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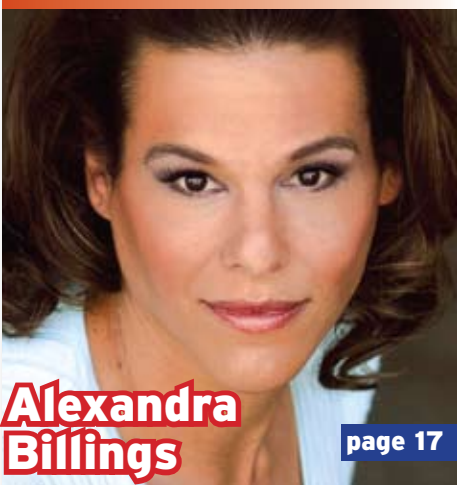


**Talking With  
Andy Towle**

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**World AIDS  
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**nightspots**  
pick it up  
take it home

# AIDS Group Has to Return Funds

BY SAMUEL WORLEY

An HIV/AIDS advocacy organization long under suspicion of misusing funds has been ordered to return a \$500,000 grant it received from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity. Let's Talk, Let's Test Foundation (LTLTF) has also been asked to give back more than \$500,000 it received from the Illinois Department of Public Health, and is under investigation by the U.S. Attorney's Office.

The announcement comes after suggestions, first reported in the Chicago Sun-Times, that LTLTF's leadership had mismanaged funds, including paying out large bonuses to staff members, the purchase of skybox tickets to a football game and questionable campaign contributions to Democratic state Rep. Connie Howard.

Suspicion surrounding LTLTF's spending is not new; in September 2008, Windy City Times reported that the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) was withholding funding to the organization while it investigated how the money was spent.

Let's Talk, Let's Test Executive Director Lloyd Kelly denies wrongdoing. Although Kelly had no comment at press time, he said that he planned a press release and hold a possible press conference later in the week.

Calls to Howard's office seeking comment were not returned by press time.

Howard, who has served in the Illinois legislature since 1995, co-founded Let's Talk, Let's Test with Kelly in 2002; Kelly previously had been a volunteer legislative aid in Howard's office. In August 2005, Howard shepherded a bill through the legislature that gave the group a large boost in funding—a financial infusion of which the spending is now under widespread suspicion.

That money came out of the African-American HIV/AIDS Response Act, which was co-authored by Howard and state Sen. Kimberly Lightford. Signed into law by then-Gov. Rod Blagojevich and enacted in 2006, the Response Act was heralded as a pioneering piece of legislation that would address the widespread problem of HIV/AIDS in African-American populations.

Among other provisions, the act called for

the creation of "response officers" in four state agencies: the Office of the Governor, the Illinois Department of Public Health, the Department of Human Services and the Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC). It provided for the voluntary testing of any Illinois prison inmate who requested it, and mandated steps to control the spread of HIV in prison.

In the wake of the act's passage, Howard was named one of "10 Black AIDS Warriors to Watch" by POZ magazine, which described the legislation as "packed with truly innovative provisions." The magazine Utne Reader counted Howard as one of "50 visionaries who are changing your world."

In addition to changes in public health bureaucracy, the act also created a "response fund," to be administered through the state, that would fund non-profit agencies working to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS in the black community. Out of the \$3 million fund—dispersed among 79 organizations—LTLTF was awarded more than \$1 million.

Turn to page 5

**Windy City Times'**  
**1000**  
**AND UNDER**  
Holiday  
Gift  
Guide  
Pgs. 9-11



**Sweet  
Treat**

page 22

There were desserts galore at AIDS Foundation's annual World of Chocolate, which marks World AIDS Day. Photo by Kat Fitzgerald (MysticImagesPhotography.com); see more on page 22 and online at [www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com](http://www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com)

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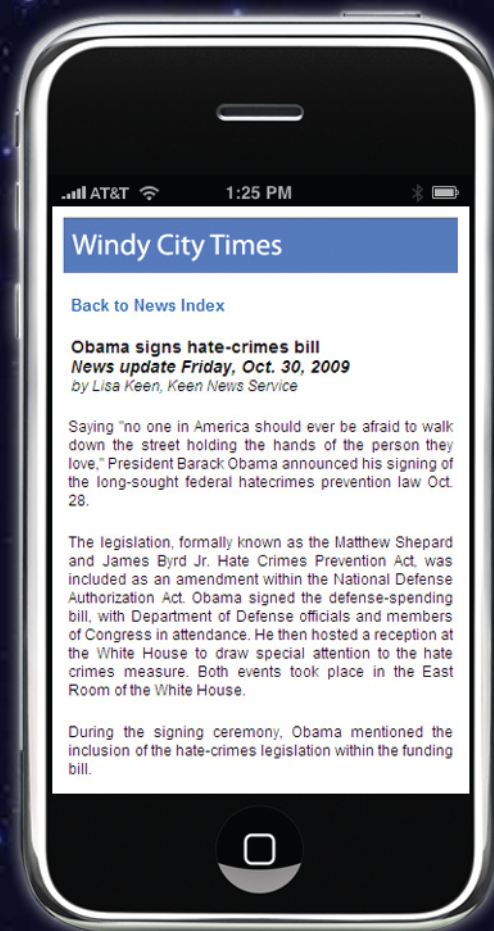
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Cover photos and credits (from top): Photo of Towleroad's Andy Towle by Rex Wockner; photo of Courtney Reid at the Center on Halsted's World AIDS Day unveiling of the Keiskamma Art Project Tapestry by Hal Baim; Alexandra Billings PR photo



Is Cirque du Soleil's Banana Shpeel (above) worth your time and money? See page 15.

Photo by Kristie Kahns



Actress Meredith Baxter—best known for her role on the TV show Family Ties—is now an out lesbian. See page 17.



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Photo by Anthony Meade

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## ONLINE INDEX

### CRAZY LIKE A ROX

Mikey Rox offers his own gift guide of unique items, including a Kristine W DVD (right)—plus there's a giveaway!



PR photo

### POLITICAL PARTY



Read about lesbian Houston, Texas, mayoral hopeful Annise Parker (left) as well as Illinois treasurer candidate Robin Kelly's fundraiser.

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### IT'S A HISTORY TO ME

John D'Emilio's (right) latest column looks at how Illinois became the first state to ban sodomy laws.



Photo by Hal Baim

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# Talking with Towleroad's Andy Towle

BY REX WOCKNER

I sat down recently in Manhattan with Andy Towle, the man behind the award-winning gay blog Towleroad. It appears the site is the work of a humble workaholic.

**Rex Wockner: You're the first thing I look at every morning.**

Andy Towle: Really?

**RW: Yeah. How did this start, Andy Towle?**

AT: It started with sort of a curiosity to pass on information to people and an interest in sharing information with people, which sort of grew out of my working at Genre magazine as an editor there.

**RW: How long has it been going on?**

AT: Almost six years now, but only in its current form for about 3 1/2 years, I guess, as a news source and with the intention of being news for people.

**RW: You post about 18 to 20 items a day. How many articles do you read before you choose those?**

AT: I don't know that I read all of the articles but I definitely scan and look over a few hundred articles every morning before I even begin writing anything. I scan headlines to see what's happening, and then the things that interest me I will usually linger on, and if I linger on certain topics or headlines or articles, then I'll know in my head that it's something that would interest me and might interest my readers, so I will continue on and sort of pursue that line of news.

**RW: How many hours a day do you work?**

AT: Generally from like 6:15 in the morning till 7, 8, 9 at night.

**RW: Is your boyfriend OK with that?**

AT: Not really. He'd like me to work probably about six hours less than that but, you know, it pays the rent and it's what I need to do to sort of keep the site going, so, you know, he understands.

**RW: How do we keep up with the flow of information? You and I have similar kinds of jobs. I feel overwhelmed regularly. Do you?**

AT: I feel overwhelmed right now because I'm not reading and I'm doing this interview instead, but, you know, it's how I regularly feel if I'm out or whatever. It's like there is always a constant barrage of news and things happening, so the struggle to keep on top of it is a constant challenge and I think anybody who's in news these



Gay über-blogger Andy Towle. Photo by Rex Wockner

days understands the same thing—that it's just, you know, like a 24-hour thing and to stay on top of it, you just have to constantly keep reading.

**RW: I left to get on the subway in Queens four hours ago and we went to dinner three hours ago, so I've been offline four hours and you've been offline three hours. That's a long time for us, isn't it?**

AT: Yeah, I can probably say that right now in my news reader there's between like 600 and 800 articles that are waiting for me to sort of like scan to see what the headlines are, see if there is anything of interest. But, you know, it's sort of par for—I've kind of gotten used to it, I guess.

**RW: How do you scan 800 headlines?**

AT: I don't know, I think it's sort of something that I've, you know, it's something that you learn to do after a while. You just learn to look for what you know will be of interest to people, and it's kind of a little bit like speed-reading, where you go through things and you can see instantly certain things, you can pick out things that you know are going to be of interest.

**RW: What do you think Towleroad's ultimate contribution is?**

AT: I think just sharing information with people. I think that's always been the goal of mine with the site. When I started it I felt like I would just share information with people, and share information that I found interesting to myself. Because if I did that, then I would not get burned out from it. ... So, I thought that I would probably want to do things on a variety of topics so it would continually be interesting personally to me.

**RW: You've sort of become a man of influence. How does that feel? Is that weird?**

AT: I don't know what kind of influence you

mean. If it's an influence born out of, like, presenting people with things that they're interested in, I'm happy to fulfill that need. I don't know what role I have beyond that.

**RW: Well, if you're critical of something, say some gay leader or something, that kind of matters. What you think, if you write a snarky headline or a one-liner at the end of an item, that matters, doesn't it?**

AT: I think with the audience I have at this point, I do have a certain responsibility for things that I say and things that, you know, I say I believe in, and, I've tried to be, you know, fairly objective along the way since doing my site and stuff, but eventually, my opinion does work its way in, and so I understand there is a responsibility that comes with that and I try to be fair to people and fair to issues that are happening. That's all I can do.

**RW: I think you're not only interested in the gays, I think you like astronomy.**

AT: I do! I love it! I love space, I love nature, I love science, I love all those things. And that's all part of sort of, you know, the original mission I had with the site, which is to keep things on it that I find interesting so it remains interesting to me. And, actually, probably the most positive comments that I get on the site are when I put those kind of things up, because I think a lot of people have interests beyond things that are just solely gay and lesbian, you know? I think people have broader interests than that and I think that's one of the reasons that Towleroad has succeeded, because it's not just one topic, it's a lot of different things.

**RW: If you remove from the mix gay bloggers who don't blog primarily about gay issues—in other words, if you take Andrew Sullivan out of the mix, Dan Savage, John Aravosis—Perez Hilton really isn't a gay blog either—do you think you're the most trafficked gay blog there is? Do you have data on that? Or who would be bigger?**

AT: I'm not sure. We are very widely read, so I'm not sure. I don't know specifics.

**RW: What do you see in the future for the blog? It clearly has evolved from a personal blog where you wanted to write to your friends about things you found interesting into one of the most important news sources for gay people on the Web. Any plans down the road for anything different or any modifications?**

AT: I hope to keep the site evolving and keep it interesting for me and for everybody who is reading it. I would love to be able to expand it. Personally, I think I'm a bit of a control freak and a little bit of a micromanager, as I think most people who are in charge of their own businesses are, and, you know, I give a lot of credit to my business partner, Michael Goff, who has helped me expand the site in a lot of ways and taken a different role on, more behind-the-scenes, but I hope that in the future that we can expand it. I have some writers writing for me who do some great weekly columns and I hope to keep expanding in that way and possibly adding some more people on a regular basis, so, you know, I think there's a lot of opportunities right now in media to open it up in a lot of ways—the ways that traditional print media has taken on, like the local aspects of gay media and things like that, so we're exploring a lot of different things.

**RW: You already have a weekly music column, right?**

AT: And a film column. I used to have a tech column. I had Jon Barrett writing it—he's now the editor of The Advocate—and I actually wrote it one time by myself, so that was a cool part of the site that hopefully I'll get back one day. Things like that, I think, add a lot to the site. I also have a theater column that's written sort of seasonally by Kevin Sessums. Those are the sort of ways we're looking to expand the site and, hopefully, I'm looking to get somebody else writing on a regular basis as well.

**RW: This interview will go to a wide audience, so we need to clear up the single biggest question about Towleroad.**

AT: Oh-oh. OK.

ONLINE AT  
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NATIONAL NEWS



—New gay ambassador

—Rev. Rick Warren (left) refuses to condemn bill

—Mayor describes private parts

**RW: It's not towel, it's toll, and it's a pun on toll, like a toll road.**

AT: Exactly. It seems like it's the hardest name to pronounce in the English language as far as I am concerned, because so many people say Towel Road or Towler Road or Tower Load—Tower Load is a big one. We've purchased several domains because of the mispronunciations, but I never actually thought it would become what it is, so I started it with a very personal name, which is a play off my own name, and it grew into this so, um.

**RW: And now there's nothing you can do about it.**

AT: Yeah, there's not a lot I can do about it. I can't really change the name because you're sort of like tied into these domain names once you create them, so, you know, there you go! I guess, I mean, I've thought about putting a pronunciation key on the site and all that but, you know, it's a little bit of a mystery, I guess.

RW: Thanks, Andy.

## Lesbian bishop elected

Episcopalians in Los Angeles, Calif., elected a lesbian bishop Dec. 5, according to a CNN.com item.

The Rev. Mary Glasspool, 55, will become the second openly gay bishop in the Episcopal Church if she is formally approved. Gene Robinson of New Hampshire was the first, taking office five years ago. Glasspool, a priest for 27 years who is based in Baltimore at the Diocese of Maryland, would assist Bishop Diocesan J. Jon Bruno with the Los Angeles area's 70,000 parishioners.

Glasspool, who has been partnered with Becki Sander for 21 years, will need the majority of the United States' 100 Episcopal dioceses to consent to her May 2010 consecration, the Washington Times reported.

Last summer, more conservative members formed the Anglican Church in North America, which bans gay and women bishops, according to USA Today.

## D.C. council supports marriage-equality bill

The City Council of Washington, D.C., voted 11-2 last week to support a marriage-equality bill.

The council will have to vote a second time on the legislation; said vote is expected to take place Dec. 15. Then, the bill will then be sent to Washington, D.C., Mayor Adrian Fenty, who is in favor of same-sex marriage. Congress would then have 30 days to pass a joint resolution disapproving the law, which would have to be signed by President Obama in order to thwart the legislation. Without such a development, the bill will automatically become law.

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# New York Senate rejects same-sex marriage bill

BY REX WOCKNER

The New York State Senate rejected a bill to legalize same-sex marriage Dec. 2 in a 38-24 vote.

The bill had passed the Assembly repeatedly and Gov. David Paterson was chomping at the bit to sign it into law.

Eight Democrats voted against the bill. No Republicans voted for it.

"Promises made were not honored," said the bill's author, Sen. Tom Duane, D-Manhattan. "The LGBT community and all fair-minded New Yorkers have been betrayed. I am enraged, deeply disappointed and profoundly saddened by the vote today."

Alan Van Capelle, head of the LGBT lobby group Empire State Pride Agenda, said that while the group was "disappointed by today's vote, we are pleased that the issue of marriage equality at last was debated in the New York State Senate."

"We had long called for a public debate on this matter so we could determine who was truly on our side," he said. "Now we know where we stand and where we need to concentrate our efforts in the future."

New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg echoed Van Capelle's take.

"Although I'm deeply disappointed with today's result, and know that the sense of anguish and frustration is even more pronounced among gay and lesbian New Yorkers, at least we now know where individual legislators stand," Bloomberg said. "And so now we begin a new effort to secure the additional votes needed to pass this bill. ... Historic change does not come easily, but this vote was a crucial step that I believe will ultimately lead the state to extend full marriage rights to all couples."

Gov. Paterson said the outcome would have been different had senators voted their consciences.

"I understand the anger, I understand the frustration, I understand the feeling of betrayal and I understand the profound disappointment of those who came to Albany today thinking they could get married tomorrow," he said. "I believe in my heart that if people had voted their consciences today, we would be celebrating marriage equality tonight. That did not happen. As disappointed as we are today, let's get up tomorrow and redouble our efforts. We are going to lay the foundation to make people feel comfortable to vote their conscience and not fear political backlash. Now we know who we have to talk to. We are going to quash the intimidation; we are going to alleviate the pressure; we are going to move this issue back to the floor of the Senate and we are going to have marriage equality in New York state and equal rights for everybody."

National Center for Lesbian Rights Executive Director Kate Kendell called the vote "a heart-breaker."

"To see justice denied yet again is crushing," she said. "But we cannot be down for long. The lessons of every human rights movement teach us that setbacks and dark days are always the risk in fighting for equality and justice. We applaud the courage of Sen. Tom Duane, sponsor of the bill, and of the 24 senators who stood for equality, fairness and love. Their names will be remembered and so will their votes. The time is long past for those who reject our basic dignity and value to do so without consequence. The votes of those who affirmed our equality and humanity will be vindicated, of that we can be certain."

The National Organization for Marriage gloated.

"Praise God!" wrote Executive Director Brian S. Brown. "NOM spent \$600,000 reaching out to voters through phone calls and television and radio ads to make sure politicians heard from ordinary voters like you. Gay marriage inevitable?

Don't believe the lie!"

"This great victory will reverberate up and down America, putting the fear of God—and the American voter—into the hearts of weak-kneed and weak-willed politicians everywhere," Brown said.

A few hours after the vote, 200 to 300 people gathered in Times Square to protest, following a call issued on blogs and social-networking sites.

The next evening, more than 1,000 people attended a protest rally in Union Square, including Paterson and Duane.

"Threats of retribution rained down on the 'Hate 38,' the senators that voted against equality," reported news blogger Joe Jervis at his Joe. My. God. site. "Particular scorn was heaped upon the eight traitorous Democrats, whose faces adorned many placards and who were named and shamed from the microphone."

"The crowd was instructed about the coming 2010 elections and the NYC seats now in everyone's crosshairs," Jervis wrote. "The evening was

definitely not another useless venting of rage, as these things are often characterized."

Same-sex marriage is legal in Connecticut, Iowa, Massachusetts, Vermont and, starting in January, New Hampshire. It also is expected to become legal in Washington, D.C., in January. Same-sex marriage also was legalized in California and Maine, but voters later re-banned it.

Internationally, same-sex couples can marry in Belgium, Canada, the Netherlands, Norway, South Africa, Spain and Sweden.

—Assistance: Bill Kelley



Simone Bell.

Georgia State House District 58 in the 2010 legislative session." District 58 straddles Moreland Avenue in Atlanta and includes parts of Fulton and DeKalb that are in Atlanta, plus sections of unincorporated DeKalb County to the east. According to ProjectQAtlanta.com, the district is heavily gay.

In addition, the Journal-Constitution reported that Alex Wan became the first gay man and Asian-American man elected to Atlanta's city council.

## Georgia marks historic gay wins

Simone Bell has become the first Black lesbian elected to a state legislature in the United States after winning her race in Georgia, defeating attorney Asha Jackson, according to the Atlanta Journal-Constitution.

Bell, who was one of at least 12 out candidates seeking office in the metro area of Atlanta, was endorsed by several organizations, including the gay-rights groups Georgia Equality and the Victory Fund, ProjectQAtlanta.com reported.

On her Web site, Bell stated, "THANK YOU!!! I look forward to representing the people of

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# Dozens attend ballroom/youth conference

BY BLAIR MISHLEAU

Seasoned leaders and aspiring youth of the ballroom community gathered Dec. 5 at the Ballroom and Youth Leadership Conference, which gave this semi-underground population a chance to formally discuss serious issues, including HIV. Around 50 people attended the event, which was free to the public and hosted by the Community Empowerment Coalition.

Ballroom performing, which has been around in some form in the United States for nearly a century, is a type of performance that mixes costume, makeup, dancing and persona into a competitive show it has been popularized by mainstream artists such as Madonna, whose song, "Vogue," references the culture. Performers are divided into "houses," which are, basically, families. Each house has a mother or father, who is a mentor and advisor to those in the house.

The conference—which took place at the Little Black Pearl, 1060 E. 47th—began at noon and featured four different workshops throughout the afternoon. Their separate focuses involved being transgender in the ballroom community; maintaining personal wellness in and out of performing; the culture of balling and substance;

and alcohol abuse in ballroom culture. The day finished with a panel discussion featuring prominent members of the community.

Many leaders within the Chicago ballroom community were present, including Mauren Avant Garde, Tommy Avant Garde and Symon In-finiti, among many other house mothers, fathers and performers.

A big focus of the conference was HIV prevention and treatment, as the conference coincided with World AIDS week. Condoms and lube were abundant on the tables in the common area, and free HIV testing was advertised, with participants getting \$5 gift cards.

"When it comes to houses, the reality of it is that most houses do not [discuss HIV]," said Meena Evisu, a house mother. "I'm guilty of it as well. I think that as time goes on with workshops and seminars like this, this is going to enlighten me. This is thought-provoking. I would like the ballroom community to now incorporate HIV awareness and prevention into our meetings, and into [the] way of life we call the ballroom scene."

This is the first event of its kind in Chicago. Tommy Avant Garde, one of the organizers, feels that this may be just the first step.

"As we have come together in Chicago to do this, providers from each state [should] all come together and discuss these issues in the ballroom," Avant Garde said. "We [should] have a national conference to do the same things that we've done now but on a very larger scale."

## Center's unveiling



On World AIDS Day, Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted, unveiled the Keiskamma Art Project Tapestry. Designer Nozeti Makhubalo, who was in Chicago for the presentation of the Keiskamma Altarpiece (a response to the AIDS epidemic in a South African community) at Chicago's St. James Cathedral, was inspired to create the tapestry after visiting the Center. Michael Leppen, who commissioned the tapestry, helped unveil the item. Photo of Tico Valle, Amy Maggio and Leppen by Hal Baim; more at [www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com](http://www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com)

## In recognition



The Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH), in partnership with Walgreens and the Chicago History Museum, presented its World AIDS Day Award Reception Dec. 2, at the museum, 1601 N. Clark. The event featured the Fifth Annual Long-Term Survivors Awards as well as the Hope and Spirit Award for Outstanding Community Service. Dr. Terry Mason received the Community Appreciation Award. The event also marked the final display of the "Faces of AIDS" exhibit. Photos by Kat Fitzgerald ([MysticImagesPhotography.com](http://MysticImagesPhotography.com)); more at [www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com](http://www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com)

## FUNDS from cover

According to an interview that Kelly gave to the Chicago Reporter in January 2009, the organization began to experience difficulties with state funding as soon as the money was dispersed. Kelly told the Reporter that the first check LTLT received from the state was eight months late, giving the organization only the few months left in that fiscal year to adjust its spending plan and provide expense reports to the state.

Though LTLT ended up receiving continued funding, Kelly's failure to report expenses to the state raised suspicions about the group's spending. In September 2008, IDPH said that it was withholding funds while it investigated how its grants to the organization were spent. At the time, an IDPH spokesperson told Windy City Times that such investigations were a routine part of the grant-making process.

But by April 2009, the Illinois Attorney General's Office revoked the organization's ability to solicit donations, saying that it had failed to file an expense report for the previous year. And in September 2009, the Sun-Times revealed a number of questionable expenses made by LTLT, including the skybox tickets and employee bonuses. Kelly reportedly received a \$50,000 bonus, and another employee allegedly received a \$30,000 bonus. Kelly has said that the payments



Lloyd Kelly. Photo by Andrew Davis

were back pay owed to LTLT staffers. IDPH is now seeking the return of \$523,545 from Let's Talk, Let's Test—part of \$1.2 million the organization received.

Separately, the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) is seeking a refund of its \$500,000 grant to the organization. The grant was made for LTLT to purchase and rehabilitate a building on the South Side; the group planned to rent out apartments in the building and use the income to fund its HIV/AIDS programming.

According to Marcelyn Love, a spokesperson for the DCEO, the time period of the grant given to LTLT was April 1, 2007-Sept. 30, 2008. Love told Windy City Times that the money was a "member grant," meaning that the executive officer of the project "works in consultation with the governor's office and the respective legislative caucus."

That project reportedly went over budget and remains incomplete. When LTLT did not respond to an August request from the DCEO asking for its money back, the department forwarded the matter to the Illinois Attorney General's office.

Kelly has said that LTLT is nearly a million dollars in debt, and cannot afford to hire an accountant or lawyer to help straighten out its finances.

Due to the sensitive nature of the controversy, few activists involved in HIV/AIDS services in Chicago were willing to speak on record about their reaction to the legal steps taken against LTLT. Amy Maggio, a longtime HIV/AIDS activist and service provider, e-mailed, "Although politics always comes into play when money is on the table and votes are in need of counting, HIV/AIDS continues to destroy lives."

Apparently alluding to the money allegedly misspent by LTLT, Maggio said, "I can't help but think how many lives would be saved by over \$1 million for quality testing and information programs."



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**Chanukah Celebration**

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# QUOTE ON

COMPILED BY ANDREW DAVIS

**"YOU PHOTOGRAPH YOUR FOOD/** You've made your own ricotta/ You have seasonal scarves/ You use periods instead of dashes in phone numbers/ You watch TV only on DVD/ You think you're down with lesbian chefs/ You don't vacation—you holiday." — *A few of the "63 Signs You May Be a Pretentious Tool," in the October 2009 issue of Details magazine.*

**"IT'S TIME THE REST OF US SHOWED UP ON THE NATIONAL EQUALITY MALL** and let Obama know that the cocktail party crowd—the suck-ups, the sycophants, and the scaredy-cats—doesn't represent us. We want full equal rights (or at least see a substantial commitment to moving in that direction)—not photo ops and wine spritzers." — *Michaelangelo Signorile, on why he planned to attend the National Equality March, in the October issue of The Advocate.*

**"A WHIP-SMART VOICE** of reason in the racket that is cable news/A whip-smart voice of reason in the racket that is the blogosphere." — *Descriptions of, respectively, lesbian MSNBC talk-show host Rachel Maddow and openly gay blogger*

*Andrew Sullivan in Esquire magazine's list of "The 75 Best People in the World," Oct. 2009*

**"GENE SIMMONS SPOUTED SOMETHING,** that he thought I'd ruined my career by coming out. He's obnoxious, and what a hypocrite—all he talks about is his sex life. He was being a dick—and he's not the greatest singer. I guess he's a good businessman, I'll give him that." — *Singer Adam Lambert, in the Nov. 26 issue of Rolling Stone magazine.*

**"MADONNA MAKES THINGS HAPPEN.** Put Madonna up against any twenty-three-year-old, she'll outwork them, outdance them, outperform them. The woman is broad." — *Film director Guy Ritchie on his ex-wife, Madonna, in the November issue of Esquire magazine.*

**"YOU'RE WELCOME TO DISMISS THIS LEGEND AS HORRIFYING HOMOPHOBIA**—it is certainly that. I prefer to view it as the ultimate signifier of rock'n'roll's central paradox: It's what happens when you aim fantasies about sexual empowerment at sexually powerless adolescent boys." — *Steve Almond in the December 2009 issue of SPIN magazine, addressing the longstanding myth that singer Rod Stewart once had a gallon of semen pumped from his stomach.*

## Vital signs



HIV/AIDS agency Vital Bridges held its 20th-anniversary brunch, "Celebrate the Spirit," at the Four Seasons Hotel's Grand Ballroom, 120 E. Delaware, Dec. 6. The brunch has raised more than \$1.5 million to provide food, housing and counseling to those most in need. Robert S. Mayo was posthumously awarded the 2009 Food for Life Award. In addition to the brunch, there was a raffle (with \$100 tickets) for the chance to win \$10,000. For more info about the organization, visit [www.VitalBridges.org](http://www.VitalBridges.org). Brunch co-chairs Greg Desmond and Kathy Saddemi are in the right photograph. Photos by Kat Fitzgerald (MysticImagesPhotography.com); more online at [www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com](http://www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com)

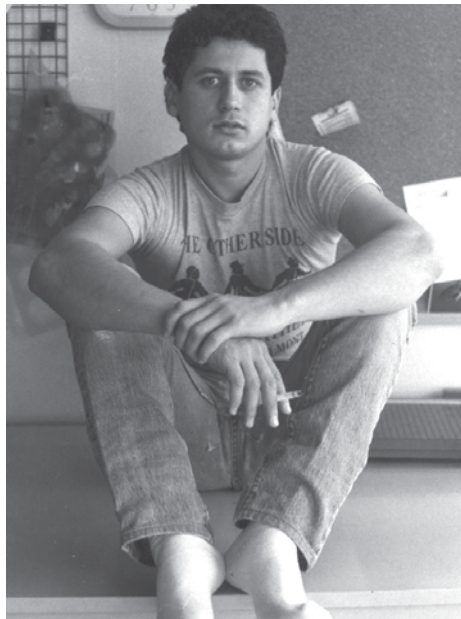
## Sotomayor exhibit on display thru March

"A Hero Comes Home"—an exhibit on the life and times of Daniel Sotomayor (1958-1992), an inductee in the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame—is on display until March 5, 2010, at the Institute of Puerto Rican Arts & Culture, 3015 W. Division.

Sotomayor was a cartoonist and AIDS activist. The exhibit includes cartoons by Sotomayor, photos, T-shirts, the AIDS Quilt panel created in Sotomayor's honor and more.

The museum is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday and from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday. It is closed on Wednesday and Sunday.

See [www.iprac.org](http://www.iprac.org).



Danny Sotomayor.

## Task Force names co-chairs

The soon-to-be-renamed Chicago Task Force on LGBT Substance Use/Abuse has tabbed Pamela McCann and Ed Negron as the organization's co-chairs.

According to a release, "These two dynamic individuals, and long-time Task Force members, bring great knowledge, experience, and innovative ideas to the coalition. They will shepherd our group through a reorganization and planning process to help us re-focus our efforts around LGBT health and update our mission."



"Psychology chose me."

Memphis resident Tammye Butler—full-time IRS employee, busy mother and care-giving daughter—was headed to law school when an instructor prompted her to think again. "He thought I had too much 'compassion' for the law—that I was one of those people who wants to fix stuff. I told him I was a psych minor and he said 'that's perfect.' So psychology chose me."

And Tammye chose The Chicago School.

She loves the online interaction among her classmates and welcomes the diverse perspectives of people who are logging in from all over the world. And the flexibility is tailor-made for her lifestyle. "I can go to class at three in the morning. Whenever. Anywhere."

Tammye Butler

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## 'Social Issues Santa' is coming to town!

Recently, extremists within the Republican Party proposed a 10-point checklist of principles that GOP candidates would have to sign if they expect to receive Party support. Like a deranged "Social Issues Santa", the enforcers of doctrine are descending in their sleighs to slay Republicans who are naughty and not considered nice.

According to their puritanical plan, Republicans would be required to sign 7 of 10 radical resolutions, such as, "opposing Obama's socialist agenda." By far the most reckless part of this pledge is the demand that Republicans agree to, "Support victory in Iraq and Afghanistan by supporting military-recommended troops surges." I wonder what such pandering politicians might say to families if these wars took a turn for the worse: "I'm sorry your son died on the battlefield, but I had six campaign pledges and needed a seventh to get a windfall of dough from the Republican Party."

Ironically, the Republican governors gathered last week and ran away from such extremism. According to The New York Times, "There was little talk of the divisive social and political issues that Mr. Bush and Mr. Rove embraced as a way to attract independent and moderate Democratic voters and build a lasting Republican majority."



SUSIE DAY

## Ask the Political Lady

Dear Political Lady,

Although I grew up in a community of leftwing activists who respected people of all colors and creeds, I never felt like I "fit in."

Maybe it was my wacky behavior and big red nose. Or my garish whiteface, purple eyebrows, and bright orange hair. Maybe it was because I shunned normal kids' clothing, like jeans and sneakers, in favor of polka-dot jumpsuits and size 47 high-button shoes. I don't know.

One time, my parents took me to Washington to join the throngs protesting another U.S. military buildup. Suddenly, I vanished. The family searched for hours until they found me at the Pentagon—begging to be fired out of a cannon.

My parents decided to take me to a lecture by Noam Chomsky, thinking the radical pundit would "wipe that smile off my face." The speech went well enough, but during the reception, when I was taken to meet Professor Chomsky, I ran amuck.

The next morning at breakfast, my family examined the evidence: it was I who had shaken Noam Chomsky's hand with a joy-buzzer; I who put the plastic vomit on Noam Chomsky's chair; and it was my unicycle Noam Chomsky drove over repeatedly in the driveway. We had to accept the truth.

I was a clown. A bourgeois, imperialist clown. My parents banished me to a tent in the back-

The right-wing chest-thumping seen in the GOP checklist was echoed in a manifesto signed by 145 religious activists and clerics called the Manhattan Declaration. This document basically said that religious people were above the law and did not have to obey it if they deemed it unholy. Tony Perkins, the president of the Family Research Council, hailed the radical manifesto by calling it a "line in the sand" and vowing that the malcontents "will not be moved."

Of course, growing up on the lovely beaches of Florida and Hawaii, I've learned that there is nothing more temporary than a line in the sand. These arrogant preachers are badly overreaching and will be surprised to find that their sinister sandcastle will succumb to history's high tide.

The Catholic Church, in particular, is entering politically perilous territory it will soon regret. For most of American history, many voters were concerned that Catholic politicians were beholden to Rome. John F. Kennedy, the first Roman Catholic President, won by assuring people that he was independent of the Vatican.

This week, however, Providence Bishop Thomas Tobin scolded another member of the famous clan, Rep. Patrick Kennedy, D-R.I., and told him he was unworthy of taking part in communion because of his pro-choice views.

Amazingly, Tobin told NBC News, "To receive a sacrament you have to be in union with the church." To voters, this can be interpreted as: "Bow to Rome or go home."

If the Church continues to push these boundaries, it will become toxic. It will force office holders into making a decision between voting with the Vatican, or risking nasty public spats, like the Tobin-Kennedy spectacle. In an era where people are quite fickle with faith, aspiring Catholic politicians may find it easier to avoid this dilemma and switch religions. In the future, the only remaining Catholic politicians may be hardliners, such as former Sen. Rick Santorum,

yard and forced me to entertain at upper-class children's birthday parties. I've been doing that over 20 years, now. The money's OK, but I'm tired of being laughed at. I need to know there are others like me. Please help!

Dear Tragic Knucklehead,

You poor thing—what a horrible way to find out the Left has no sense of humor. But I wouldn't give up activism if I were you, dear. Have you thought of starting a Clown Liberation Front? For you do not suffer alone.

Oppression, thy name is "Clown." [Note empowering capital "C" here.] Yes, down through the ages, Clown-identified Clowns have been the "WOO WOO WOO" that dare not speak its name. And, while the Left can be cruel, let's not forget the world of Capital, where Clowns are exploited in laboratories to check product reliability.

There's the "Tested-on-Clowns" makeup, for example, and the Clowns who get whacked senseless during product inspection at rubber-chicken factories. Countless Clowns have also developed diabetes from having pastries thrown in their faces for hours each day. All that suffering, just so Jell-O can perfect its pie fillings of shame!

Yes, every time someone squirts seltzer down a Clown's pants, or takes a board and cracks a Clown on the wazoo, the Free Market chuckles.

For too long, Clowns have been forced to ride in the back of the Volkswagen. Well, no more shall you work for cheap laughs—those laughs must come with Union wages, a 401K, and dental. It's time to step up and ask these bozo-phobes: "What part of 'WHEEEEE!' don't you understand?"

Be firm, dear, but not strident. Explain to your public that, if they don't "get it," some of them may find themselves flopping around in a Rite-Aid dumpster with their funny bones broken.

Dear Political Lady,

As a single lesbian, I have struggled for 20 years to do my art. Because my paintings have brought in almost no money, I've held a part-

R-Pa., and Sen. Sam Brownback, R-Kan.

In fact, this backlash is already underway. Virginia Gov. Tim Kaine criticized the Archdiocese of Washington this week for threatening to end contracts to feed Washington, D.C.'s homeless if the city allows gay couples the freedom to marry.

"I'm Catholic and I think it's wrong," Kaine said. "If you look at the church through history, the church will stand in tough situations and continue to do good. I think the strategy of threatening to hold back, it just doesn't seem like the church I've come up in."

Kaine was seconded by Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, who also is Catholic.

"I don't understand how they can possibly do this," O'Malley said. "I have a hard time believing that the nuns and priests who taught me about the Corporal Works of Mercy would agree that this is an appropriate response for the church."

Inside their adoring megachurches and towering cathedrals, these conservative clerics are powerful demigods. Such adoration blinds them to the sobering reality that millions of people view them as power hungry demagogues. The Religious Right is still one of the strongest special interest groups in America, but they keep forgetting that they represent an immoral minority, not the Moral Majority they once fancied themselves to be.

Raging with dictatorial ultimatums and mutinous manifestos, these extremists are too far-gone to realize they have gone too far. As the "Social Issues Santas" shimmy down the chimney to deliver their dogma, it is unclear if they are simply blowing smoke or gift-wrapping future elections for the Democratic Party.

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time job that barely pays for a no-frills health plan. I may be poor, but I've always known my life and work are my own.

My problem is, I just got a letter from Aetna, saying my premium's going up \$95,000! I can't possibly pay that—but what if I get sick? I feel so useless, so expendable.

Dear Useless and Expendable,

You could die alone in the gutter—or you could die in a \$7,000-a-day hospital bed, surrounded by high-priced doctors and loving medical equipment. That's what it means to live in a Democracy, dear: you get choices. And if you can read between the lines of Aetna's letter, I bet you'll find the healthcare industry is offering you even more options.

Let's see, you can: (1) give up your art and get a decent, full-time job; (2) realize there are no decent, full-time jobs and move to Cuba; (3) give up your art, join the U.S. armed forces, go to Afghanistan, become horribly maimed, and return home to spend the rest of your life in a VA hospital; (4) keep making your art, and marry the first heterosexual movie star who asks you; (5) LIVE your art by dressing in IV tubes and bedpans, getting Michael Moore to film you as you blow up Aetna headquarters, then spending the rest of your life in some sort of state asylum. Each of the above options would provide for your healthcare needs in the foreseeable future.

Wake up and smell the hand sanitizer, dear. Society isn't rejecting you; it's only pushing you to open up new vistas—vistas that hate you, as a queer person and artist. So cheer up. Once you have sacrificed your life to obtain a reliable health plan, you can afford to contract a virulent, incurable disease to make your sacrifice worthwhile. Salud!

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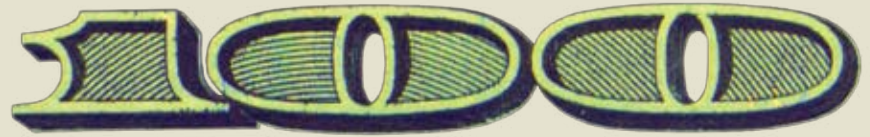


"Windy City Media Group generated enormous interest among their readers in this year's LGBT Consumer Index Survey. Out of approximately 100 print and online media partners who participated in the survey, Windy City was the best performing regional media in the U.S. Only survey partners with a nationwide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





## Windy City Times'



# AND UNDER Holiday Gift Guide

THIS YEAR, WINDY CITY TIMES IS ALL ABOUT THE BENJAMINS AS THE ANNUAL GIFT GUIDE (THIS IS THE SECOND WEEK; LAST WEEK'S GUIDE CAN BE FOUND AT [WINDYCITYTIMES.COM](http://WINDYCITYTIMES.COM)) EXCLUSIVELY FEATURES ITEMS THAT DO NOT EXCEED \$100.

LET THE SHOPPING COMMENCE!



### Shirts so good

**American Apparel** is selling a variety of gay-themed T-shirts that will certainly attract attention wherever you go. Among the items that may earn you reactions are the Viva Gay Beach T-shirt as well as the "Legalize Gay: Repeal Prop 8 Now" top. Similarly, Human Rights Campaign is selling "Legalize Gay" T-shirts with their logos, alongside "Love Conquers Hate" tops and ones with the Barack Obama quote, "I Will End Don't Ask, Don't Tell."

**\$17-\$28; [store.americanapparel.net](http://store.americanapparel.net) and [shop.hrc.com](http://shop.hrc.com)**



### Get the picture?

Featuring a unique take on traditional games, the **Melannco Photo Chess and Checker Set** allows you to put up to 32 photos of family members and friends on a board. It provides a new twist on "king me."

**\$28.99; [www.overstock.com](http://www.overstock.com)**



### Gorilla my dreams

**Gorillapod** uses its 30 adjustable joints to grip to trees, fences or posts—anything it can wrap its legs around—to provide a steady and secure platform for your digicam! Now you don't have to hunt for flat surfaces—and you can provide a unique perspective for your next online-dating photo.

**\$32.93; [www.cableorganizer.com](http://www.cableorganizer.com)**

### Give and bake

Who could possibly resist treats from **Corner Bakery**? Among the delicious items the chain offers are Bundt bites, mini-bars (bite-sized fudge brownies, maple pecan bars and raspberry bars), mini-cookies and cinnamon creme cakes—and if you're not sure what someone would like, there are always gift cards.

**various prices; [www.cornerbakerycafe.com](http://www.cornerbakerycafe.com) and local sites**



### Liking it RUF

'Tis the season to give and receive, and with the TAMBO terry cloth sport pant from **RUSKIN**—you can give the gift of comfort combined with style to the one you love. But why does it gotta be all about them? You get the gift of seeing your friend or partner in a "tailored" lounge pant instead of his baggy sweatpants he's been wearing since college. The ample front pockets give enough room to carry everything he may need, and the detail across the back promise to enhance his best, um, assets.

**\$70.50; [www.rufskin.com](http://www.rufskin.com)**



### Stashes to stashes

Your favorite Martha Stewart wannabe will not doubt appreciate **Secret Stash Sea Salts**—which provide different ways to wake up the flavors of various items. For example, the Pineapple Cumin Salt is excellent for pork, chicken and beef as well as barbeque dishes. This is one site that should not remain a secret.

**various prices; [www.secretsalts.com](http://www.secretsalts.com)**



### Buff enough

**Buff's new wool buff** is made from 100-percent natural merino wool, which provides plenty of insulation. It is also water-repellent, odor-resistant, elastic and flameproof. (Don't ask about how that last quality was tested.) Also, the buff can be worn up to 12 different ways.

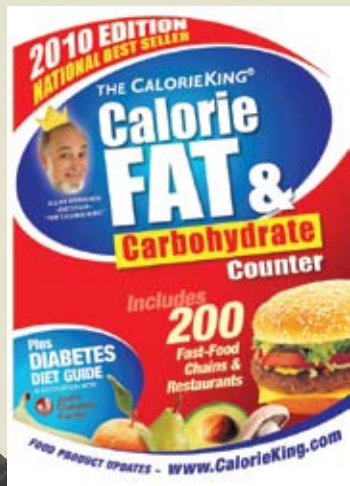
**\$27; [www.buff.us](http://www.buff.us)**



Windy City Times'

100 AND UNDER

Holiday Gift Guide



**Making things count**

Who knew that some fast-food hamburgers contain up to 1,500 calories and 90 grams of fat? OK—you probably knew, but **The CalorieKing Calorie Fat & Carbohydrate Counter** lays everything out in excruciating detail. (One of the biggest shockers for me was that some healthful-sounding wraps have up to 1,600 calories.) In addition, this very informative book lists almost every grocery-store item you can imagine. You'll never look at breakfast bars the same way again.

\$8.50; [www.CalorieKing.com](http://www.CalorieKing.com)

**In the swim**

Just because Jon Gosselin is associated with Ed Hardy means you should shun the brand. **Ed Hardy and True Religion swimwear** looks great on just about anyone, thanks to the extended length and extra-large, tattoo-inspired graphics as well as bold prints.

\$40-\$80; [www.nordstrom.com](http://www.nordstrom.com)



**Heaven's gate**

You don't get much greener than **Nature's Gate** products—according to its Web site, Nature's Gate's founders hand collected rainwater, blended it with natural herbs from their herb shop, and created the very first Rainwater Shampoo. Each gift, such as the Ginger Tea gift set, features scents from Ethiopia and India.

\$9.99; [www.natures-gate.com](http://www.natures-gate.com)



**Who's Johnnie?**

Windy City Times is only including gifts that are \$100, max, but Johnnie Walker has its own "100" item—a **Black Label Centenary Edition** scotch that marks a century of the brand. Encased in sleek black glass with the iconic label etched in gold, the Centenary Pack will make quite a statement for the Scotch enthusiast or collector on gift lists. Another intriguing selection is **Crystal Head Vodka**, created by actor Dan Aykroyd; the item contains no added glycerin, citrus oil or sugar.

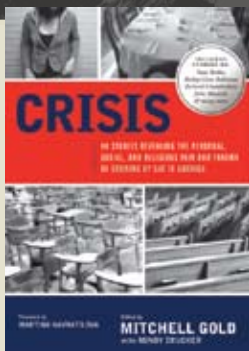
\$50; [www.johnniewalker.com](http://www.johnniewalker.com) and [www.crystalheadvodka.com](http://www.crystalheadvodka.com)



**Season's readings**

This year's gift guide includes two very different books. **Crisis**, edited by Mitchell Gold and with a foreword by Martina Navratilova, includes 40 stories from people such as Nate Berkus, Richard Chamberlain, Candace Gingrich, singer Ari Gold and U.S. Rep. Barney Frank about growing up gay in this country. **Life in Color**, by fashion experts (and Oprah favorites) Jesse Garza and Joe Lupo, reveal their secrets for finding personalized palettes for each individual woman's coloring.

\$23.95-\$24.95; [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com), [www.crisisbook.org](http://www.crisisbook.org)



**Tie one on**

Anything British seems so ... refined. **English Laundry ties** provides an understated, elegant take on the traditional tie—even if it doesn't feature a (tiny) skull and crossbones. The items—made entirely of silk—are based on selected English stripes, plaids and solid poplins from the 1960s and '70s, and are fine for the boardroom or club.

\$59.99; [www.GlobalRebels.com](http://www.GlobalRebels.com)



**Glue love**

You may have seen commercials for **Mighty Putty and Mighty Mendit**—and, as someone who has tested Mendit, the manufacturer's word is as good as, er, its bond. Mighty Putty is a powerful bonding epoxy stick that repairs almost any surface, including glass, metal and even concrete. Mendit works on fibers, such as denim and carpet.

\$19.99; [www.mightyputty.com](http://www.mightyputty.com) and [www.mightymendit.com](http://www.mightymendit.com)

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### Hot dates

John Gress' **2010 Cool Down Calendar** is probably a misnomer, considering that looking at the hunks featured here will warm practically anyone. Each month features a different athlete showcased in an 12 x 18" picture—including cover/April model Alexander William, who recently provided fitness tips to Windy City Times readers. By the way, some models will be at Gay Mart, 3457 N. Halsted, on Saturday, Dec. 12, 1-3 p.m.; part of the calendar's proceeds that day will benefit Test Positive Aware Network (TPAN).

**\$14.95; [store.JohnGress.com](http://store.JohnGress.com)**



### Heart(land) and soul

**Heartland Alliance for Human Needs & Human Rights**—a Chicago-based non-profit that helps people who are threatened by poverty or danger improve their lives and realize their human rights—has developed an online gift catalog so people can help support families and individuals in need in their communities and still partake in the holiday spirit of giving back. Gift price points start at \$15, and include gifts that kids can give to other kids, too.

**[www.heartlandalliance.org/howtohelp/giveagift](http://www.heartlandalliance.org/howtohelp/giveagift)**

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## **INDICATIONS**

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

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

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

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

## **IMPORTANT RISK INFORMATION**

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Ask your doctor about ISENTRESS.**

**[isentress.com](http://isentress.com)**

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

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

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

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

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



**ISENTRESS<sup>®</sup>**  
**raltegravir tablets**

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

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



Read the patient information that comes with ISENTRESS<sup>1</sup> before you start taking it and each time you get a refill. There may be new information. This leaflet is a summary of the information for patients. Your doctor or pharmacist can give you additional information. This leaflet does not take the place of talking with your doctor about your medical condition or your treatment.

**What is ISENTRESS?**

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

**ISENTRESS must be used with other anti-HIV medicines.**

**How does ISENTRESS work?**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Know the medicines you take.**

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

**How should I take ISENTRESS?**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- nausea
- headache
- tiredness
- weakness
- trouble sleeping

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

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

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

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

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

**How should I store ISENTRESS?**

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

**General information about the use of ISENTRESS**

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

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

**This leaflet gives you the most important information about ISENTRESS.**

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

**What are the ingredients in ISENTRESS?**

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

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

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## DANCIN' FEATS

## Mixed Nuts: Nutcracker arrives, in different forms

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

The holidays are here, which means we're in for an overdose of The Nutcracker ballet in and around Chicago.

Now many dance aficionados roll their eyes about the monopoly of this sugary ballet on the holiday season in the United States. And many dancers get tired of doing the same old thing year after year when other works like Cinderella, Coppelia or The Tales of Beatrix Potter would be entirely suitable replacements for the season. But there is plenty of good that comes from this glut of Nutcrackers each year. This 1892 Russian ballet originally choreographed by Marius Petipa and Lev Ivanov has helped to inspire generations of kids (both in the audience and on stage) to discover an interest in dance.

The fact that the opening party scene and battle sequences in The Nutcracker feature so many kids also guarantees an audience of extended family relatives to buy tickets. (For many a ballet company and dance studio, The Nutcracker is their guaranteed cash cow.)

And the LGBTQ community can also take pride that the ballet's gay composer, Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky, produced such a popular and everlasting score that continues to delight successive generations. The fact that this very Russian romantic work became such an American tradition in the 1940s and '50s (at the height of the Cold War, no less) is a testament to its universality.

So with that in mind, check out these notable area productions of The Nutcracker.

The **Joffrey Ballet's The Nutcracker** holds pride of place for being the biggest and most professional production of the work around town. This 1987 Nutcracker is also significant in the company's history, since it was the final full-length work choreographed by the company's co-founder, Robert Joffrey. The Joffrey Ballet's The Nutcracker plays the Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University, 50 E. Congress, Dec. 11-27.

## CRITICS' PICKS

**Beethoven As I Knew Him**, Drury Lane Theatre Water Tower Place, through Dec. 20. Hershey Felder's gifts as a pianist mean that the show's weak book almost doesn't matter. Beethoven's music is the point here, and with impeccable technique and extraordinary passion, Felder does it exquisite justice. CS

**A Christmas Carol**, Goodman Theatre, through Dec. 31. It's not just a Euro-Christian parable—no society survives long without compassion for its fellow denizens. Every country, the world over, has its fable of a malcontent who learns his duty to others. MSB

**Katya Kabanova**, Lyric Opera of Chicago, through Dec. 12. There's just one last chance to catch Janacek's bleak masterpiece of a passionate married woman whose unhappiness drives her to commit adultery (with a tragic consequences, of course). Everything about this Lyric presentation is top-notch. SCM

**Souvenir**, Northlight Theatre, through Dec. 20. In a more genteel age, legendary amateur soprano Florence Foster Jenkins made her own costumes for her yearly high society recitals for charity. That she could not sing a note never stopped her. This is her story. JA

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge,  
Morgan and Sullivan



**Civic Ballet of Chicago's Nutcracker.** Photo courtesy of the company

Tickets are \$25-\$100. Call 800-982-2787 or visit [www.joffrey.org](http://www.joffrey.org).

Before the Joffrey Ballet relocated to Chicago in the 1990s, it was Chicago dance pioneer Ruth Page whose home-grown version of The Nutcracker that dominated Chicago. (It played for an amazing 32 seasons at the Arie Crown Theatre.) **Civic Ballet of Chicago** now performs Page's version of The Nutcracker, and it appears Dec. 12-13 at Skokie's North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie. Tickets are \$35. Call 847-673-6300 or visit [northshorecenter.org](http://northshorecenter.org). The production also plays the Lumber Center for the Performing Arts at College of Lake County, 19351 W. Washington, Grayslake, Dec. 19-20. Tickets there are \$12-\$27; call 847-543-2300 or visit [jlcenter.clcillinois.edu](http://jlcenter.clcillinois.edu).

An interesting bit of trivia regarding **Chicago Festival Ballet's The Nutcracker** is that President Barack Obama's daughters once danced in this production (back in the days when he was still an Illinois senator). This production features choreography by Kenneth von Heidecke and accompaniment by the New Philharmonic Orchestra for five performances between Dec. 18-20 at the McAninch Arts Center at College of DuPage, 425 Fawell, Glen Ellyn. Tickets are \$27-37. Call 630-942-4000 or visit [www.atthemac.org](http://www.atthemac.org).

**The Moscow Ballet's Great Russian Nutcracker** promises to be a big affair, especially since it plays the mammoth Rosemont Theatre, 5400 N. River, Rosemont. It just plays a 3 p.m. matinee on Dec. 13. Tickets are \$25.50-\$85.50. Call 800-745-3000.

Dancer North production of the classic Tchaikovsky ballet goes by the name The Magic of the Nutcracker. Several professional dancers who got their start with the company make a point of returning home each holiday season to perform in the production, which finishes the season with two performances on Dec. 12 and 13 at the Genesee Theatre, 203 N. Genesee, Waukegan. Tickets are \$15-\$35; call 847-263-6300 or see [www.geneseetheatre.com](http://www.geneseetheatre.com).

Unlike many area ballet studios, **Ballet Legere's** version of The Nutcracker boasts a full orchestra to accompany its performances (instead of a taped accompanying track). Ballet Legere's Nutcracker plays three performances from Dec. 12-13 at the Chodl Auditorium at Morton East High School, 2423 S. Austin, Cicero. Tickets are \$24-\$26 and \$20-\$22; call 773-237-1874 or visit [www.legeredancecentre.com](http://www.legeredancecentre.com).

**Salt Creek Ballet's The Nutcracker** always guarantees top-flight imported dancers from professional companies in the major roles of the Sugar Plum Fairy, the Cavalier and the Snow Queen and King. Salt Creek Ballet's Nutcracker tour finishes up its touring season at the Center for Performing Arts at Governors State University, 1 University Parkway, off I-57 at Sauk Trail, University Park. Performances are 1 and 5 p.m. Dec. 12. Tickets are \$20-\$40. Call 708-235-2222 or visit [www.centertickets.net](http://www.centertickets.net).

And if you're tired of that same old Tchaikovsky

## SPOTLIGHT



score, check out Reggio "The Hoofer" McLaughlin's multicultural interpretation of the original E.T.A. Hoffmann tale called **The Nut Tapper**. It plays at 4 p.m. Dec. 13 at the Athenaeum Theatre, 2936 N. Southport. Tickets are \$20-\$25. Call 800-982-2787.

### THEATER REVIEW

## Cirque du Soleil's Banana Shpeel

**Created By:** David Shiner (writer),  
Serge Roy ("director of creation")  
**At:** The Chicago Theatre, 175 N. State  
**Tickets:** 800-745-3000; \$23-\$300  
**Runs through:** Jan. 3

BY CATEY SULLIVAN

More than 20 minutes that felt like 40 minutes into Banana Shpeel, we were still waiting for the show to get started. Or for a punchline to emerge. Or for anything, really, that indicated a production worthy of Cirque du Soleil's hitherto spectacular track record of artful spectacles.

We waited in vain. Instead of otherworldly beauty and fantastical technical brilliance, Banana Shpeel offers fart jokes. And those fart jokes are among the better of the supposedly comedic bits that weigh this show down like an elephant tethered to aerialist.

Just how bad is this attempt at vaudeville? "I'm going to impersonate an ordinary person with knee problems," says clown Claudio. Then, he proceeds to walk across the stage, intermittently saying "ouch." That's it, the whole joke. Granted it's supposed to be funny simply because it's so ridiculously stupid. But it's not funny. It's just ridiculously stupid. Like the worst parts of Shpeel, it is repeated over and over and over again, a dead horse pounded into glue before the night is over.

Shpeel is one of those shows that leave you smacking your forehead in disbelief. Millions of dollars went into the thing. (The costume budget alone could probably cover our mortgage for a year.) It was years in the making. The creative team—director/writer David Shiner, director of creation Serge Roy, Cirque founder Guy Laliberte—is a veritable brain trust of proven artistry. How could a show with such vast resources turn out to be so mired in puerility and tedium? How is it possible that nobody realized the jokes were more rotten than month-old deviled eggs? The mind reels.

Problem one: The two vaguely, abrasively leprechaunlike clowns who open the show by spending almost half an hour in front of the curtain pretending to improvise. Few things are more grating in live theater than the fake-improv. Here, the clowns "panic" when the mics "don't work." Much exaggeratedly frantic stage



Let's hope the Rodgers and Hammerstein organization doesn't find out about **Oklahomo for the Holidays**. This About Face Theatre song-filled spoof confection concerns pioneers involved in gay love triangles. Featuring notable Chicago talent like Molly Brennan (500 Clown, Animal Crackers) and Scott Bradley (Carpenters Halloween, Scooty and Jojo), **Oklahomo for the Holidays** plays 7 p.m. Dec. 11, 12 and 14 with a 3 p.m. matinee on Dec. 13 at the Center on Halsted's Hoover-Leppen Theatre, 3656 N. Halsted. Tickets are \$20 (includes two drinks); call 866-811-4111 or visit [www.aboutfacetheatre.com](http://www.aboutfacetheatre.com). Photo courtesy of About Face Theatre

### Online This Week:

—The Wind in  
the Willows

—Miracle on 34th St.

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[www.windycitymediagroup.com](http://www.windycitymediagroup.com)

whispering ensues. There is "chaos." Eventually, the mics "start working" and the show "continues." It takes an uber-skilled comedian to make scripted improv look like real improv. The clowns in Shpeel—whose "improv" runs throughout the show—simply make it painfully tedious.

"Tedious" is the operative word for all the (would-be) comedic segments of Shpeel. A restaurant skit in labors for what seems like an eternity without so much as an *amuse bouche*. The magic act has none. The prominently placed tap numbers are stupendous because of Bruno Rafie's flashy lighting design and Dominique Lermieux's equally luminescent costumes. As for the dance itself? Marc Robin does better on his off days.

Shpeel works only during its few-and-far-between circus acts, although they feel like they've been shoehorned in from another show entirely. As for the rest? Ouch.



**Banana Shpeel.** Photo by Kristie Kahns

# KNIGHT AT THE MOVIES



Me and Orson Welles.

## Me and Orson Welles; The Red Shoes

BY RICHARD KNIGHT, JR.

In the ongoing effort to shed his squealing teen fan base, teen heartthrob Zach Efron spreads his wings a tiny bit in the likeable coming-of-age comedy *Me and Orson Welles*. The film—set in 1937, when Welles had conquered radio and was looking to solidify his theatrical reputation with a Broadway sensation before heading out to Hollywood—isn't much different from a lot of other backstage comedies (*Mrs. Henderson Presents*, *An Awfully Big Adventure*, etc.) and features the requisite cast of eccentric theatre types, plenty of after-rehearsal shenanigans, and a measure of familiar, comfortable insight about life upon the Wicked Stage.

Efron plays Richard Samuels, a 17-year-old high school teen with acting dreams, drop-dead dreamy looks, a modicum of talent and plenty of *chutzpah*. When, by chance, he meets the renowned boy *wunderkind* Orson Welles (played with genuine finesse by film newcomer Christian McKay), Richard, whom Welles immediately dubs "Lucius," talks his way into a small role in Welles' eagerly anticipated production of "Julius Caesar."

Cutting class, Richard soaks up the reflected glory of being in the presence of the master, who dazzles the kid with his outrageous behavior as he goes about his frenetic schedule of radio appearances, rehearsals for the play, socials with the jet set and, of course, rendezvous with various women. Richard immediately forms a crush on pretty Sonja Jones (Claire Danes), Welles' production assistant, and his carnal

dreams come true when he ends up spending the night with her.

Though Sonja finds Richard's offer to show her "wealth, fame and adventure—at the movies" endearing, she's also a pragmatist with her own career agenda and isn't about to lose her head over the good-looking kid—especially with the promise of a Hollywood career and success in the offing. Cocky and aware of his matinee-idol good looks, Richard then overplays his hand and finds himself locked in a contest of wills with Welles himself just as the play is about to premiere.

Efron has the same breathtaking good looks of Tyrone Power and Robert Taylor, the matinee idols who were making millions swoon in 1937. He looks smashing in the tailored clothes of the '30s. (Ralph Laurens seems to have tailored the costumes.) Moreover, during a vivid, thrill-

ing recreation of Welles' daring production of "Julius Caesar," Richard prettily sings a poetic little song that will make the little girls (and gay boys) in the audience swoon, though it's not historically right for the '30s, the age of the crooner; however, McKay and the cast of crack supporting actors easily act rings around him. (McKay does the seemingly impossible—he humanizes Welles.)

*Me and Orson Welles*, based on a novel and directed by Richard Linklater (exploring yet another film genre) is a nice piece of fluff that will be particularly enjoyed by those with a taste for the era when the theatre was rife with Teutonic personalities, both behind the curtain and on-stage. Melodramatic and hammy ("Let's rip their throats out," Welles commands his actors in a pre-show speech), the movie taps into the fun of watching this bygone theatrical era (the sets, costumes, and soundtrack add to the pleasure). Although it won't exactly set Efron's fan base aflame (he remains clothed throughout) and certainly won't cause anything akin to the hysteria that greeted the *High School Musical* franchise, he holds his own with the more seasoned actors and can safely advance up the next rung of the ladder after having successfully headlined such an amiable little indie film as this.

There never has been quite another film like 1948's *The Red Shoes*, Michael Powell and Emeric Pressburger's masterpiece that focuses on the fate of a beautiful ballerina trapped between two men; the terrifying dance impresario who has given her stardom; and her lover, the brilliant young composer of the title work who wants her to throw away that stardom.

The film, made in England, was an international sensation in part due to its color-drenched cinematography and the tremendous Oscar-winning score by Brian Easdale, which includes the justly famed 18-minute title ballet. The movie brought instant acclaim for Moira Shearer, the ravishing, graceful redhead who plays Victoria "Vicky" Page, the emotionally torn ballerina who dazzles everyone with her beauty, charm and incredible dancing ability.

The movie also features a legendary performance by Anton Walbrook as the impossibly stern ballet impresario Boris Lermontov who will brook no resistance to his dictates. Sophisticated to an insane degree, dressed in impeccably tailored suits, silk pajamas and robe, lounging in a velvet Russian blouse, Boris' insane obsession with Vicky has everything to do with her talent and his own ideal of a perfect relationship—a partnership based on a shared love of dance and an obviously nonsexual one. The carnal fulfillment that Vicky shares with the young composer—another discovery by Boris—is considered the ultimate betrayal.

What remains unspoken but bubbling under the surface as the film nears its conclusion is that Boris is a deeply closeted gay man whose thwarted desires have been transferred to Vicky, his intended Beloved (several of the other prominent characters—the choreographer, the leading male dancer, etc. are also clearly gay though they obviously don't experience Boris' self-loathing). The price that all the characters pay—in part due to Boris' unnamed closeted status—is enormously steep and gives the film for discerning queer audiences a distinct frisson.

*The Red Shoes* has long been championed by film critics and archivists and should also be given its place, in my estimation, in gay cinema history. Director Martin Scorsese and his long-time editor Thelma Schoonmaker have personally supervised an eye-popping new, restored 35mm print that will be shown at the Music Box Theatre, 3733 N. Southport, beginning Dec. 11. Highly recommended. See [www.musicboxtheatre.com](http://www.musicboxtheatre.com).

Check out my archived reviews 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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# Catching up with Alexandra Billings

BY MICKI LEVENTHAL

Transgender actress and singer Alexandra Billings has a combination of charisma, humor and warmth—and a great whisky voice that puts one variously in mind of legends of stage and screen: Lauren Bacall, Bea Arthur, Bette Midler, Liza Minnelli and Alex's personal favorite, Judy Garland.

Just off a critically acclaimed gig at Sterling's in Los Angeles, where she did her cabaret show "Everybody's Girl," Billings will open for Leslie Jordan at the Renberg Theater Dec. 10-13 and 17-20. Jordan, who created the role of Beverly Leslie on "Will & Grace," presents his one-man "Full of Gin and Regrets"; Billings will tell a few jokes and perform two songs. She is thrilled to be working with the Emmy-award winning actor and said he is "one of the kindest, gentlest men I've met in this town."

Billings, who teaches at Steppenwolf West, also opened in a play the first weekend in December. "Dr. Frankincense and the Christmas Monster" is a Christmas satire for young audiences in which she portrays Mrs. Noel, wife of the Mayor of Christmas Village. A return engagement at Sterling's is planned for early spring. Focusing her career moves in Los Angeles, she has no plans for appearances in her hometown of Chicago.

However, the real breakout role may be on the horizon and another coast. In November, Billings was in New York to audition for the Broadway cast of Priscilla Queen of the Desert—The Musical.

On the audition trip, she shot a video talking about the experience. "It was a quandary as to whether I should put it up on my blog and YouTube," she said. "I have a thing about auditions and I don't usually talk about them."

"If you don't get the part, you have to keep reliving the experience. I did it because I'm a middle-age person and I don't know if this is really going to happen. But now I'm happy I shared. I've gotten so many e-mails and good wishes and this was one of the best audition experiences I've ever had, everyone was kind and wonderful."

"Rehearsals don't even start until at least August next year, with an opening planned for



Alexandra Billings.

spring 2011. I may not even hear for practically another year. And they may want big names for the Broadway cast. But if I get it, this would be the first time in Broadway history that a transgender actress would be cast to play a transgender person on Broadway."

While her television roles have centered on story lines concerning transgender individuals, and her one-woman show is autobiographical, Billings has only played one transgender role on stage. As a theater actress she has a string of credits that range from the high camp of

Vampire Lesbians of Sodom to dramatic roles at Court Theatre and Steppenwolf Theatre and several musical theater roles including Mama Rose in Gypsy.

Her goal as an actress is to land roles that "have nothing to do with my history. And that's more difficult than you'd think. I do not turn down a role because it is transgender. I do turn down cartoonish roles, stereotyped roles. But I am an actor, I want to act, sing, write and create my art."

Billings feels that there has been an increase in the comfort level of theater audiences toward her as a transgender actress. Before moving out to Los Angeles, she appeared in a Lincolnshire Marriott children's production of Princess and the Pea. During a post-performance talk back between the cast and audience at the suburban venue, a little girl raised her hand and asked Billings, "Are you a real queen?"

"Everyone held their breath and I said, 'Honey, you have no idea!' Even if people don't really know, they know there's something funny, something odd. It goes around the audience," Billings said. "But as the '90s started to close, people really started to care less about what I was. I'm an actress."

Despite the advances, there is still a long way to go. "In both the gay and straight communities, transgender people are still struggling with a lack of understanding as to who we are," Billings explained. "In a sense, we do not exist. There is no box for us to check, no place for us to sit. I am not the same kind of female as you are, I do not have the same internal organs. But that is not understood and really, that is our problem and our fault. Transgender people are steeped in our own shame and silence. We refuse to come out and speak. We adhere to the degrading names like 'trannie' and 'drag queen' and succumb to the caricatures and we cannot do that anymore as a community. We need to speak out. Then the bridges will be built and we won't be treated as curiosities anymore. We will be doctors, actors, lawyers, housewives. We will also be transgender."

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

## Meredith Baxter comes out

Actress Meredith Baxter—best known for being Elise Keaton on the '80s TV show Family Ties—has officially come out of the closet, CNN.com reported.

"It was a later in life recognition," Baxter, 62, told Matt Lauer on the "Today" show Dec. 2.

Talking on Sirius XM's "The Frank Decaro Show," Baxter said, "I know it's not the image that I've ... accrued over the years." When asked about the impact she thought coming out would have, she said, "...I am hoping that if I am that familiar face and you kind of like me, and I say, 'OK ... I am the same person and I am a lesbian, hello,' ... maybe I make it a little less scary for them. There's so much misunderstanding and ... fear around issues that they don't know that maybe I can help ... [them] cross ... over [that hurdle] ... in some way, give someone the courage to say, you know I've been thinking about that too and I've been afraid."

Baxter told People magazine that she has been with partner Nancy Locke, a building contractor, for four years. Baxter, who has been married three times and has five children, has been dating women for several years, and "the thought of being gay never crossed my mind," she said. Son Peter, 25, admitted to People that he could not "stop smiling, because she finally figured it out."



Meredith Baxter with Frank Decaro.



BY TERRI KLINSKY

### Pet for adoption:

*Eva*  
The first thing you notice about Eva are her eyes—they are amazing! They are big, round and absolutely gorgeous! Eva is a super-sweet 3-year old pretty black kitty who is one stunning little lady! Eva came to the shelter in July of this year when her owner could no longer care for her. She developed an upper respiratory infection and has spent some time recovering in our Rehab facility. As a result, she was left with a corneal scar on her left eye, but it's hardly no-



Eva. Photo courtesy of Terri Klinsky

ticeable and doesn't take away from what a little beauty she is! Other than that, Eva is healthy, happy and ready to find her permanent home! She is such a gentle girl that she would do great in almost any home, including one with kids and other pets. In fact, Eva lived with a cat in her former home, so she would welcome a new feline friend! Eva is a near-perfect cat and when you

come to visit, if she picks you, you will be one very lucky person! Please come and meet Miss Eva; she's waiting for you at The Anti-Cruelty Society, just ask for Tab Band #685832. Eva is ready to go home today!

For more information about animals available for adoption, please call 312-644-8338 after 11:30 a.m. [www.anticruelty.org](http://www.anticruelty.org)

Right now The Anti-Cruelty Society is having a "Home for the Holidays" cat promotion. Discounted adoption fee to anyone who adopts from now until Jan. 1. The adoption fee is \$30 and includes all shots, spaying/neutering, collar, tags, carrier and 15 days post-medical care.

Dressing your pets for the holidays? Of course you are! Send me pictures by Dec. 17 to [WCTpets@aol.com](mailto:WCTpets@aol.com) and they will appear in the Dec. 23 issue of Windy City Times.

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# calendar

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WINDY CITY TIMES



## Wed., Dec. 9

**Holidaze Book Sale** Gerber/Hart's annual holiday book sale from Fri, Dec 4 until Wed, Dec 23 with a great selection of over 50 categories of books, including LGBT and non-LGBT, gift books, and ribbon-wrapped gift sets. Also, movies and music in a variety of formats. Days and hours of the sale vary. 10am, Gerber/Hart Library, 1127 W Granville, www.gerberhart.org

**Power Groups** Looking for African American MSM's who are HIV+ and have a history of substance abuse to participate in a 6-week intervention to reduce the risk of further transmission or re-infection, and to reduce the use of substances. This group meets twice a week on Monday and Wednesdays from 1-3 at 5537 N. Broadway. POWER is Positive Outcomes Wellness Education and Recovery. Call the POWER line at 773-944-9400 and ask for the POWER department. 1 p.m., 773-989-9400, www.tpan.com

**G&L Chamber Holiday Party** The Chicago Area Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce Annual Holiday Party, to be held at the beautiful Hotel 71 Penthouse. Member rate of \$35. This rate includes two beverages and heavy appetizers, along with beautiful views of the city. 6:15pm, 773-303-0167, Hotel 71, 71 East Wacker, www.glchamber.org

## Thursday, Dec. 10

**Speed Dating for Gay Men** Bring your agenda book to this speed dating event for gay men, co-sponsored by Out Alumni Chicago, the Chicagoland Gay and Lesbian Singles Meetup, and the Chicago Professionals Meetup. Rounds will continue until

## A FINE WHINE Mondays thru Dec. 21

Jackie Hoffman will perform her one-woman show, Whining in the Windy City, at the Royal George Theatre, 1641 N. Halsted.



everyone has had a chance to meet. \$12 at door, \$10 in advance. A cash bar will open at 6:45pm Purchase tickets online or by phone. 6:45pm, 773-661-0763, Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted, /www.centeronhalsted.org

**Linda J. Pael** fundraising reception Join the Host Committee in supporting Linda Pael. \$20 minimum contribution. 7pm, Spin Nightclub, 800 W. Belmont

**December Prose, Poetry and Pints at the Pug** A queer-focused, straight friendly open mic reading, featuring special readings from DeDe Deyllyn and Gram Schellenberger; Hosted by Tavern Boy Craig Rathwell and author Drew Ferguson. Readers are encouraged to sign-up early with approximately five minutes of poetry, fiction or creative nonfiction. For more information, contact Drew at drewferguson@mac.com or at 773-504-2010. 7:30pm, 773-784-4811, Wild Pug, 4810 N. Broadway, www.worldsgreatestbar.com/pug/index.htm

**How The Diva Stole Christmas 4 (Amy &**

**Freddy)** What better way to warm up on a cold winter's night than from the stage light with Chicago's hilarious music and comedy dynamic duo, Amy Armstrong and Freddy Allen? "How the Diva Stole Christmas IV" will feature a diverse selection of classic and not-so-classic holiday songs and of course many surprises along the way. 8pm, Roscoe's Tavern, 3356 N Halsted, www.amyfreddy.com

## Friday, Dec. 11

**"A Hero Comes Home" exhibit on the life and times of Daniel Sotomayor** Sotomayor, an inductee in the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame, was a cartoonist in Chicago. This exhibit is being called by the Coalition for Justice and Respect (CJR). 6pm, 773-559-1751

**Action Meeting on Violence against African-American LGBTs/Youth** Meeting to address the recent Reports of Violence and Prejudice against Black Gays and Lesbians in Chicago. This meeting is being called by the Coalition for Justice and Respect (CJR). 6pm, 773-559-1751

**Halsted's CENTERscreen series shows "Dirty Laundry"** Center on Halsted in partnership with More For Gay Men presents a monthly evening of great movie viewing, camaraderie and conversation. Experience a different way to talk about the movies. "Dirty Laundry" stars Loretta Devine and Rockmond Dunbar in the story of a gay man returning home to Georgia to face his family, and the news that he has a 10-year-old son. Tickets are \$5 in advance or \$7 at the door. Admission includes facilitated discussion and light refreshments. 6:30pm, 312-645-8300, Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted, www.moreforgaymen.com

**Joffrey Ballet Chicago's Nutcracker** The Joffrey's Nutcracker—performed all over the U.S. and seen by thousands. Tchaikovsky's masterpiece, featuring the full Joffrey company, local children's choruses, and more than 120 young dancers, creates a winter wonderland of beauty, magic and sugarplum delight! Through 27, 2009; 7pm, 800.982.2787, Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University, 50 E Congress, www.ticketmaster.com

**Delight Before Christmas** Girlie-Q Productions presents its first original, full-length production, Delight Before Christmas, a sexy, campy, comic burlesque journey to

discover the meaning of Christmas. Performances Thurs., Fri., Sat. at 8:30pm from Nov 27 - Dec 19. Tickets \$15-\$20 via Ticketmaster online. 8:30pm, Theatre Building Chicago, 1225 W. Belmont, girlieq.net/delight

## Saturday, Dec. 12

**About Face Theatre presents Oklahomo for the Holidays** Rootin' tootin' retellin' of your old favorite western musical. Lady Aunt Eller hosts this tale of gay love triangles in the pioneer days. Full of flair and with a hint of winter, the range like you've never seen it before. \$20 tickets include two free drinks! Purchase your tickets online or by phone. 7pm, Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted, aboutface theatre.com

**2009 Dance Chicago Festival, 15th Anniversary Grand Finale** Dance Chicago ends its 15th anniversary with a Holiday Showcase, featuring Chicago's best choreographers, dancers, international guest artists, and MIC faculty. Music Institute of Chicago Nichols Concert Hall, 1490 Chicago Ave, Evanston. Tickets \$25; 8pm, 847-905-1500, ext 108, http://www.musicinstituteofchicago.org

**Robin Thicke performance** In the Thicke of time: Singer Robin Thicke will perform and sign copies of the new CD "Sex Therapy." 12:30pm

## Sunday, Dec. 13

**Potluck at the Pug: Wild Pug's Inaugural Holiday Charity and Chow Benefit** Wild Pug customers are invited to either bring a potluck dish to share; or to partake of the delectable delights by either donating a canned good and \$5 or \$10 without a canned good. All proceeds to benefit Care for Real. Folks bringing a dish should arrive at 3:00 pm. To sign-up to bring a dish, ask someone on Pug's bar staff to see the sign up sheet; To eat, show-up with your donation on Dec. 13 at 4 pm. For more information, contact Drew at drewferguson; 4pm, Wild Pug, 4810 N. Broadway Ave, http://www.worldsgreatestbar.com/pug/index.htm

**OUTwrite presents author Gamina Oliver** OUTwrite (an LGBT literary program) in partnership with B.BLYSS! Productions present a reading & book signing with author of "It's Damn Near Erotic When I Think About It". \$10 at the door. (\$5 discount for Students and Seniors with valid I.D.). Information at culture@centeronhalsted.org; 5pm, 773-661-0763, Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted, http://www.centeronhalsted.org

**Male Call with Miss Foozie at Roscoe's** Roscoe's and ChicagoPride.com present Male Call with Miss Foozie. Here's your chance to meet the unexpected and end the weekend right. 5pm, Roscoe's Tavern, 3356 N Halsted St, http://www.roscoes.com

**Bailiwick Chicago Holiday Benefit** First annual benefit for the new Bailiwick Chicago with a "Classic Holiday TV" Themed Performance starring Bailiwick performers of the past, present and future. Open Bar & Silent Auction; Dinner and Live Music. \$100 Regular Seating, \$150 VIP Seating; 6pm, 773.969.6201, www.bailiwickchicago.com

## Monday, Dec. 14

**Affinity/Youth Pride Services Youth Drop-In Program** Affinity and Youth Pride Services are hosting a Monday drop-in program for youth aged 14-19. The Drop-In will be at Affinity the 1st and 3rd Mondays and at YPC on alternate Mondays. This is a structured program that includes homework time, gender-specific discussion/programming, co-ed activities and a meal. Tutors, mentors, and guest speakers are wanted. 4pm, 773-324-0377, http://www.affinity95.org



## EROTIC CITY Sunday, Dec. 13

Gamina Oliver will promote her book, *It's Damn Near Erotic When I Think About It*, at Center on Halsted.

## Whining in the Windy City: Holiday Edition

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

## Tuesday, Dec. 15

**Homolatte: queer music and spoken word** A bi-monthly, all-ages, queer music and spoken word series in Chicago. It happens on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month. Hosted by Scott Free. Freeamssion. Special guests: Nicole Reynolds and Shoes For Mabel. 7:30pm, Big Chicks, 5024 N Sheridan Road, http://www.homolatte.com

## Saturday, Dec. 16

**Champagne Wrapture 2009** 8th Annual Champagne Wrapture cocktail party and art auction featuring Veuve Clicquot Champagne and Belvedere vodka, silent auction & raffle, and live music from cabaret duo Amy Armstrong and Freddy Allen; 5:30pm, Hotel Sax, 333 N. Dearborn, http://www.chicagohouse.org/event\_4.html

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

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

## Thursday, Dec. 17

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

**Chicago House Holiday Shopping at His Stuff** Enjoy complimentary champagne and appetizers while you get the guys on your list something special. For one day only, 10% of proceeds will be donated to Chicago House, AND you'll receive 10% off everything in the store. 6pm, 773-248-5200, His Stuff, 3162 N Broadway Ave, http://www.chicagohouse.org/hisstuff-holiday09.html



## I'LL DRINK TO THAT Wed., Dec. 16

Chicago House's Champagne Wrapture 2009 will take place at Hotel Sax, 333 N. Dearborn.

Photo from the 2008 Wrapture by Kat Fitzgerald (MysticImagesPhotography.com)

# BILLY MASTERS

"I'm Kathleen Turner. You might have seen me on TV, or in old movies."—Kathleen Turner introduces herself to one of the recipients of her Thanksgiving dinner deliveries for New York's Citymeals-on-Wheels. It's a speech I believe she gives on all national holidays—and more than a few local ones.

I have to be very quiet. One of the most gorgeous men on the planet is sleeping just inches away from me. Daniel Craig, "James Bond" himself, is on the other side of my headboard. Admittedly, there's a wall separating us, but since when has that stopped me? I must confess it's causing some interesting dreams. I never considered winching into Halle Berry's bikini...but for Danny, I'd be willing to give it a go.

This week, I'm in New York (where Craig and Jackman are completing their run of "A Steady Rain") seeing some shows, shmoozing with some celebs, all the while attempting to fly under the radar. I did catch Jude Law's "Hamlet" and loved everything about the production—except the ending which fell flat. The new cast of "God of Carnage" is wonderful—particularly Christine Lahti. Annie Potts is slow to get going, but once she does, she's dynamite. And the new provocative gay play "Loaded" features compelling performances by still-sexy Kevin Spirtas and Scott Kerns. Yes, there's full-frontal nudity. No, I didn't get it for posterity. Sometimes I'm on my best behavior.

Its official—Kelsey Grammer will make his Broadway musical debut in next year's revival of "La Cage aux Folles" playing "Georges" opposite the amazing Douglas Hodge, who won all the theatre awards in London for his portrayal of "Albin/Zaza". The show starts previews on April 6th.

Remember a few weeks ago when I told you that sexy Matthew Bomer (from "White Collar" on the USA network) is gay? We even ran some pics of him making out with a guy. Turns out, the guy is Mike White, an ex-boyfriend. And he's issued a statement: "Matt and I dated from November 2001—February 2004. This was a long time ago. I haven't spoken to him in about 2 years or maybe more. I wish Matt happiness and success in his life and career." Of course, it doesn't quite explain how the photos of them making out went public—but it gives us the chance to run them again on BillyMasters.com. There's also a mega-hot snap of Mike in his undies that warrants posting. At least Bomer and White both have good taste!

The big story this week is Grady Sizemore, who none of you ever heard of before, but who apparently plays center field for the Cleveland Indians. Who knew there were Indians in Cleveland? Grady is very hot, which I suppose goes without saying when you're a 27-year-old professional athlete. None of this would interest me in the slightest, except for a number of extremely risqué photos taken in front of his bathroom mirror wearing only underwear—and sometimes less! Apparently, he had a habit of taking sexy pics of himself with his iPhone and sending them to his girlfriend, who happens to be a Playboy Playmate. So far, snaps from three photo sessions have surfaced. I'm torn about a favorite—is it the one of him in his underwear with a jar of Vaseline on the counter in front of him, or the nude one with him covering his privates with a cup of tea? I guess I prefer the one of him tea bagging, literally. And, if you look closely, you get a glimpse of his testicles dangling beneath the cup. You can check 'em out for yourself at BillyMasters.com.

We got some good news from our own Tyler Perry. He may be busy nowadays with TV and films, but he never forgets that his first love—theatre. For the first time in five years, he's going back on the road and touring in a brand new "Madea" play—"Madea's Big Happy Family". The

play opens on Jan. 4 in Denver, Colo., and will play one-night gigs through the spring. The full schedule can be found at TylerPerry.com.

You know what it's time for? "Billy's Holiday Gift Giving Suggestions". I like to recommend a few of my favorite things as possible gifts my readers would enjoy. Since we're talking about theatre, I'm going to direct you to [www.BroadwayCares.org](http://www.BroadwayCares.org). There you'll find books, CDs, DVDs, everything that a self-respectful (or even self-loathing) queen could want. If you're looking for videos of, say, the annual "Broadway Bares" benefit, go to [www.BroadwayBeat.com](http://www.BroadwayBeat.com). All proceeds from both sites go to Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS. A win/win.

Remember Ryan Barry? The hot fitness model who was dating someone who was once on a reality show? Well, he's now happily coupled with Lieutenant Colonel Victor Fehrenbach. You



Daniel Craig is close to Billy's thoughts.

may recall the story of Fehrenbach—an 18-year veteran of the Air Force who was discharged two years short of a full pension under "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" (note the pattern). The couple showed up at last week's AIDS Service Foundation fundraiser in Orange County dressed as hunky Santas—and they were certainly hunky! Check out the pics on BillyMasters.com.

Our "Ask Billy" question this week is from Lane in Baltimore: "Did you see '2012'? Who was that hot Russian pilot? Man, oh man, was he hot! And he looks familiar."

I did see the film—the less said the better. (I hope John Cusack got lots of money for this stinker.) The hot Russian is Johann Urb and if he looks familiar, you might have seen him on the soon-to-be-departing Eastwick, where he played the newspaper photographer who has dated not one but two of the female co-stars. By the way, he may have played Russian, but he's actually Estonian. Alas, he's married to a woman and is so heterosexual that he's been quoted as saying, "I'm a guy's guy. I don't like to tinker in front of a mirror in the morning. Shaving is not my thing." I'm a guy's guy too—but apparently it means a different thing when I say it! Anyway, we do have some sizzling skin shots worth seeing, so check out BillyMasters.com.

When Grady could be the new Vaseline spokesperson, it's definitely time to end yet another column. Being in NYC got me right into the holiday spirit. The tree at Rockefeller Center. The carolers in Times Square. Even the Naked Cowboy and his blue balls. We're all about spreading cheer. In fact, there'll even be one of our periodic special deals on [www.BillyMasters.com](http://www.BillyMasters.com) coming up sometime before the New Year, so be sure to keep checking back. If you've got a question, just drop a note to [Billy@BillyMasters.com](mailto:Billy@BillyMasters.com) and I promise to get back to you before I figure out how to break through this wall without waking 007! Until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible.

THURSDAY 12.31.09

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

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## BUSINESS

## Lean and green: Center studies and conserves

BY ANDREW DAVIS

The Daniel F. and Ada L. Rice Plant Science Center (a part of Glencoe's Chicago Botanic Garden) provides laboratories and teaching facilities for more than 200 Ph.D. scientists, land managers, students and interns. Windy City Times spoke with Director of Plant Science and Conservation Kay Havens, Ph.D., and discovered some surprising things about the facility—and plants, in general.

**Windy City Times: How long did it take to build the center, and how large is the facility?**

Kayri Havens: We broke ground a year ago in June and finished this September. The center is 38,000 square feet [including the 16,000-square-foot Green Roof Garden].

**WCT: Let's discuss some of the features. Could you talk about the garden?**

KH: Sure. So we have a rooftop garden that's divided into halves, the north half and the south half. On the south half, we've used plants [native to] the United States; on the north half, we have plants from all over the world. The roof really is an experiment; it's an evaluation garden where we are trying to broaden the palette of plants that can be used for green roofs. We're trying plants from harsh conditions from around the world. Up on the roof they have to experience greater extremes of temperature, thawing and wind.

**WCT: Yes; this will certainly test them. [Havens laughs.] So what types of plants do you use?**

KH: We're using plants from many temperate areas, including alpine areas. They have to withstand our cold winters and hot summers. We can't go too far up in elevation or too far north.

We have everything up there, from sedum to native grasses like little blue stems to black-eyed Susans. We even have prickly pear cactus. You name it—we're trying it. [Laughs]

**WCT: The center has many LEED [Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design] features.**

KH: Yes. The building was designed to be rated LEED gold.

If you visit the building, you'll notice it's up on piers; [there's] also a rainwater garden surrounding the building that helps filter and catch rainwater. The green roof, of course, is another feature, and we have photovoltaic solar panels all around the perimeter of the roof. The building is designed to allow a lot of daylight in, not only to the offices around the perimeter but it filters down to the common spaces and even the laboratories that are towards the center of the building.

We've used a lot of recycled material; our flooring is made from recycled tires. We've recycled a number of the trees we took down to [put up] the building; they're now featured in the black-walnut wall in our library [as well as] the planters in our atrium. We also used paints that didn't have a lot of volatile organic compounds.

Also, in order to help people get down to the site, which is about a mile and a half from the train, we have a shuttle that runs from the station to the garden. Once you're at the garden, there's a little solar shuttle that has runs back and forth over the summer months.

**WCT: There are several laboratories that specialize in different aspects of [plant science].**

KH: Sure. We have nine [labs] altogether, including a wonderful, new, large genetics lab that allows us to use modern DNA fingerprinting techniques to study plants. We're the CSI for plants. [Laughs] We can do wonderful things like



Dr. Kay Havens. Photo by Robin J. Carlson

look at a plant population and determine who the fathers of the seeds are; we do paternity tests.

We can also compare how much diversity is left in a wild population to the diversity of plants kept at a botanic garden, for instance. We did that with an extremely endangered Hawaiian plant that's collected by a lot of botanic gar-

dens. During the last hurricane in Hawaii, it was totally wiped out in the wild. We now know what the botanic gardens have and that will help with genetic re-introduction in Hawaii.

We also have a new seed bank—probably my favorite new aspect of the building. We have a huge walk-in seed vault that's about 240 square feet; it's a freezer that keeps seeds at -20 degrees Celsius. When seeds are stored like that, they can last, on average, about 200 years. The seeds will be used for restoration down the road as well as research projects.

**WCT: There's also a visitors' gallery?**

KH: Yes. There's a large visitors' gallery. So we're open to the public. The gallery is lined with windows that go into the labs. They can see the scientists doing their work. Also, along a railing underneath the windows are all kinds of interpretative materials; they can read about the work we're doing or [take part in] interactive video displays.

**WCT: Are there any forthcoming additions or enhancements?**

KH: By this January, we should have our GIS (Geographic Information System) running. It's a mapping tool, basically; it allows us to look at, for instance, the range where a plant will grow, and then overlay on that map soil characteristics, climate [traits], land use, etc., to help us

visualize what sites are important for that species. We can also change the climate in order to predict where that plant may occur in the future or where it may need to migrate.

**WCT: So the overall goal of the center is plant conservation, correct?**

KH: Yes. All of the research is focused on plant conservation; understanding the threats to plants, like climate change, habitat loss and invasive weeds; and trying to come up with ways to mitigate those threats to help plants adapt and survive the challenges we're throwing at them.

**WCT: And there are endangered plants just like there are endangered animals?**

KH: Yes. In fact, in the U.S. the endangered-species list is 60 percent plants—and we're working with a number of them that occur in the Midwest.

**WCT: You hear about animals being on the list, but never plants.**

KH: And that's one of the biggest problems for plant-conservation biologists—when you think about endangered species, everyone thinks about animals.

**See more about the The Daniel F. and Ada L. Rice Plant Science Center at [www.chicagobotanic.org](http://www.chicagobotanic.org).**



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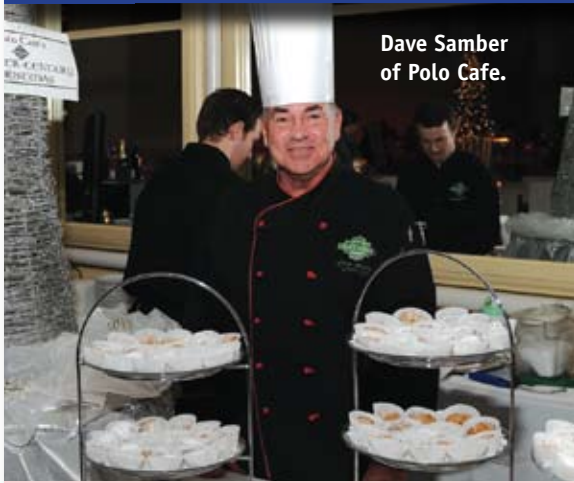
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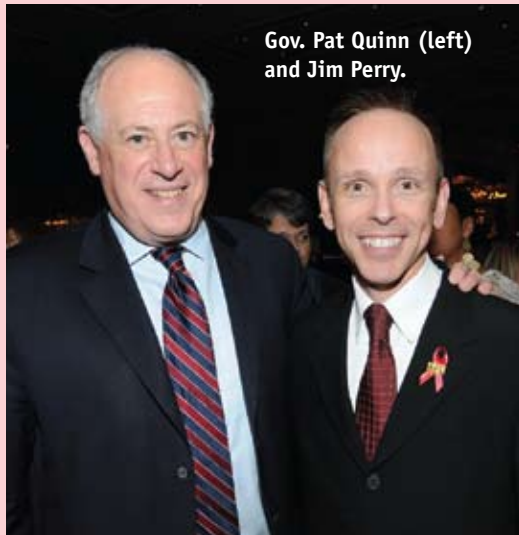
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Gov. Pat Quinn (left) and Jim Perry.



To commemorate World AIDS Day, The AIDS Foundation of Chicago (AFC) hosted its annual World of Chocolate Dec. 3 at the Hilton Chicago, 720 S. Michigan. More than 30 people competed for the first-ever Chocolate Bliss Recipe Challenge—ultimately won by Robyn Rice Foster for her Southern Sweet Potato Milk Chocolate Truffles. The celebrity judges bestowed many honors upon Peninsula Hotel, including the People's Choice Award. More than 1,500 people attended, and many chocoholics waited in long lines for samples provided by some of Chicagoland's finest restaurants, caterers and chocolatiers. The annual fundraiser brought in more than \$200,000 for the evening. For more information about AFC, visit [www.aidschicago.org](http://www.aidschicago.org). Text by Jerry Nunn and photos by Kat Fitzgerald (MysticImagesPhotography.com); see many more images online at [www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com](http://www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com)

Chicago Gay History Project

## Community Photo Days

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Thursday, Dec. 17 2 p.m. - 7 p.m.  
 Saturday, Dec. 19 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
 Tuesday, Dec. 22 Noon-4 p.m.



A free photo session for you, your friends, partner and family.

Come be part of the Chicago Gay History Project and have your images be part of our community's history.

Photos will be posted at [www.ChicagoGayHistory.org](http://www.ChicagoGayHistory.org), a project by Windy City Times Publisher Tracy Baim.

Photos take just a few minutes per person, so just come prepared for your close-up! No reservations needed.

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



Individual head shots, plus group and couples photos.

**Questions?**

Email [info@chicagogayhistory.org](mailto:info@chicagogayhistory.org)



### SPORTS SHORTS

#### Lesbian tennis player retires

Amelie Mauresmo—the out Frenchwoman who was once the top-ranked female tennis player in the world—has retired, according to CBSsportsline.com.

Mauresmo, 30, finished this season at No. 21. She became the first player from France, male or female, to reach the No. 1 spot Sept. 13, 2004. In 2006, she won Wimbledon and the Australian Open.

"I don't want to train anymore," Mauresmo said. "I had to make a decision, which became evident in the last few months and weeks. When you grew older, it's more difficult to stay at the top."

#### Woman prevails in Title IX suit

The National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR); Leslie Levy of Boxer & Gerson, LLP; and Mattheus E. Stephens of Stock Stephens, LLP won a jury trial on behalf of Lorri Sulpizio, the former head coach of the women's basketball team at San Diego Mesa College, a college within the San Diego Community College District, according to a press release.

Filed July 24, 2008, the lawsuit alleged that Mesa officials retaliated against Sulpizio after she repeatedly raised concerns about unequal treatment of female athletes and faculty (in violation of Title IX), and ultimately fired her. The complaint was brought against the San Diego Community College District. The jury found that the district violated federal and state statutes.

The California State Court jury awarded \$28,000, the equivalent of one year's salary, in damages.

#### SkiBudz trips to Wis. and Aspen in Jan.

SkiBudz, a local LGBT skiing/snowboarding club for participants of all levels, is travelling to Wauwau, Wis., for its 4th Annual Granite Peak Trip Jan. 8-10, 2010 and Aspen, Colo., Jan. 19-24.

The Jefferson Street Inn is even offering SkiBudz discounts for its rooms, which now cost \$109-\$259 per night. Reservations must be booked by Dec. 5. For more information on the Granite Peak ski area, see [www.skigranite-peak.com](http://www.skigranite-peak.com).

Regarding the Aspen trip, the cost is approximately \$950, which includes round-trip air SFO to Aspen on United Airlines, ground transfers to and from the Aspen Airport, five nights lodging and a four-day lift ticket good at all four mountains.

For more, visit [www.skibudz.org](http://www.skibudz.org).

#### Second City Badminton's open gym dates

Second City Badminton's open gym dates will span from October through January. As always, this information is posted on the CMSA Web site, [www.chicagomsa.org](http://www.chicagomsa.org).

The cost is \$7 at the Broadway Armory, 5917 N. Broadway, 6:30-9 p.m. every Monday except for holidays. The dates are as follows: Dec. 14 (skip for Christmas and New Year's); and Jan. 4 and 11 (skip Jan. 18 for the Martin Luther King, Jr., holiday).

Also, winter doubles will start Jan. 25, 2010. Sign-ups will begin Jan. 4 at open gym.



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

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

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