearance on WTMX).

Higgins, 25, first gained public acclaim after winning the Australian radio songwriting contest Triple J Unearthed as a teenager. Though the prize was Higgins' ticket to fame, it was by no means her first exposure to public performance. At 13, she joined her older brother's band as a vocalist, performing standards to audiences in her hometown of Melbourne. She trained on the piano from an early age, and comes from a musical family: with her father playing the piano constantly, she says, she has "fond memories of always hearing piano wafting through the house." She started writing songs at 14.

Following a steady rise to fame in Australia—and after winning an armful of ARIAs, Australia's equivalent to the Grammy—Higgins made the decision to leave for a while, relocating to Los Angeles at the end of 2007. Though a temporary venture—she imagines she'll end up back in Australia eventually—it was a logical move at an important moment in her career. LA is the headquarters of Higgins' label, Warner Brothers, and a center of musical activity: though LA is "a bit non-stop," she says, "it's nice to be around that kind of creativity." Her campaign to gain widespread exposure among American audiences appears to be paying off: her single "Where I Stood" was featured on the television series *Grey's Anatomy* and *Smallville*, as well as the reality show *So You Think You Can Dance*.

Higgins, who once famously identified herself in an interview as "not-so-straight," says that she writes songs with an audience of one in mind: Missy Higgins. She is "most honest" when writing for herself, she says, but prefers to keep lyrics, as well as pronouns, vague (she once identified herself as "not a lesbian," either). "Some things you have to keep to yourself," she says. "I like people to be able to interpret my songs as something they're able to relate to ... [I want] gay and straight people to be able to

relate to my songs."

Higgins' songs explore the usual themes—love and loneliness, restlessness and heartbreak—with an unusual fluidity, accentuated by her broad and lovely voice. And her lyrics, often written in the second-person, are as curious about others as they are introspective. "I tend to write a lot about people," she says, "I really enjoy trying to work out what's going on in somebody's head." In "Going North," for instance, she sings, "I want to know where the children would go/If they never learned to be cool."

The resistance to social pressure that is a theme of her lyrics is indicative: Higgins is involved in a number of political and environmental causes, and performed last year in Live Earth Sydney (Rolling Stone cited Higgins' performance of the song "From Little Things Big Things Grow," with Kev Carmody, Paul Kelly, and John Butler, as a highlight of the event). Her last tour was carbon-neutral, using green energy and hybrid vehicles where possible and buying carbon offsets to compensate for further energy usage.

Currently, Higgins is involved with the "Save the Kimberley" movement in Australia, an effort to prevent mining and gas drilling in what she calls "the most beautiful place on earth" on the west coast of Australia (Higgins says that a forthcoming YouTube video will feature her speaking about the Kimberley movement). A vegetarian, she has also worked with People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) to highlight animal rights issues.

Higgins confesses that she is ready to take some time off, from songwriting as well as performing, both of which she has been doing since she was a teenager—"put it on the back burner," she says. "A lot of people take a break after their second album." She has few plans for her time off, simply something in the realm of "spending time with family and friends."

Still, Higgins says, "I need to get a bit of life experience so I'll have some stuff to write about"—which seems like a characteristically clear-eyed perspective on the competing demands of a life in music, on the one hand, and a life, on the other. For now, she says, she is "taking every day as it comes." We talk for a moment about the weather in Minneapolis, and the weather in Chicago (none of it looks promising) and she is off—another song to play, another flight to catch.

**Listen to Amy Matheny's interview with Missy on Windy City Queercast, show #271, coming later this week. [www.WindyCityQueercast.com](http://www.WindyCityQueercast.com)**

## Entertainment news

To coincide with Staying Alive's 10th anniversary on World AIDS Day, Dec. 1, **MTV Networks International announced the appointment of Gym Class Heroes lead singer Travis McCoy as its new 2009 ambassador.** McCoy joins other singers such as Beyonce, Justin Timberlake and Mary J. Blige, who have also lent their names to promote Staying Alive, MTV's global campaign dedicated to HIV and AIDS issues.

**Pin-up legend Bettie Page has died of pneumonia in Los Angeles at the age of 85,** according to CNN.com. Her modeling breakthrough occurred in 1947 and was featured in *Playboy's* January 1955 issue; her smile, black bangs and fetish/bondage photos became her trademarks. She left the scene in 1958, revealing decades later that she underwent a religious conversion and had relocated to Florida.

**Katy Perry, the Indigo Girls and Uh Huh Her** are the scheduled headliners for the continuous lesbian-themed party known as The Dinah 2009, which will take place in Palm Springs, Calif., April 1-5. Tickets will go on sale Jan. 1; see [www.thedinah.com](http://www.thedinah.com).

## MUSIC

## Cathy Richardson: Somebody to love

BY LISA TOREM

Singer-songwriter Cathy Richardson performs with grace—like a sleight-of-hand Houdini. Richardson can extract blues licks from a blues-harp, slam-dunk a tambourine against her hip during a classic folk tune—then subtly squeezes the melodic pulp from White Rabbit, Jefferson Airplane's classic-rock hit. She has just finished performing three sold-out shows before a brood of loyal fans who came to see her play with the Jefferson Starship Band at Heartland Café Oct. 21.

Richardson's half-whiskey, half-honey vocals still the nostalgia-driven crowd. Once more, she switches gears—acoustic guitar drones against her chilling, super-sized range. Wow. She straddles the stage adjacent a fiery, fiddle-player.

As lead vocalist of the Cathy Richardson band, she has played the quintessential honkey-tonk haunts time and time again, but has also taken detours through uncharted musical cul-de-sacs.

Richardson co-starred in *Love, Janis*—a tribute to '60s icon Janis Joplin that was developed in Chicago in 1999, then went off-Broadway and to San Francisco. Once in San Francisco, she actually met up with Big Brother and The Holding Company band members (Janis Joplin's back-up band), who shared their memories of touring with Joplin.

Ultimately, she toured with them and shortly thereafter the band opened for Jefferson Starship. The band has toured throughout the United Kingdom and will tour Japan and Australia this winter.

Richardson, raised in the Chicago area, talked candidly about her foray into the music industry, her love of songwriting and her perception of the San Francisco music scene (where she now lives).

**Lisa Torem: What's your relationship with the Chicago area?**

Cathy Richardson: I grew up in Burr Ridge and lived in Elmhurst for about 10 years. Still have a house there. I've been living in San Francisco for a couple of years.

**LT: How did you develop your vocal style?**

CR: Grew up listening to classic rock, sang in the choir, but still mostly interested in rock 'n' roll. My heroes were the group Heart and singers Nancy Wilson, Janis Joplin and Grace Slick. I looked up to them a lot. I wanted to emulate what they were doing—not copy them, but [*emphatically*] "I want to *do* that, I want to *be* that."

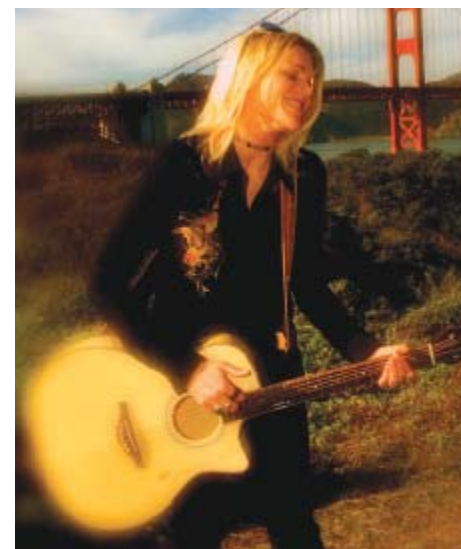
**LT: Sounds like you've done that! How does it feel to portray Janis Joplin and to work with her original band?**

CR: Yeh—I was in that play, *Love, Janis*. We ended up taking it off-Broadway in New York. Opened in 2001—happened during Sept. 11. That was just a crazy, weird time. Managed to stay open during that time. Almost ran for two years. Then I lived here [Chicago]. Had my band here. Made records. Played a lot of gigs.

Two years ago, *Love, Janis* opened in San Francisco. I love San Francisco. Just loved that whole scene. Seemed like the perfect place to do the show—after all the work I did developing the Janis character. ... It really meant something to take it back where people actually knew her.

Everybody has an idea of who she was, and what she was about. People who really knew her were in San Francisco—at least during that time that she was a rock star.

Big Brother and The Holding Company—they all came to the show—it was really an amazing experience. They embraced me, took me in, they had me over—told me stories—showed me pictures. I just decided to stay there and that's when last year BB and the Holding Company asked me to go on tour singing with them. That



Cathy Richardson.

was a lot of fun. We were opening for Jefferson Starship on that tour and that's how I met them.

They asked me if I wanted to come on board. This year we made a new record. We're touring all over the place: Europe twice this year [and] going to Japan in December. All kinds of venues—large and small. [*Looking around*] This is one of the smaller ones. But, it's still really fun. It freaks people out to see a big band in a small, tiny place.

**LT: Freakier to you or the audience?**

CR: [*Laughs*] I'm used to it.

**LT: You have such a flexible vocal and performance range—switching effortlessly between a sweet ballad and hard rock. How do you prepare yourself mentally to switch gears in front of an audience like that?**

CR: I really try to stay right in the moment. Don't think too much about it in advance. That's one of the things I learned from Janis. I think that was definitely something she strived for—to be completely in the moment—open to whatever spirit that is that works through us when we get in that zone.

**LT: That's very spiritual. Tell me about your favorite song—that you've written.**

CR: [*Laughs*] Oh, boy. I don't have a favorite one. But, I think [the song] *Things Are Different*. So hard to talk about your own stuff and toot your own horn because we're taught to be modest, but at the same time when you're an entertainer you're trying to explain what it is you're doing—requires some kind of 'get it out there' attitude.

Composition-wise, it's a very, strong song. Very personal and emotional. It's kind of a song about loss and that life is a series of changes. [I was] dealing with that a lot at that time of my life. That song hits home for me a lot.

Then there's my song *Two Questions*, where I just repeat the same two questions over and over again. Each time it builds with intensity. People say, "You're saying the same words over and over." [*Laughs*] Yes, that's the point.

**LT: Can I guess your favorite musical era?**

CR: [*Laughs*] Definitely would be "the summer of love"—'60s bands. Like '60s San Francisco scene. I like a lot of '70s music, too. Used to be much more of a musical snob. Then I realized it's such a ridiculous thing. It's just music. Everything's valid for its own reason. Everything deserves to exist.

I really love the '90s, too. I was part of a real '90s scene that was happening in Chicago. Don't know about the scene, now, but at that time in the mid-'90s—[*Laughs*] boy, we had fun.

**LT: If you weren't a singer...**

CR: I really don't know. I'd like to do graphic arts. Maybe I would do something like that.

**Read the entire interview with Cathy Richardson at [www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com](http://www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com).**

# WHAT TO DO?

## Wednesday, Dec. 17

**4 Women Only** - Hosted by Kat Fitzgerald (folk/rock) dedicated to new women artists. Free or \$10 donation: Uncommon Ground Devon, 1401 W. Devon Ave. 773-465-9801

**A Very Neo-Futurist Christmas Carol**, evening shows added: Dec. 17, 22 and 23 at 8 p.m. **Sunday matinee added Dec. 21 at 2:00 p.m.** 5153 N. Ashland www.neofuturists.org or 773-275-5255.

**Cocktail fundraiser for Sara Feigenholtz**, running for Congress to replace Rahm Emanuel, 6 to 8 p.m. Cocktail, 3359 N. Halsted, \$50 purchase at: www.actblue.com/page/cocktailivent

**Come Out for Change, A Gay-la For Charity** with an all LGBT line up including Cameron Esposito; Bill Cruz; Seth Dodson (winner of Impress These Apes, season 3); Sketch Group: The Alliance; Ben Lerman and a surprise headliner. Hosted by Allison Leber, 9 p.m., \$10. The Lincoln Lodge 4008 N Lincoln Ave. Ticket info to come.

**Bailiwick Theater, Farewell to 1229:** Fifteen Years of Great Musicals From POPE JOAN to HUNCHBACK. Food and cash bar in the lobby, 6 p.m.. Special music selections from the Bailiwick's most memorable shows, 7:15p.m.. 9 p.m. cross the street to Joey's Brickhouse for an open mic of backstage stories. VIP tickets include reserved seating and program recognition, \$75. General admission, \$50. 773 883 1090 or order on-line at www.bailiwick.org.

**David Bowie Christmas Special 1977** (Network Edit), Last night 10:30 p.m., \$15, National Pastime Theater, 4139 N. Broadway 312-458-9083. www.nmtchicago.org/news.htm#3, 1/2 Price Tickets Available At www.goldstar.com

**Log Cabin Republicans Illinois**, annual holiday party, USO "Support the Troops" Collection Drive and Roe Cnn of WLS 890AM will be the celebrity guest, \$35, 7-10 p.m. Erie Cafe, 536 W. Erie, RSVP to chicago@logcabin.org or call 312-497-1110. www.logcabin.org/lrchicago

**Tamale Presents: Family Tied Comedy Show:** If your family is driving you nuts this season, come by and share some laughs with the hottest queer

women in Chicago! Door 6:30, show 7 p.m., Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted, www.centeronhalsted.org

## Thursday, Dec. 18

**Around the Coyote Presents:** Third Thursday Reading Series, Brewed: the task is stirring a pot, all day, every day till one of the sisters brings her new girlfriend and old venom bubbles up. 7:30pm, \$5 donation. 1935 1/2 W. North Ave. 773-342-6777, anne@aroundthecoyote.org

**His Stuff and the Kit Kat Lounge & Supper Club Merry and Bright Party!** 7 to 9 p.m. Free and 10% of sales from the evening will benefit Chicago House. His Stuff is located at 3162 North Broadway. www.hisstuffchicago.com

## Friday, Dec. 19

**It's A Wonderful Life**, classic holiday movie, special guest host Karolyn Grimes who played Jimmy Stewart's Daughter ZuZu Bailey and said: "Every time a bell rings, an angel gets his wings!" 4:30, 7:00 & 9:30 Hollywood Blvd. Cinema, 1001 W 75th St. Woodridge, www.atriptothemovies.com

## Saturday, Dec. 20

**Women & Children First Books** Sappho's Salon Solstice Soiree and Holiday Sing-a-Long: A Provocative Night of Lesbian Diversions Co-sponsored by Early to Bed (www.early2bed.com) Featuring Aerin Tedesco, Andrea Bunch, and the Women's Acoustic Assemble from the Old Town School of Folk Music, plus DJ SpinNikki and special guest appearance by Ms. Bea Haven as Sexy. Ms. Santa! \$7-\$10 sliding fee includes food and wine. 5233 N. Clark St. www.womenandchildrenfirst.com

**New Spirit Community Church** will host a benefit with Blacke Velvet and Mr. Munro. Tickets are \$15 with a winter-wear donation. 542 Scofield, Oak Park; e-mail ETEvents@yahoo.com.

## Sunday, Dec. 21

**ALMA Annual Holiday Brunch & Toy Drive** Ole Lounge Chicago, noon, 2812 N. Lincoln; 773-66-0926

**Women of the Western Suburbs** meeting in Bartlett, 2-5 p.m. White elephant gift exchange and Potluck. Please rsvp 847-622-4327

## Friday, Dec. 26

**Celebrate Chanukah at Or Chadash**, starting with a latke and chicken pot luck dinner, 7 p.m. Hanukiat/Menorah candles and Shabbat service, 8 p.m.. Bring your menorahs and light up the night. 773-271-2148, office@OrChadash.org or www.OrChadash.org

## Monday, Dec. 29

**Ham Bingo** comedic evening of drag queen Bingo, benefits Center on Halsted, 10 p.m., Hamburger Mary's, 5400 N. Clark. www.centeronhalsted.org

## Tuesday, Dec. 30

**In Motion: Empowerment for Holiday Stress**, group coaching for LGBT/A people experiencing stressed family relationships this season. Living Well Ministries, 6554 N. Rockwell. 7:30-9 p.m. Pre-registration required. Cost: \$25/week.

## Thursday, Jan. 1

**Newtown Writers**, GLBT writing workshop, 7:30 p.m., Gerber-Hart Library, 1127 Granville.

## Sunday, Jan. 4

**One of a Kind Show and Sale**, popular holiday shopping show and fine art and craft festival, offers opportunity to buy one-of-a-kind handmade creations, and a variety of special events and amenities. Thru Dec. 7 800-677-6278 or www.oneofakindshow.com

## Friday, Jan. 9

**Leather Archives & Museum** last day of "ask", a mixed medium exhibition celebrates the mask and its ability to transform its wearer into dual persona of subject/object. 6418 N. Greenview Ave. 773-761-9200 www.leather-archives.org

## Saturday, Jan. 10

**Windy City Media Group Gays Got Talent Semi-Finals** contest (dance, comedy, magic, impersonation, drag, burlesque, music and more). 3 p.m. door, 5 p.m. start, \$5 cover, Sidetrack, 3349 N. Halsted

## Tuesday, Jan. 20

**Coalition for Justice and Respect** A celebration of the inauguration of Barack Obama as President. Bus leaves Chicago for Washington D.C. on Jan. 19 at 4 p.m., \$350/person, RSVP to cjr.chicago@gmail.com or call 773-559-1751

## Thursday, Jan. 22

**Center on Halsted singOUT Lecture Series 2008-09** a new collaboration with Lyric Opera of Chicago. Patricia Racette, soprano. Tix \$10. 7p.m. Hoover-Leppen Theatre, Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted Street. Purchase online: www.centeronhalsted.org/singout.html

## Saturday, Jan. 24

**Windy City Media Group Gays Got Talent contest finals** (dance, comedy, magic, impersonation, drag, burlesque, music and more). 3 p.m. door, 5 p.m. start, \$5 cover, Sidetrack, 3349 N. Halsted

## Friday, Jan. 30

**Touche 2009 Mr. Chicago Leather Contest.** Full weekend events, including the contest (10 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 31). Contest application and details at www.chicagoleather.org.

## Thursday, Feb. 5

**The 8th Annual Freedom To Marry Reception** 6 to 9 p.m. National Museum of Mexican Art, 1852 West 19th Street. Info to come from Lambda Legal.

## Saturday, Feb. 7

**Equality Illinois "Justice for All" gala**, Hilton Chicago, 720 S. Michigan. Information to come.

## Wed., Dec. 17



### SARA SMILE

State Rep. Sara Feigenholtz will host a fundraiser involving her race for Rahm Emanuel's 5th Congressional District seat at Cocktail, 3359 N. Halsted.

## Fri., Dec. 19



### THAT'S 'LIFE'

It's a Wonderful Life will be shown at the Hollywood Blvd. Cinema, 1001 W. 75th, Woodridge.

See our online calendar: [www.windycitymediagroup.com/calendar](http://www.windycitymediagroup.com/calendar)



## Holidays with Hilfiger

Clothing designer Tommy Hilfiger stopped by Macy's, 111 N. State, last month to mark the holidays with shoppers. Chicago Mayor Richard Daley and Macy's, Inc., CEO/Chairman of the Board Terry Lundgren were also on hand. Photos by Kat Fitzgerald; see more at [www.MysticImagesPhotography.com](http://www.MysticImagesPhotography.com)

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Uffe Elbaek.

## SPORTS

## Gay Games and Outgames organizers help each other

BY ROSS FORMAN

Any bitter emotions still lingering from 2006, when the inaugural Outgames was held in Montreal about a week after Gay Games VII concluded in Chicago, are just that: history. So say organizers for the 2009 Outgames in Copenhagen, Denmark, and the 2010 Gay Games in Cologne, Germany.

In fact, organizers for both LGBT sports and cultural events are talking regularly to strengthen each event—and each wants the other to be a success. The Outgames is even offering the Gay Games a platform to promote its event next summer in Denmark.

"I think the attitude between the people on the ground, so to speak, in Copenhagen and Cologne is that we see each other as professional colleagues," said Uffe Elbaek, CEO for the Outgames. "I totally respect the Gay Games' ambitions and only hope the best for the people in Cologne, that they are able to pull together a truly outstanding event in 2010."

Said Joachem Faerber, Director of Marketing in Cologne for the Gay Games: "Bringing people together through sports, which both the Gay Games and the Outgames is ... so we are supporting them."

"Operationally, we have a really good relationship with them. Especially since we know that clients attending the Outgames are our potential clients, too."

The events were bitter rivals in 2006, each battling for bragging rights as the year's top LGBT sporting event. Organizers in 2006 were, no doubt, not talking to one another or sharing suggestions, as is the current situation.

"I totally understand why there were a lot of very strong emotions regarding both events in 2006. And I only can think to compare it with a divorce. A child in a divorce situation might think, 'Do I go with my father or my mother?'" Elbaek explained. "Well, we don't think the

global LGBT community should have to decide to go to one event or the other; hopefully they will go to both, and have incredible experiences at both."

Organizers for both events talk regularly by phone and also have sit-down meetings when they are together at other LGBT sporting events, as happened this summer at the Euro Games in Barcelona, Spain.

"We're sharing professional information as you do as business colleagues. It's been an ongoing good dialogue between the two offices," Elbaek said.

Elbaek confirmed that the Outgames have been in discussion with officials at the Federation of Gay Games to even run a workshop next summer in Copenhagen.

Faerber said the Gay Games will decide its plans for 2009 by the end of 2008.

"The only reason we're doing this event is to strengthen the LGBT community, for its long-term success," Elbaek said. "We want to heal any wounds that were there in 2006. We should honor what we have in common, and respect the differences."

Online registration for the 2010 Gay Games kicked off this fall, and organizers predict 500 will register by the end of 2008 during the Early Bird registration period, with the goal of 12,000 registrants come 2010. About 150 of those 500 will be from the U.S., organizers predicted.

Those who register in 2008 will save 25 Euros (approx \$32 U.S.) on individual Gay Games registration, a savings of almost 20 percent for most athletes. Gay Games registration is a base fee of 100 Euros plus a sport or cultural event fee of an additional 40 to 100 Euros. After December 31, 2008, the base fee goes up to 125 Euros; the sport and cultural event fees will not change.

A countdown clock to the 2010 Games has been hung publicly in Cologne.

"We are now really increasing our visibility within the community, in Germany, in Europe and worldwide," Faerber said.

## Qrew Chicago wants new name

Qrew Chicago, an all-inclusive rowing (or "crew") organization, is asking the community for help in finding a new name.

People are apparently having trouble with its name. Qrew Chicago President Scott Curcio said, "It's witty and catchy, but as we grow, we continue to realize that our name is difficult to pronounce and comprehend among the greater rowing community." Also, the organization feels that the "Q" puts a limit on the identity of its diverse group of rowers.

Name and logo ideas should be sent to membership@qrewchicago.org through Saturday, Jan. 10.

## LEADERS from page 6

Campaign in 1993 as the first term of President Bill Clinton began. That's when the LGBT leadership put repeal of the military's policy excluding gays at the top of its wish list for the new administration only to watch conservative forces hijack the issue to undermine the new president's clout and codify the ban. The community's focus back then, said McFeeley, should have been AIDS, not the military.

This time, said McFeeley, in an interview with this reporter, "We should decide our own priorities."

"We shouldn't always be playing defense in [the right-wing contingent's] game."

Another difference this time around, said McFeeley, is the size of the LGBT community's pool of leaders. In 1993, he said, "there were maybe 300" LGBT people actively seeking appointments to the Clinton administration. This year, the Gay & Lesbian Leadership Institute has reported more than 1,300 applications for its presidential appointments project.

"Appointments should be our first focus," said Jay Fiset, a conference attendee and elected official from Arlington, Va. "We need to be at the table" in the Obama administration. Having openly gay appointees, he said, "gives us a voice to the administration and keeps us informed about LGBT issues in the administration."

During the conference, more reports were being circulated about who might be in a position for a major appointment. Among those mentioned were longtime gay Democratic activist and businessman Fred Hochberg (for administrator of the Small Business Administration) and National Zoo Director John Berry (as Secretary of the Interior).

There was discussion, too, of the changes occurring in the LGBT political landscape. Conference were presented with the results of the summary of a Harris Interactive poll survey of adults conducted in mid-November and released Dec. 3. The summary found that only 1 percent of 2,008 people surveyed in mid-November considered "gay and lesbian issues" to be the "most important issue facing America," but 19 percent said their feelings towards gay and lesbians had grown "more favorable" during the past five years.

Meanwhile, some non-LGBT related issues emerged in discussions even though they weren't explicitly on the conference agenda. A front-page story in The Washington Blade, distributed at the conference, reported that there has been a significant decrease in funding for national gay political and legal organizations, with significant repercussions. Lambda Legal Defense, the largest national gay legal group, reportedly cut 10 employees—or 10 percent of its staff—last month. The Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation cut nearly that many and NGLTF has not moved to fill any of its recent vacancies.

GLAAD Executive Director Neil Giuliano told this reporter that contributions from both middle income donors and "big rollers" have dropped off in reaction to the nation's economic slowdown.

And California's Proposition 8—a ballot initiative passed Nov. 4 that amends the state constitution to ban same-sex marriage—was mullered over in nearly every panel. Some participants, such as Gill Action Fund National Political Director Bill Smith, said it was wrong to blame the passage of Proposition 8 on African-American voters, as some news reports have suggested. Instead, he said, the effort to defeat the measure was crippled by "trying to do multi-year work in a short-term campaign."

California State Assemblymember John Perez agreed, saying the loss could be faulted at least in part on the LGBT community's failure to "invest in building real relationships with communities of color."

A number of speakers at the conference said they feel that, while same-sex marriage has become a major focus of the LGBT movement because the anti-gay movement considers it their

best battleground.

"Marriage is at the outer end of what we can do with mainstream people," said Steve Elmen-dorf, who was a deputy campaign manager for Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry in 2004. "The right wing picked it."

But for all the movement's challenges and difficulties, noted Rep. Baldwin, in her remarks to the gathering, "there is a new optimism for LGBT people, led by a president who understands and embraces diversity in people and opinions."

One symbol of that new presidential relationship to the LGBT community emerged Saturday when the Lesbian and Gay Band Association announced that an LGBT gay marching band has been accepted by the inauguration committee to participate in the presidential inaugural parade.

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## SIDEBAR

## LGBT bloggers make mark at leadership confab

BY LISA KEEN

KEEN NEWS SERVICE

In a sterile conference room on the 11th floor of a non-descript office building in Washington, D.C., more than two dozen LGBT bloggers listened intently last weekend as their more veteran peers instructed them in the art of "blog swarms," "astro-turfing" and "cross-posting."

Bloggers, said one, can enable a minor event to "take on a whole new life" in the mainstream media by spreading news about it across 10 or 15 different blogs (a.k.a. the "blog swarm"). Lone bloggers can acquire the clout of large groups by assuming a moniker that makes them appear to be a "national" entity when, in fact, they are "a fake grassroots organization" (a.k.a. "astro-turfing"). And bloggers can increase readership for their views by posting them not just on their own sites but on other, more widely read, sites (a.k.a. "cross-posting").

Blogs, said Mike Rogers, organizer of the summit, can be used to "drag people out of the closet" and persuade a corporation that has donated to an anti-gay cause to make amends to the LGBT community.

Rogers gained considerable notoriety in 2007 after he posted blogs about U.S. Sen. Larry Craig, R-Idaho, being arrested for solicitation in an airport men's room. A Washington Post headline that year referred to Rogers as possibly "the most feared man on [Capitol] Hill" because he's made clear he's willing to use his blog—blogActive.com—to out closeted politicians who vote against the rights of LGBT people.

"I'm an angry gay man," quipped Rogers to a workshop Saturday on "Fighting Back" against anti-gay institutions and people. He urged LGBT bloggers to "take it to the next level" in their posting against anti-gay entities and people.

This first "National LGBT Citizen Journalist Bloggers Summit" attracted about 60 LGBT bloggers. The conference was separate from but simultaneous to the Gay & Lesbian Leadership Institute, and bloggers and the more conventional leaders met in a few joint sessions.

The conference included such topics as how bloggers can contribute to political campaigns, how to enhance their work with investigative reporting skills and practices, and what federal laws might have an impact on their blogging. Conference sponsors included political activist Jonathan Lewis and the Microsoft Corporation. Rogers said Lewis contributed \$50,000 toward the meeting and Microsoft contributed a free copy of Microsoft Office Professional to eager attendee.

Read the entire article at [www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com](http://www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com).

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