



LEVI KREIS

PAGE 28

WINDY CITY TIMES

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

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JEANNE KRACHER

PAGE 11



MARY MORTEN'S FILM

PAGE 30



ALAN CUMMING

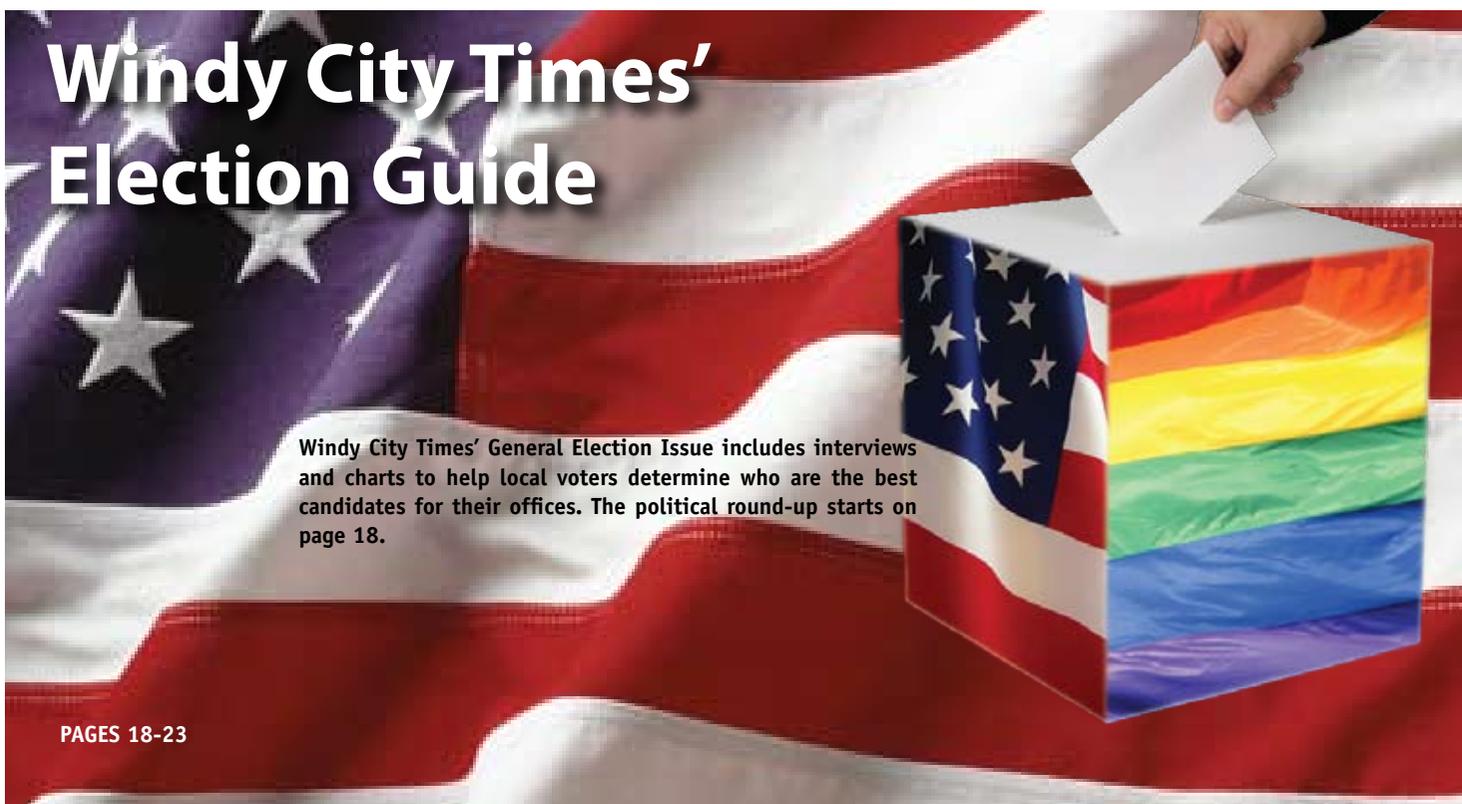
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Actor Alan Cumming received the Chicago International Film Festival's first OUTragous Award Oct. 18. Photo by Bob Dowey



Affinity turns 15

Affinity Community Services celebrated its 15th anniversary with a benefit at Sidetrack Oct. 23. From left are four of the agency's founders: Lisa Marie Pickens, Melissa Petty, Ted Dobbins and Chris Smith. Photo by Hal Baim; see more photos on page 10 and many more online at <http://www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com>.



Windy City Times' Election Guide

Windy City Times' General Election Issue includes interviews and charts to help local voters determine who are the best candidates for their offices. The political round-up starts on page 18.

PAGES 18-23

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Interviews in the book with:

Brian Bond
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Representative Tammy Baldwin
Representative Barney Frank
Representative Jared Polis

Plus current and former Chicagoans:

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Book discussions and signings:

Wed., Oct. 27, 6 p.m.
Harold Washington Library
400 S. State Street, Chicago



Obama marched in the 2003 Chicago LGBT Pride Parade. His volunteers posed with the Senate candidate before the parade. Included with Obama are John Myers (behind Obama's right shoulder) and Kevin Thompson, front row, right. Myers and Thompson are among the current and former Chicagoans interview in the book. Courtesy Kevin Thompson

www.ObamaAndTheGays.com

Available on Amazon.com and Amazon Kindle
tinyurl.com/ObamaGayBook and <http://tinyurl.com/ObamaGayKindle>

Also available at Women & Children First Bookstore (5233 N. Clark, Chicago) and Unabridged Books (3251 N. Broadway, Chicago)

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FINE DESIGNS
 Events such as Design for a Cure (left) and Massage in a Bottle took place around Chicago last week.

Photo by Kate Sosin



Read a column on pro-equality voters by People for the American Way President Michael Keegan.

Photo from Miranda Blue



Before her Nov. 3 concert, Sara Bareilles talked with WCT.

Photo by Heidi Ross

PASTA TIME AWAY
 Amuse Bouche looks at pasta fazool this week.

THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT
 Read the latest entertainment news on Fran Drescher, Ricky Martin and Adam Lambert, among others.

MORE POLITICS
 In addition to what's in print in our general election guide, read the full interviews with several candidates.

plus
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Turn to Nightspots for the most comprehensive listing of Halloween bar events in town!

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9th Circuit puts DADT injunction on hold

BY LISA KEEN
KEEN NEWS SERVICE

The 9th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals, on Oct. 20, stopped the enforcement of a federal district court judge's order that the military stop enforcing "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" (DADT). And pressure has begun building within the Democratic ranks for President Obama to do more to stop enforcement of the law, with Rep. Barney Frank releasing a statement that same day saying, "President Obama made a mistake in appealing" the lower-court decision in the case.

The stay brings to an end eight days in which the military did not enforce the 16-year-old ban on gays in the military—a period during which at least some openly gay former servicemembers, including former Army Lieutenant Dan Choi on Oct. 19, were allowed to re-enlist. It is not clear what impact the stay—which is temporary—might have on their re-enlistment.

The 9th Circuit's Oct. 20 order was in response to two emergency motions filed by the U.S. Department of Justice (DoJ). One sought the temporary stay of the injunction against DADT until DoJ and attorneys for Log Cabin Republicans can submit briefs regarding a more lasting injunction. The 9th Circuit granted the temporary stay and it will remain in place until the 9th Circuit rules on the second motion. Briefs on the second motion are due Oct. 25.

The second DoJ motion seeks a more lasting stay on the injunction—one that would remain in place until the 9th Circuit can rule on the merits of the underlying lawsuit, *Log Cabin Republicans v. U.S.*

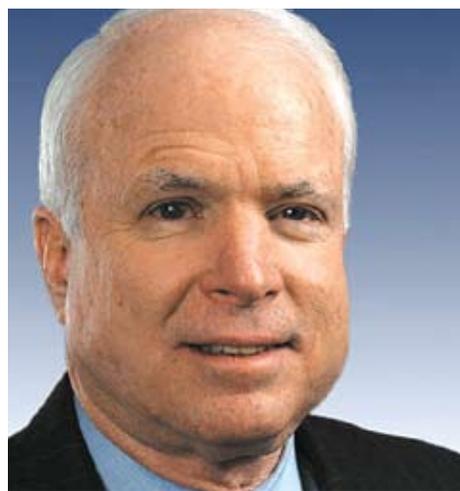
In *Log Cabin v. U.S.*, U.S. District Court Judge Virginia Phillips ruled on September 9 that DADT the First Amendment right to free speech and the Fifth Amendment right to due process in the federal constitution.

Frank, a Democratic Party loyalist and not one prone to quick criticism of a Democratic president, said Oct. 20 that, while Obama does have an "obligation to defend even laws they dislike," DADT has been repudiated not only by Obama but also by a "decisive majority of the House" and a majority of the Senate.

"The president must use every available tool he has to press the Senate" to pass the DADT repeal legislation, said Frank.

Phillips formally entered her opinion in *Log Cabin v. U.S.* Oct. 12 and issued an injunction, ordering the federal government to stop enforcement of DADT.

DoJ filed a motion with Phillips Oct. 14, asking her to issue a stay of her injunction while it appeals the decision to the 9th Circuit. But, on



Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz.

Oct. 19, Phillips denied that request.

In her Oct. 19 six-page order, Phillips noted that, before she issued the injunction, DoJ "provided no evidence regarding the alleged disruption" to military readiness or regarding the "need to revise dozens of policies and regulations" that DoJ claimed would be associated with compliance with the injunction.

And at a hearing on the injunction Oct. 18, she said, DoJ's evidence was "unpersuasive" and "belied by the uncontroverted evidence presented at trial regarding the DADT's effect on military readiness and unit cohesion."

The Log Cabin Republicans filed its lawsuit, which was heard by Phillips in July, during two weeks of testimony at the U.S. District Court for Central California, in Riverside. Phillips noted that, at trial, DoJ "chose not to rebut" evidence submitted by LCR.

"So, to the extent [DoJ attorneys] now argue that stopping discharge under the [DADT] Act will harm military readiness and unit cohesion, they had the chance to introduce evidence to that effect at trial," wrote Phillips. DoJ "did not do so" and the evidence it "belatedly present now does not meet their burden to obtain a stay."

Phillips agreed with DoJ that the "public has an interest in military readiness, unit cohesion, and the preservation of fundamental constitutional rights" and that preserving the status quo and enforcing laws are "important" interests. But, she said, "these interests are outweighed by the compelling public interest of safeguarding fundamental constitutional rights."

Log Cabin praised Phillips' order.

"Judge Phillips is right to stand with servicemembers by rejecting President Obama's request to continue this discriminatory policy," said R. Clarke Cooper, executive director of Log Cabin Republicans. "It is vital that as a nation we uphold the fundamental constitutional rights of all soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines and coast guardsmen."

Servicemembers Legal Defense Network issued a statement of caution.

"By the judge keeping the injunction in place, lesbian and gay service members are protected

another day, but the uncertainty has not gone away," said SLDN Executive Director Aubrey Sarvis. "The Department of Justice will immediately ask the 9th Circuit to stay the injunction. ... During this interim period of uncertainty, service members must not come out. Our service members need finality. Given the uncertainty in the courts, we urge the Senate to act swiftly next month on repeal when they return to Washington."

The House has already passed a measure that includes repeal of DADT, but the Senate last month failed to break a Republican-led filibuster largely aimed at stopping the repeal. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid has indicated he plans to bring the defense spending bill, which includes the repeal measure, to the floor when the Senate reconvenes following mid-term elections next month.

Lt. Dan Choi, who has been active in staging protests to the Obama administration over DADT and who was discharged under the law in June, went to a recruitment center in Times Square Tuesday to re-enlist. He said the process took more than two hours but that recruiters conducted themselves "very professionally" and allowed him to re-enlist.

Meanwhile, even a national gay Democratic group is beginning to show impatience with the Obama administration's actions concerning DADT.

Groups file to reinstate injunction

Log Cabin Republicans is continuing to fight "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" (DADT), presenting arguments Oct. 25 in opposition to the Obama administration's recent request for a stay, according to an organizational press release.

The enforcement of DADT was stopped for eight days after U.S. District Judge Virginia Phillips ruled in favor of Log Cabin. However, the policy was reinstated when the Department of Justice was granted a temporary emergency stay.

"In its latest appeal, the Obama Administration is putting paperwork ahead of the fundamental constitutional rights of servicemembers," said R. Clarke Cooper, executive director of Log Cabin Republicans. "This is just another in a long line of delay tactics from a President who has not missed an opportunity to defend this policy in court."

Lambda Legal and Servicemembers United, the nation's largest organization of gay and lesbian troops and veterans, have also taken action, filing friend-of-the-court briefs in support of the Log Cabins' case, according to releases from the groups. Lambda's brief argues that DADT puts undue pressure on LGB service members in that they have to live in constant fear of being discovered.

ONLINE AT
WINDYCITYMEDIAGROUP.COM
NATIONAL NEWS

—Dan Choi (left):
I'm not voting
for Obama

—Another gay teen
suicide—but no
evidence of bullying

—Video game lets
user be gay,
get married

"If the Obama administration is going to appeal this decision to higher courts," said National Stonewall Democrats Executive Director Michael Mitchell, "then we need to hear the President say that he believes DADT is unconstitutional. We need to hear it in a context of a plan [for eradicating DADT] that includes several back-ups, especially if Senator [John] McCain is serious about his churlish and misguided threat of another filibuster in the lame duck session."

McCain, speaking to an NBC affiliate station in Oct. 17, said, "Absolutely I will filibuster or stop it from being brought up until we have a thorough and complete study on the effect of morale and battle effectiveness."

McCain led filibuster efforts last month that derailed a defense spending bill that included DADT repeal language. That spending bill, an annual defense authorization bill, is critical to funding operations of the Department of Defense. Democrats have said they have the 55 votes needed to stop any effort to strip the DADT repeal language from the bill, but they did not have the 60 votes they needed to break the filibuster. The mid-term elections are expected to weaken their ability to break a filibuster even further.

Frank, in the statement he issued Oct. 20, said that, if Republicans again mount a filibuster, "the President should reconsider the decision to appeal" *Log Cabin v. U.S.* "and should also state clearly that any member of the military who acts in accord with the injunction...will remain protected against any disciplinary action in the future."

"While the president does not have the authority unilaterally to repeal a statute," said Frank, "he clearly has the discretion to order that no subsequent retroactive application of the policy be imposed."

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Russlynn Ali.

Dept. of Ed. spells out responses to bullying

BY KATE SOSIN

Responding to an influx of reported LGBT teen suicides, the U.S. Department of Education announced Oct. 25 that it will release a letter to educators highlighting their legal obligations to protect LGBT students from bullying.

The announcement marks the first time the department has spelled out schools' responsibilities to protect LGBT students from harassment.

"We think this could not be any more timely or important," said Russlynn Ali, assistant secretary in the Office for Civil Rights in a press call. "When LGBT students are harassed, folks don't realize that because Federal Civil Rights Laws don't protect against sexual orientation discrimination, these students are still very much so protected by the federal civil rights laws."

The letter does not introduce new policy, nor does it change Federal Laws that already protect students from discrimination. Current education laws do not include protections based on sexual orientation, but they do protect against "gender-based stereotyping. Officials said those laws should be enforced to protect LGBT students.

"The type of harassment directed at LGBT students takes the form of gender-based stereotyping, and that is protected," said Scott Hamilton, press secretary for the department. "This is the first time that office for civil rights and the dept for education has articulated and clarified responsibilities that educators have to protect GLBT folks against the kinds of harassment covered under essentially gender stereotyping and gender-based harassment."

Department officials also said that schools that did not comply with anti-discrimination laws could lose federal funding, and that they were beginning a grassroots campaign to inform the public about enforcement of anti-harassment laws.

For more information on anti-harassment laws that protect LGBT students or to report a school, visit <http://www.bullyinginfo.org>.

Fla. attorney general does not appeal gay-adoption ruling

BY DANA RUDOLPH
KEEN NEWS SERVICE

Florida Attorney General Bill McCollum announced Oct. 22 that he will not challenge a Sept. 22 state appellate court ruling that overturned Florida's ban on adoption by gay men or lesbians. This means the 33-year-old ban has ended.

Frank Martin Gill, who filed the lawsuit in an effort to secure the adoption of the two boys he and his partner have raised for almost six years, said in a statement from the ACLU of Florida, which argued the case, "We are relieved that this process has finally come to an end, and that we can focus on being a family."

The Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF) had said October 12 that neither the agency nor Governor Charlie Crist (I) would appeal the appellate ruling. McCollum, however, retained the attorney general's independent right to appeal up to Oct. 22.

The brief statement issued by McCollum's office said that the constitutionality of the adop-



Bill McCollum.

tion ban "is a divisive matter of great public interest" but that, after reviewing the merits of an independent appeal to the state Supreme Court and considering the decision of its client, DCF, not to appeal, "it is clear that this is not the right case to take to the Supreme Court for its determination."

McCollum said that, although he would not

appeal, he still felt "the final determination should rest with the Florida Supreme Court, not a lower appellate court."

McCollum has been criticized by LGBT-rights groups and others for paying clinical psychologist Dr. George A. Rekers more than \$120,000 to testify in the trial court that children do best with a mother and a father. The appeals court upheld the lower court's finding that Rekers' opinions "were not valid from a scientific point of view." (Rekers was later found traveling with a gay male escort who claimed Rekers himself was gay, although Rekers has denied it.) The Miami Herald reported in June that it had obtained records showing that McCollum hired Rekers despite repeated objections from DCF.

McCollum told the Florida Baptist Witness in August, "I don't believe in gay adoption"—but Orlando Sentinel columnist Mike Thomas reported that, in May, when he had asked McCollum if he favored taking the boys from Gill, McCollum mentioned a gay campaign aide who had adopted children and said, "Let's leave it at that."

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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, side effects included nausea, headache, tiredness, weakness, trouble sleeping, stomach pain, dizziness, depression, and suicidal thoughts and actions.

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

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Ask your doctor about ISENTRESS.

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

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

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

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What is ISENTRESS?

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

ISENTRESS must be used with other anti-HIV medicines.

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, side effects included:

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

Other side effects include rash, severe skin reactions, feeling anxious, paranoia, low blood platelet count.

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

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

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

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

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

How should I store ISENTRESS?

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

General information about the use of ISENTRESS

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

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

This leaflet gives you the most important information about ISENTRESS.

- If you would like to know more, talk with your doctor.
- You can ask your doctor or pharmacist for additional information about ISENTRESS that is written for health professionals.
- For more information go to www.ISENTRESS.com 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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HRC sends open letter on DADT to Obama

The Human Rights Campaign (HRC) released an open letter Oct. 25 from organization president Joe Solmonese to President Barack Obama regarding the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" law and the necessity of administration action to end the discharges this year. The full text is below:

Dear Mr. President:

Years from now, students of the movement for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender equality (LGBT) will no doubt see this fall as a pivotal period in the history of our struggle for fundamental fairness. In January, we were all inspired by your State of the Union pledge to end our nation's discriminatory ban on open service by gays and lesbians. Equally inspiring was the testimony in support of repealing the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" law by the Secretary of Defense and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. We have come so far, but the only true measure of success is whether the thousands of brave gay and lesbian Americans who are serving their country, and the many more who want to serve their country, can do so openly and honestly. We have not yet met that goal, and without your leadership and unparalleled efforts, this historic opportunity to remove a stain of discrimination from our nation will pass all of us by.

Last week, lawyers for your administration asked for an emergency stay from the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, seeking to end a worldwide injunction of the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" law while they work to overturn a federal judge's conclusion that this law—one that you have called discriminatory and contrary to our national security on many occasions—offends the protections of our Constitution. I continue to struggle with how your administration can defend a law you oppose, and how it could be even remotely constitutional for a statute to single out one group of brave Americans, because of who they are and who they love, and order them serve in silence and deception. How can our government have a duty to defend a statute that is clearly so contrary to our Constitution's guarantee of equality for all?

The Ninth Circuit's decision to stay Judge Phillips's decision further frustrates repeal advocates and puts a bright spotlight on you to reconcile this endless legal wrangling with your public promise to end "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." While we continue to call on your Administration not to appeal, if the Justice Department does insist on defending this discriminatory law, I strongly urge you to instruct government lawyers to inform the appellate court that the Executive Branch believes that the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" law is unconstitutional. I agree with the esteemed lawyer and former head of the Office of Legal Counsel at the Department of Justice, Walter Dellinger, that such a move would send the Ninth Circuit a critically important message.

Furthermore, the litigation strategy challenging "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" is made all the more critical by the challenges a legislative repeal has faced in Congress. While the House approved repeal by a wide margin, the Senate's first and second attempts to move forward on the critical Defense Authorization bill were stymied by Republican obstructionists looking to score political points before the midterm elections. There is still an opportunity for the Senate to send the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" to your desk in the lame duck session, but it will not happen if you do not put the full weight of the Office of the President of the United States behind it. Republican opponents would rather see the Defense Authorization and everything in it—military pay raises, critical armor and equipment for our troops, health coverage for their families on the home front—fail than let



Joe Solmonese.

gays and lesbians serve their country openly. This is an outrageous insult to our troops, to their commander-in-chief, and to the Defense Department charged with their operations and their care. You and Secretary Gates must be full partners in making clear to Senators that it is doubly unacceptable to hold hostage the needs of every soldier, sailor, airman and Marine in a desperate attempt to preserve a law that flies in the face of the American ideals they sacrifice to protect every day.

It is because "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" is contrary to our core values as a nation that it must end. And we must have a durable solution—legislative repeal or a solid judicial decision. But if those fail, you must not allow another day to go by in which a brave gay or lesbian service member is discharged based simply on sexual orientation. HRC has urged your administration, privately and publicly, for more than a year to use every tool at your disposal as Chief Executive to at least significantly reduce discharges, if not end them entirely. More can be done in this regard.

You can and should issue a stop-loss order suspending enforcement of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." This discriminatory law has already deprived our military thousands of service members, many with critical skills in fighting terrorism. You have acknowledged that it harms our national security. If we fail to achieve legislative repeal this year, and if you will not abandon the defense of this discriminatory law in court, then it is imperative that you use your clear authority as President to end the discharges. Anything less is unacceptable.

We have fought long and hard to get this close to ending "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." We pledge to continue that fight, every step of the way, until this unjust law is gone for good. Future generations will look back at this moment—we must not let it become a setback in the long march toward full equality, but instead make it the turning point it is poised to become.

Sincerely,
Joe Solmonese
President, HRC

Prop 8 appeal to be heard Dec. 6

The 9th Circuit Court of Appeals will hear oral arguments in the Proposition 8 case *Perry v. Schwarzenegger* Monday, Dec. 6, at 10 a.m. at the James R. Browning U.S. Courthouse in San Francisco, Calif., according to a press release from the American Foundation for Equal Rights.

This summer, a federal district court ruled that Prop 8 was unconstitutional. In the plaintiffs' brief, attorneys Ted Olson and David Boies wrote, "This case tests the proposition whether the gay and lesbian Americans among us should be counted as 'persons' under the 14th Amendment, or whether they constitute a permanent underclass ineligible for protection under that cornerstone of our Constitution."

For more information, visit <http://www.equalrightsfoundation.org>.

AIDS Legal Council, Windy City Times join forces to recognize local HIV advocates

CHICAGO—The AIDS Legal Council of Chicago and Windy City Times are inviting members of the public to submit nominations for the 2011 Advocates of the Year Awards, part of a new partnership to honor outstanding individuals who are making a difference locally in the fight against HIV.

First started in 1994, the Awards recognize individuals and organizations for their accomplishments in advocacy, health care, case management, prevention and other areas of impact to people with HIV. Explains ALCC Executive Director, Ann Hilton Fisher: "Many of these men and women are unsung heroes who have dedicated their lives to improving the quality of life of people in need. Whether they are civic leaders, activists, doctors, nurses, case managers or volunteers, they all share a common goal: to bring health, stability, dignity and justice to those living with HIV. We are proud to pay tribute to them as our Advocates of the Year."

"We are honored to partner with ALCC on this project," said Windy City Times Publisher Tracy Baim. "It is nearly 30 years since The New York Times first reported on what would later become known as AIDS. There are untold numbers of heroes who have helped Chicago face this epidemic, and it is important to recognize some of their efforts through this annual award."

Since it was first introduced 17 years ago, nearly 65 individuals and organizations in Illinois have been selected for the Advocates of the Year Award. Recipients are chosen annually by a committee of previous honorees, a representative from the AIDS Legal Council of Chicago and, starting this year, a representative



Ann Hilton Fisher. Photo by Alena Scarver

from Windy City Times. "As a vital community voice for 25 years," says ALCC Board President Charlie Wintersteen, "Windy City Times witnessed firsthand the impact and evolution of the AIDS epidemic and provided unparalleled coverage during the early years of the crisis. We are deeply honored that they are joining us in recognizing those who are on the frontlines of the epidemic and have made it their life's work to help those with HIV."

If you would like to pay tribute to someone who is an outstanding advocate for people with HIV or provides exceptional care or services to those impacted by the disease, please submit a letter to the Advocates of the Year Awards Selection Committee along with two (2) letters of support by Friday, Dec. 17. We recommend visiting www.aidslegal.com for complete submission guidelines, or calling Ricardo Cifuentes at 312-427-8990 to receive a copy of the forms and instructions by mail. Submissions may be sent by fax at 312-427-8419 or by mail to: Advocates of the Year Awards Selection Committee, c/o AIDS Legal Council of Chicago, 180 N. Michigan, Suite 2110, Chicago, Ill., 60601. Winners will be announced in late January 2011.

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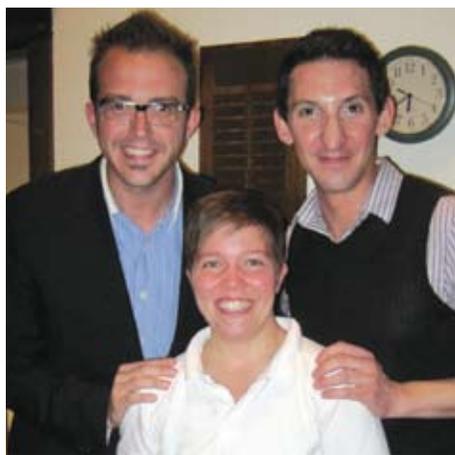
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From left: LGBT Change's Matt Zaradich, Chas Lovelace and Anthony Martinez. Photo by Andrew Davis

Faith Project launches at All Saints

BY ANDREW DAVIS

Religion and LGBTQ issues can make for a pretty volatile mix. However, they can also constitute an intriguing and lively discussion where people discuss their similarities and differences.

The latter occurred Oct. 20 as the Faith Project held its launch at All Saints Episcopal Church. The grassroots organizations LGBT Change and the Civil Rights Agenda, who collaborated to create the project, sponsored the talk.

According to its Facebook page, the Faith Project "unites and empowers people of faith to gain justice for the LGBTQ community through their faith and engagement. The Faith Project utilizes outreach and events to promote dialogue and inspire action. Resources and projects are shared to influence progress and reach our goals."

At the outset, LGBT Change co-Executive Director Anthony Martinez thanked attendees "for being at the very beginning of something that has been a three-year-long process. ... It's something that I'm very excited to see come to fruition."

Project head and LGBT Change member Chas Lovelace said that she met Martinez a few months ago at a conference. Then, "[Martinez] approached me a couple months later, and he was [talking about] the lack of faith-based groups that dealt with LGBT rights. I agreed with him, and that's when we started working together." She added that "it's really important to us to make sure that people of faith can have

this conversation and feel like they're in a welcoming environment."

Pastor Suzanne Anderson-Hurdle of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church & Preschool in Romeoville spoke about being a gay-rights activist, having worked with such organizations as Equality Illinois. "Sometimes I feel like I'm alone out there," she said.

She also talked about how the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America recently voted "to allow for same-gender unions and for the ordination of LGBT people, which is a huge thing for many of us who are straight and are in the ministry, because it was a turning point." However, she reiterated "that it gets lonely sometimes" because the Northern Illinois synod "is not the most welcoming." Anderson-Hurdle also said that it is important to build goodwill out in the suburbs ("It's not just a Chicago thing") if change is going to happen. The married mother of three children talked about how the oldest (17) put on his Facebook page, "For everyone who says I'm gay, I'm not. But if I was I wouldn't have any problem with it, so shut up." Lastly, she said that she constantly invokes a quote from Mahatma Gandhi: "Be the change you want to see in the world."

Former Catholic priest Michael Herman gave an emotional talk that centered around a friend of his who just been buried earlier last week, and the bond that he ultimately formed with the friend's mother, who, by Herman's words, seemed to be very traditional. The mother flew in from Detroit to Chicago to be by her son's side at the hospital. Herman and his partner held a wake on the friend's behalf, and the mother attended. Herman talked about the difficulty and eventual success of "trying to merge the worlds together without hurting one or the other" through song and words. The important thing, Herman said, was to not be mad at anyone but "to use our faith to bring us together."

At the end of the wake, Herman said, "she called me over and gave me a big hug. A few minutes later, she came over to say goodbye. Our three-and-a-half-year-old son was standing there. She asked him for a hug so I said, 'Go give Mrs. Serrano a big hug.' And he jumped up and grabbed her and embraced her—and she had this smile on her face.

"It's worth it to fight those battles. Faith has the potential to unite us. In the end, she might not have walked away [a changed woman]—but she didn't walk away like we didn't exist. She knew how much we appreciated the opportunity to celebrate his life."

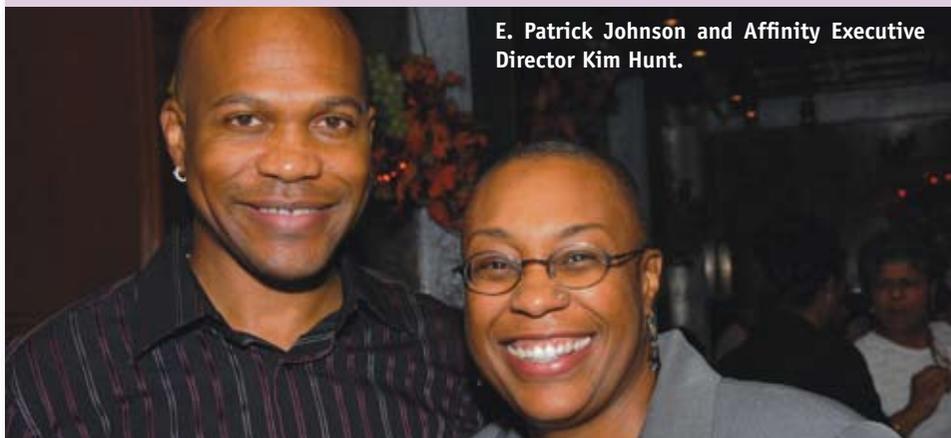
To find out what individuals of other faiths had to say, log on to <http://www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com>.

Affinity marks 15

Affinity Executive Director Kim Hunt with, from left, board members T. Errick Murray, Yomika Alexander, Lisa Marie Pickens, Kelly Saulsberry, Linda Doss and Michelle Miller. Photos by Hal Baim.



E. Patrick Johnson and Affinity Executive Director Kim Hunt.



From left: Natasha White, Selena Henry, Aisha Truss-Miller and Alexia Rice-Henry.



There were tears and laughter Oct. 24 at the nightclub Sidetrack as Affinity Community Services—which serves the local Black LBT women's community—celebrated its 15th anniversary.

Among the highlights were the awarding of founding board certificates to Gaylon Alcaraz, Deborah Benford, Adella Crozier, Cassandra Dorsey, Rosalind Glanton, Barbara "Robbie" Smith and Chris Smith. Special ankh-shaped Founder Awards were given to Julie Cole, Teresa Elizabeth "Ted" Dobbins, LaJaunessee Jordan, Karen Long, Nazirah Patricia Mickey, Melissa Petty, Lisa Marie Pickens and Chris Smith.

Petty encapsulated feelings about the past and future in her acceptance speech. She talked about founding members Pickens and Smith, who were "sitting in Lisa's basement going over bylaws and trying to figure out liens—and here we are 15 years later," garnering wild applause. "There is a legacy, but there is still much building that has to be done. I challenge us that 15 years from now, we should be fierce—our own multimillion-dollar budget and a national force to be reckoned with."

Pickens thanked her partner and father, who were both present. She then talked about the "incredible air and energy in Chicago [around the time Affinity started], specifically in the Black LGBTQ community. There [were] Literary Exchange, Pat Parker's Place, African-American Women's Alliance—so many other groups that were doing the work necessary to make a difference in the lives of the Black community. I'm honored to be a part of that legacy [and] I'm honored to continue to serve the community." She added that many of the founders were very young when Affinity was started, and there were already existing ties among the members at that point. "It's with that connection that we continue to do the work that we do," she said. Lastly, she cited people such as Executive Director Kim Hunt and member Kelly Saulsberry as key components to help the organization move forward. "They are the young people who will continue to move beyond what I envisioned [and] what the originators envisioned, and who will do more ... to make this world what it should be—for our community, and for all communities," Pickens concluded.

At the end of the ceremony, Sidetrack co-owner Chuck Hyde surprised attendees by announcing that Affinity was one of two beneficiaries (Broadway Youth Center being the other) of a summer program done in collaboration with Chicago Beverage Systems. Final numbers had not been tabulated, but Hyde said, "As soon as they have [the total], you will have it."

The ceremony was hosted by professor/performer E. Patrick Johnson, who delighted the crowd by reprising one of the characters from his award-winning book and play, Sweet Tea: Black Gay Men of the South. Text by Andrew Davis and photos by Hal Baim; many more at <http://www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com>

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VOTE 2010



Jeanne Kracher.

Jeanne Kracher: A life dedicated to social justice

BY MICKI LEVENTHAL

The donors, board and staff of the Crossroads Fund will celebrate a decade of leadership from Executive Director Jeanne Kracher Oct. 28.

Kracher, a native Chicagoan, lives on the North Side with her long-term partner, Laura McAlpine. Her political activism emerged through her work as a documentary film maker, creating films that addressed a wide range of social justice issues, from healthcare in prison to a history of the women's global peace and justice movement.

She took her activism to the streets as a founding member of ACT UP/Chicago. "It was originally CFAR—Chicago for AIDS Rights," Kracher explained. "We changed the name when it became clear that it was a movement that was emerging around the country and it was important to be identified with that sort of 'brand' so to speak, although nobody used those terms back then. A precursor to CFAR was DAGMAR, which was dykes and gay men against any 'R-word' you could think of at the time—Reagan, racism, the right wing—we would just sort of insert as many Rs as we needed to," she laughed.

"We were all folks who met each other because we had been involved in leftist organizations in Chicago and came together around AIDS. We had always been out as queers or gays and lesbians in the various activities we were involved with, but when people started becoming HIV-positive and dying, we decide we had to take a stronger stand politically as queers or gay people. I think people don't remember that there were discussions with [then Illinois Governor] Jim Thompson about quarantining gays: the most heinous and repressive ways of 'How do we deal with this emerging disease and these diseased people?' So we started DAGMAR, which morphed into ACT UP." ACT UP dissolved in 1995 and was posthumously inducted into the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame in 2000, the year Kracher became executive director of Crossroads Fund.

Kracher's connection to Crossroads began a number of years earlier, first as a grantee through her work as executive director of Women in the Director's Chair and later as a member of the board of directors.

"I was on the Crossroads board for a few years in the mid- to late- 1990s," she said. After about 15 years of strong leadership and continuity, the organization endured a period of "not finding a good fit" for their top staff position and a number of growing pains. "I was approached by a couple of people to apply for the executive director job. Crossroads meant a lot to me as an activist. ... I was really thrilled to have the opportunity to help turn things around and we were able to do it."

The organization will celebrate Kracher's leadership by announcing the Building Strong Leaders Campaign (BSLC). For almost three decades the Crossroads Fund, a pioneer in funding LGBT organizations and activism, has raised grant monies through "a network of progressive individuals, businesses and foundations" dedicated

to "help create social and economic justice." Their donor list reads like a Who's Who of Chicago area progressives.

"Crossroads Fund, in its mission, is developing leaders all over the city. We fund new and emerging groups, which in effect is seeding grassroots leadership around the city," Kracher said. "So whether that project exists 10 years from the time we fund it or not, the people in that project have grown. The idea of the initiative is that people are giving additional money beyond their regular gifts so that we can really do more to develop leaders with training and skills building." The goal for the BSLC campaign was \$10,000; more than \$15,000 in pledges and outright gifts has already been received.

In both direct grant work and technical assistance to advocacy organizations, Crossroads works across a wide range of social justice issues including disability rights, LGBT rights, arts and culture, criminal justice, environment and community development, government accountability, health access, human and worker rights, immigrant issues, women and girls, youth and international policy and advocacy. Crossroads prides itself on its difference from "mainstream philanthropy."

Read the full article at <http://www.Windy-CityMediaGroup.com>.

Personal PAC welcomes Olympia



Past the abortion protesters and hotel strikers outside, Personal PAC had a relatively quiet luncheon this past week inside the Hilton Hotel, 720 S. Michigan. For 21 years this organization has been fighting for reproductive rights. The main issue at the luncheon was how individual members can make a difference as voters. The special guest, Oscar-winning actress Olympia Dukakis, and Board Chair Jerry Newton gave speeches, while Hannah Rosenthal and former Lieutenant Gov. Corinne Wood received the Irving B. Harris Spirit of Choice Award and the Pro-Choice Leadership Award, respectively. Among the many attendees were U.S. Reps. Mike Quigley and Melissa Bean as well as state Rep. Barbara Flynn Currie, Illinois treasurer candidate Robin Kelly, state rep candidate Daniel Biss and Cook County assessor candidate Forrest Claypool. For more information about Personal PAC, visit <http://personalpac.org>. Photos by Kat Fitzgerald (MysticImagesPhotography.com); see more online at <http://www.Windy-CityMediaGroup.com>

Get the Shot

Help Chicago fight the flu, get the flu shot. The 2010-2011 flu vaccine includes protection against H1N1 and other forms of influenza. If you live in Chicago and don't have a doctor, call 311 or contact the Chicago Department of Public Health.



Call 311 or visit www.cityofchicago.org/Flu



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VIEWPOINTS

WINDY CITY TIMES



**TRACY
BAIM**

Keeping hope alive

This is undoubtedly a difficult election for the LGBT community across the country. Like much of the progressive community, LGBT activists were hopeful after Barack Obama's stunning victory in November 2008, to become the nation's 44th president. But reality hit the gay community hard and fast even before Obama was sworn in, when his inauguration committee selected anti-gay pastor Rick Warren to give the invocation on that historic day.

I wrote the book *Obama and the Gays: A Political Marriage*, to showcase Obama's trajectory on LGBT rights, from the good and the bad, to the confusing and frustrating. Unfortunately, those frustrations continue as Obama's Justice Department defends Don't Ask, Don't Tell and the Defense of Marriage Act, even as some courts are ruling against those laws.

The news from the first two years of Obama's presidency is not all bad. In fact, major progress has been made on small and large issues. But unfortunately for Obama, the LGBT movement is much further along than when Bill Clinton occupied the White House. The bar is much higher to measure success, and after the defeat of gay marriage in California in 2008, the gay movement is less patient with promises and platitudes, and more focused on actual large-scale success.

The LGBT community, however, is not monolithic. While some are boycotting the Democrats

this election cycle, by withholding both money and votes, others are enthusiastically giving and voting for key Democratic allies, even if they are upset with the party. After all, nearly 100 percent of the Democrats in the Senate voted to get rid of DADT, and not one Republican did. So it's like your family (if your family loves you): sometimes they disappoint you, but they are still your family. It's better to keep pushing them to do better, than to throw them out of the house and replace them with those who actually loathe you and will set you back.

I am not saying that all the Democrats are great, and all Republicans are bad. However, in this midterm election, if Obama is to have even a slight chance of moving forward on our issues and finishing his agenda, he needs Democrats as partners. The Republicans have been against everything he has done, and if they control the House and/or Senate, we will have a paralyzed government and a frightening time for our movement.

While there is no way one politician, whether president or mayor, could ever satisfy the movement entirely, that is no excuse for Obama's failure to recognize that the policy changes so far are simply not enough. What the movement wants is for Obama to fulfill his promise on the primary four-letter words of the gay agenda: DADT, ENDA, DOMA and the Uniting American Families Act for immigration reform. These are the federal laws that most gay communities, most of the time, agree mark the "end game" goals to measure success.

There is no doubt that Obama came into power with perhaps the biggest mess any president has ever had to face. Coupled with a country divided, Obama has had no easy tasks in the first half of his term. He has alienated much of his liberal base (on war, Guantanamo Bay, the environment, and more), not just gays, and many of his supporters are frustrated with his attempts to build bridges to filibustering Republicans who are likely never going to support his—or our—agenda.

Part of the problem may be with Obama's advisers. Some suggestions for Obama to improve that situation include appointing a White House person dedicated full-time to gay issues only; giving a speech on gay rights, to take control of this arc of justice before it touches down without him; holding open and public meetings on gay issues, pulled together by the White House; and conducting more interviews with the diverse array of gay media.

What Obama does by equivocating on gay issues, and by standing on the sidelines, is demotivate his base. He wins no more votes, but loses his integrity as a believer in civil rights. And he upsets not just his LGBT base but also his progressive base, because gay issues are not just gay issues anymore.

To those who are tempted to not vote, either to make a statement or because of disappointment: Remind yourself that by staying out of the voting booth, those of us who favor true equality for LGBT citizens may inadvertently punish our friends by helping the opponents get elected. Without us, there will be no legislative gains, and we may even put at risk the small gains we have achieved so far.

One of Obama's famous sayings during the presidential campaign was, "I got this." Meaning, he had the confidence to rise to the occasion and win a debate, or the whole race. We can have the expectation that Obama can "get this" on gay rights, but also we can believe in ourselves and have the confidence and the conviction to say "we got this," too—by showing up in the voting booth and at the protests, and by pressuring our elected officials to fulfill their promises.

We will never win by refusing to play the game.

This essay was adapted from the new book *Obama and the Gays: A Political Marriage*, now available from Women & Children First and Unabridged bookstores, and on Amazon.com and Kindle.

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

Community Marketing, Inc.



**REV. IRENE
MONROE**

When will the anti-gay bullying cease?

When Sirdeanor L. Walker of Springfield, Mass., spoke at a press conference last year calling for effective and comprehensive anti-bullying legislation to be passed in response to the tragic loss of her 11-year-old-son, Carl, I had hoped I would neither read nor hear ever again about another child or young adult committing suicide as the result of bullying.

But the rise of "bullicide" has become a national epidemic, where anti-gay bullying, just in the month of September, resulted in nine suicides because of teenagers' sexual orientation or gender expression, highlighting the disproportionate bullying of our LGBTQ kids (or those perceived to be).

One of the suicides this past September was that of 18-year-old Rutgers University freshman Tyler Clementi. Clementi jumped to his death from the George Washington Bridge after finding out that his college roommate and another classmate used a webcam to secretly broadcast his sexual encounters with another male.

Walker found her son, Carl Joseph Walker-Hoover, hanging by an extension cord on the second floor of their home after he endured endless anti-gay and homophobic taunts by schoolmates, although Carl never identified as gay.

When I went to speak last year at the Anti-Bullying Community Forum and Vigil in reference to Carl's death some kids in the Black community of Springfield I spoke with about the incident said Carl's gender expression was queer, implying that there existed sufficient rationale to taunt him.

With homophobia being what it is in the African-American community, I imagined Carl, an African American, must have experienced an endless cycle of bullying.

Anti-gay bullying is not to be endured or tolerated. And it must be stopped by us all—and at all levels, from our legislators to our educators.

Gov. Deval Patrick signed a strong anti-bullying legislation cementing the state's commitment to changing the culture of bullying in schools, and Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders (GLAD) was involved in the drafting and legislative process from beginning to end.

The harm from bullying and the toll it takes—not only on our kids but also the society at large—is far greater than people realize. At the press conference, Walker highlighted those concerns:

"In the immortal words of U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice Earl Warren, 'It is doubtful that any child may reasonably be expected to succeed in life if he is denied the opportunity of an education.' Bias, bullying, and harassment currently stand between too many youth and this essential opportunity."

And Walker is right. Anti-gay bullying truncates a child's academic ability to excel. And the cost, while immediately about the child, is an equally greater cost to us as a society down the road.

For example, the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network's (GLSEN) 2008 National School Climate Survey reveals that anti-LGBTQ bullying and harassment remain commonplace in America's schools.

Key findings of the survey revealed:

—Approximately two-thirds of students have heard homophobic remarks from school personnel;

—LGBTQ students were five times more likely to report having skipped school in the last month because of safety concerns than the general population of students; and

—LGBTQ students who experienced more frequent physical harassment were more likely to report they did not plan to go to college.

The average GPA for LGBTQ students who were frequently physically harassed was half a grade lower than that of LGBTQ students experiencing less harassment (2.6 versus 3.1).

And where traditional schools have failed to provide safe spaces for LGBTQ students, many educators have and are creating alternative safe spaces.

In 1985, the Harvey Milk High School in New York City was founded to provide safe space for LGBTQ students. And data has shown that the school has a 95-percent graduation rate, far above the state average; in addition, 60 percent of these students go on to attend institutions of higher learning.

In 2008 David Glick founded the GLBTQ Online High School. The school provides a pragmatic solution to an alternative path to a diploma for LGBTQ students who are unable to succeed in a traditional high school due to a homophobic learning environment.

Victims of bullying endure a host of emotional problems. They become anxious, insecure, and suffer low self-esteem because the targeting of them has made them feel isolated, helpless and vulnerable. Those feelings are just merely some of what we can surmise Carl and Tyler experienced. Countless others, unfortunately, will experience those same feelings during this school year.

When will the homophobic bullying cease?

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Use

KALETRA is a prescription anti-HIV-1 medicine called a protease inhibitor that contains lopinavir and ritonavir. KALETRA is used with other anti-HIV-1 medicines to increase the chance of treatment response in people with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV-1) infection. It is not known if KALETRA is safe and effective in children under 14 days old.

KALETRA does not cure HIV-1 infection or AIDS and does not stop you from passing HIV-1 to others. You may still get opportunistic infections or other conditions that happen with HIV-1.

KALETRA Safety Considerations

Do not take KALETRA if you are allergic to any of its ingredients, including lopinavir or ritonavir. Do not take KALETRA with certain medicines, as they can cause serious problems, death, or make KALETRA less effective against HIV. Some patients taking KALETRA can develop inflammation of the pancreas and liver problems, which can cause death. Patients may develop changes in heart rhythm, large increases in triglycerides and cholesterol, diabetes, high blood sugar, changes in body fat, and/or increased bleeding in people with hemophilia. Some patients may develop signs and symptoms of serious infections they already have after starting anti-HIV medicines. Please see Brief Summary for more details.

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.fda.gov/medwatch, or call 1-800-FDA-1088 (1-800-332-1088).

If you cannot afford your medication, contact: www.pparx.org or call the toll-free number (1-888-4PPA-NOW) or (1-888-477-2669) for assistance.

For additional information about KALETRA, call 1-866-KALETRA (1-866-525-3872) or visit KALETRA.com.

Please see Brief Summary on adjacent pages.

KALETRA[®]
(lopinavir/ritonavir)

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**KALETRA® (kuh-LEE-tra)
(lopinavir/ritonavir) Oral Solution**

CONSUMER BRIEF SUMMARY
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Patient Information

Read the Medication Guide that comes with KALETRA before you start taking it and each time you get a refill. There may be new information. This information does not take the place of talking with your doctor about your medical condition or treatment. You and your doctor should talk about your treatment with KALETRA before you start taking it and at regular check-ups. You should stay under your doctor's care when taking KALETRA.

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

KALETRA may cause serious side effects, including:

- **Interactions with other medicines. It is important to know the medicines that should not be taken with KALETRA.** Read the section "What should I tell my doctor before taking KALETRA?"
- **Changes in your heart rhythm and the electrical activity of your heart.** These changes may be seen on an EKG (electrocardiogram) and can lead to serious heart problems. Your risk for these problems may be higher if you:
 - already have a history of abnormal heart rhythm or other types of heart disease.
 - take other medicines that can affect your heart rhythm while you take KALETRA.

Tell your doctor right away if you have any of these symptoms while taking KALETRA:

- dizziness
- lightheadedness
- fainting
- sensation of abnormal heartbeats

See the section below "What are the possible side effects of KALETRA?" for more information about serious side effects.

What is KALETRA?

KALETRA is a prescription anti-HIV medicine that contains two medicines: lopinavir and ritonavir. KALETRA is called a protease inhibitor that is used with other anti-HIV-1 medicines to treat people with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV-1) infection. HIV-1 is the virus that causes AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome).

It is not known if KALETRA is safe and effective in children under 14 days old.

Who should not take KALETRA?

- Do not take KALETRA if you are taking certain medicines. For more information about medicines you should not take with KALETRA, please see "Can I take other medicines with KALETRA?" and consult with your doctor about all other medicines you take.

- Do not take KALETRA if you have an allergy to KALETRA or any of its ingredients, including ritonavir and lopinavir.

What should I tell my doctor before taking KALETRA?

KALETRA may not be right for you. Tell your doctor about all your medical conditions, including if you:

- have any heart problems, including if you have a condition called Congenital Long QT Syndrome.
- have liver problems, including Hepatitis B or Hepatitis C.
- have diabetes.
- have hemophilia. People who take KALETRA may have increased bleeding.
- have low potassium in your blood.
- are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if KALETRA will harm your unborn baby. Birth control pills or patches may not work as well while you take KALETRA. To prevent pregnancy while taking KALETRA, women who take birth control pills or use estrogen patch for birth control should either use a different type of birth control or an extra form of birth control. Talk to your doctor about how to prevent pregnancy while taking KALETRA.
- take KALETRA during pregnancy, talk with your doctor about how you can take part in an antiretroviral pregnancy registry. The purpose of the pregnancy registry is to follow the health of you and your baby.
- are breast-feeding. Do not breast-feed if you are taking KALETRA. You should not breast-feed if you have HIV-1. If you are a woman who has or will have a baby while taking KALETRA, talk with your doctor about the best way to feed your baby. If your baby does not already have HIV-1, there is a chance that HIV-1 can be passed to your baby through your breast milk.

Tell your doctor about all the medicines you take, including prescription and non-prescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. Many medicines interact with KALETRA. Do not start taking a new medicine without telling your doctor or pharmacist. Your doctor can tell you if it is safe to take KALETRA with other medicines. Your doctor may need to change the dose of other medicines while you take KALETRA.

Medicines you should not take with KALETRA.

Serious problems or death can happen if you take these medicines with KALETRA:

- ergot containing medicines, including:
 - ergotamine tartrate (Cafergot®, Migergot, Ergomar, Ergostat, Medihaler Ergotamine, Wigraine, Wigrettes)
 - dihydroergotamine mesylate (D.H.E. 45®, Embolex, Migranal®)
 - ergonovine, ergonovine and methylergonovine (Ergotrate, Methergine), ergotamine and methylergonovine
 - Ergotrate Maleate, methylergonovine maleate (Methergine)
- triazolam (Halcion®), midazolam hydrochloride oral syrup
- pimozone (Orap®)
- the cholesterol lowering medicines lovastatin (Mevacor®) or simvastatin (Zocor®)
- sildenafil (Revatio®) only when used for the treatment of pulmonary arterial hypertension. (See "Medicines that may need changes" and "What are the possible side effects of Kaletra?" for information about the use of sildenafil for erectile problems.)
- alfuzosin (Uroxatral®)

Medicines that you should not take with KALETRA since they may make KALETRA not work as well:

- the herbal supplement St. John's Wort (hypericum perforatum)
- rifampin (Rimactane®, Rifadin®, Rifater®, or Rifamate®)

Medicines that may need changes:

- birth control pills that contain estrogen ("the pill") or the birth control (contraceptive) patches
- certain anticancer medicines, such as nilotinib (Tasigna®) and dasatinib (Sprycel®)
- certain cholesterol lowering medicines, such as atorvastatin (Lipitor®) or rosuvastatin (Crestor®)
- certain other antiretroviral medicines, such as efavirenz (Atripla® and Sustiva®), nevirapine (Viramune®), amprenavir (Agenerase®) and nelfinavir (Viracept®)
- anti-seizure medicines, such as phenytoin (Dilantin®) carbamazepine, (Tegretol®), phenobarbital
- medicines for erectile problems, such as sildenafil (Viagra®), tadalafil (Cialis®), or vardenafil (Levitra®)

- medicines for tuberculosis (TB), such as rifabutin (Mycobutin®)
- inhaled steroid medicines, such as fluticasone propionate (Flonase®)
- inhaled medicines such as salmeterol (Serevent®) or salmeterol in combination with fluticasone propionate (Advair®). Your doctor may need to change to a different medicine
- medicines for gout, such as colchicine (Colcrys®)
- medicines to treat pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH), such as bosentan (Tracleer®) or tadalafil (Adcirca®)
- pain medicines, such as fentanyl (Duragesic®, Ionsys™, Fentora®) and methadone

If you are not sure if you are taking a medicine above, ask your doctor.

How should I take KALETRA?

- Take KALETRA every day exactly as prescribed by your doctor.
- It is very important to set up a dosing schedule and follow it every day.
- Do not change your treatment or stop treatment without first talking with your doctor.
- Swallow KALETRA tablets whole. Do not chew, break, or crush KALETRA tablets.
- KALETRA tablets can be taken with or without food.
- If you are taking both Videx® (didanosine) and KALETRA:
 - didanosine can be taken at the same time as KALETRA tablets, without food.
 - take didanosine either one hour before or two hours after taking KALETRA oral solution.
- Do not miss a dose of KALETRA. This could make the virus harder to treat. If you forget to take KALETRA, take the missed dose right away. If it is almost time for your next dose, do not take the missed dose. Instead, follow your regular dosing schedule by taking your next dose at its regular time. Do not take more than one dose of KALETRA at one time.
- If you take more than the prescribed dose of KALETRA, call your local poison control center or emergency room right away.
- Take KALETRA oral solution with food to help it work better.
- If KALETRA is being used for your child, tell your doctor if your child's weight changes.
- KALETRA **should not** be given one time each day in children. When giving KALETRA to your child, give KALETRA exactly as prescribed.
- KALETRA oral solution contains a large amount of alcohol.
 - If a young child drinks more than the recommended dose, it could make them sick from too much alcohol. Contact your local poison control center or emergency room right away.
 - Talk with your doctor if you take or plan to take metronidazole or disulfiram. You can have severe nausea and vomiting if you take these medicines with KALETRA.

- When your KALETRA supply starts to run low, get more from your doctor or pharmacy. It is important not to run out of KALETRA. The amount of HIV-1 virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. The virus may become resistant to KALETRA and become harder to treat.
- KALETRA can be taken with acid reducing agents used for heartburn or reflux such as omeprazole (Prilosec®) and ranitidine (Zantac®) with no dose adjustment.
- KALETRA should not be administered once daily in combination with carbamazepine (Tegretol® and Epitol®), phenobarbital (Luminal®), or phenytoin (Dilantin®).

Avoid doing things that can spread HIV infection. KALETRA does not stop you from passing HIV infection to others. Do not share needles, other injection equipment or personal items that can have blood or body fluids on them, like toothbrushes and razor blades. Always practice safer sex by using a latex or polyurethane condom to lower the chance of sexual contact with semen, vaginal secretions, or blood.

What are the possible side effects of KALETRA?

- KALETRA can cause serious side effects.**
- See **“What is the most important information I should know about KALETRA?”**
 - **Liver problems.** Liver problems, including death, can happen in people who take KALETRA. Blood tests in people who take KALETRA may show possible liver problems. People with liver disease such as Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C who take KALETRA may have worsening liver disease. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any of these signs and symptoms of liver problems:
 - loss of appetite
 - yellow skin and whites of eyes (jaundice)
 - dark-colored urine
 - pale colored stools, itchy skin
 - stomach area (abdominal) pain.
 - **Inflammation of the pancreas (pancreatitis).** Some people who take KALETRA get inflammation of the pancreas which may be serious and cause death. You have a higher chance of getting pancreatitis if you have had it before. Tell your doctor if you have nausea, vomiting, or abdominal pain while taking KALETRA. These may be signs of pancreatitis.
 - **Increases in certain fat (triglycerides and cholesterol) levels in your blood.** Large increases of triglycerides and cholesterol can be seen in blood test results of some people who take KALETRA. The long-term chance of getting complications such as heart attacks or stroke due to increases in triglycerides and cholesterol caused by protease inhibitors is not known at this time.
 - **Diabetes and high blood sugar (hyperglycemia).** Some people who take protease inhibitors including KALETRA get new or more serious diabetes, or high blood sugar. Tell your doctor if you notice an increase in thirst or urinate often while taking KALETRA.

- **Changes in body fat.** Changes in body fat in some people who take antiretroviral therapy. These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck (“buffalo hump”), breast, and around the trunk. Loss of fat from the legs, arms and face may also happen. The cause and long-term health effects of these conditions are not known at this time.
- **Increased bleeding for hemophiliacs.** Some people with hemophilia have increased bleeding with protease inhibitors including KALETRA.
- **Increased risk of certain problems when you take medicines used for the treatment of erectile problems such as sildenafil (Viagra®), tadalafil (Cialis®), or vardenafil (Levitra®) with KALETRA:**
 - **low blood pressure.** If you get dizzy or faint, you need to lie down. Tell your doctor if you feel dizzy, or have fainting spells.
 - **vision changes.** Tell your doctor right away if you have vision changes.
 - **penis erection lasting more than 4 hours.** If you are a male and have an erection that lasts longer than 4 hours, get medical help right away to avoid permanent damage to your penis. Your doctor can explain these symptoms to you.
- **Allergic reactions.** Skin rashes, some of them severe, can occur in people who take KALETRA. Tell your healthcare provider if you had a rash when you took another medicine for your HIV infection or if you notice any skin rash when you take KALETRA.

Common side effects of KALETRA include:

- diarrhea
- nausea
- stomach area (abdominal) pain
- feeling weak
- vomiting
- headache
- upset stomach

These are not all of the possible side effects of KALETRA. For more information, ask your doctor or pharmacist. Tell your doctor about any side effect that bothers you or that does not go away.

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

How should I store KALETRA?

KALETRA tablets:

- Store KALETRA tablets at room temperature, between 59°F to 86°F (15°C to 30°C).
- Do not keep KALETRA tablets out of the container it comes in for longer than 2 weeks, especially in areas where there is a lot of humidity. Keep the container closed tightly.

KALETRA oral solution:

- Store KALETRA oral solution in a refrigerator, between 36°F to 46°F (2°C to 8°C). KALETRA oral solution that is kept refrigerated may be used until the expiration date printed on the label.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KALETRA oral solution that is stored at room temperature (less than 77°F or 25°C) should be used within 2 months. • Keep KALETRA away from high heat. <p>Throw away any medicine that is out of date or that you no longer need.</p> <p>Keep KALETRA and all medicines out of the reach of children.</p> <p>General information about KALETRA</p> <p><u>KALETRA does not cure HIV-1 or AIDS. The long-term effects of KALETRA are not known at this time. People taking KALETRA may still get opportunistic infections or other conditions that happen with HIV-1 infection. Some of these conditions are pneumonia, herpes virus infections, and <i>Mycobacterium avium</i> complex (MAC) infections.</u></p> <p>Medicines are sometimes prescribed for purposes other than those listed in a Medication Guide. Do not use KALETRA for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give KALETRA to other people, even if they have the same condition you have. It may harm them.</p> <p>This Medication Guide summarizes the most important information about KALETRA. If you would like more information, talk with your doctor. You can ask your pharmacist or doctor for information about KALETRA that is written for health professionals. For more information about KALETRA call 1-800-633-9110 or go to www.KALETRA.com.</p>	<p>What are the ingredients in KALETRA?</p> <p>Active ingredient: lopinavir and ritonavir</p> <p>Inactive ingredients:</p> <p>KALETRA 200 mg lopinavir and 50 mg ritonavir tablets: copovidone, sorbitan monolaurate, colloidal silicon dioxide, and sodium stearyl fumarate. The film coating contains: hypromellose, titanium dioxide, polyethylene glycol 400, hydroxypropyl cellulose, talc, colloidal silicon dioxide, polyethylene glycol 3350, yellow ferric oxide 172, and polysorbate 80.</p> <p>KALETRA 100 mg lopinavir and 25 mg ritonavir tablets: copovidone, sorbitan monolaurate, colloidal silicon dioxide, and sodium stearyl fumarate. The film coating contains: polyvinyl alcohol, titanium dioxide, talc, polyethylene glycol 3350, and yellow ferric oxide E172.</p> <p>KALETRA oral solution: acesulfame potassium, alcohol, artificial cotton candy flavor, citric acid, glycerin, high fructose corn syrup, Magnasweet-110 flavor, menthol, natural and artificial vanilla flavor, peppermint oil, polyoxyl 40 hydrogenated castor oil, povidone, propylene glycol, saccharin sodium, sodium chloride, sodium citrate, and water.</p> <p>KALETRA oral solution contains 42.4% alcohol (v/v). "See How should I take KALETRA?"</p>	<p>KALETRA Tablets, 200 mg lopinavir/50 mg ritonavir Manufactured by Abbott Pharmaceuticals PR Ltd., Barceloneta, PR 00617 for Abbott Laboratories, North Chicago, IL 60064, U.S.A. KALETRA Tablets, 100 mg lopinavir/25 mg ritonavir and KALETRA Oral Solution Abbott Laboratories, North Chicago, IL 60064, U.S.A. 2010, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED</p> <p>* The brands listed are trademarks of their respective owners and are not trademarks of Abbott Laboratories. The makers of these brands are not affiliated with and do not endorse Abbott Laboratories or its products.</p> <p>This Medication Guide has been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.</p> <p>Ref: 03-A387-R8 Revised: June, 2010 036-395113 MASTER</p> <p style="text-align: right;">039-418110</p> <p style="text-align: right;"> Abbott</p>
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Friday, Nov. 5
7:30 p.m.
Katherine Leiner
Growing Roots: The New
Generation of Sustainable
Farmers, Cooks, and
Food Activists

Sunday, Nov. 7
4:30 p.m.
Sonya Huber
Cover Me: A Health
Insurance Memoir



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Hyacinth Piel

Teaching assistant/doctoral candidate

TEXT AND PHOTOS BY KATE SOSIN

NOTE: This story features someone who prefers the gender-neutral pronouns "ze" and "hir." That preference is reflected in this piece.



Eight floors above the University of Illinois-Chicago campus, Hyacinth Piel's day begins in front of a singing make-up case. Hyacinth touches the finishing touches on hir shock-red lipstick, re-arranges hir floral scarf, and turns the music off. It's time to head upstairs to a meeting with LGBT historian and professor, John D'Emilio.



Hyacinth might have the life of many doctoral candidates/ teaching assistants at UIC except that Hyacinth is vocally and visibly gender-variant. Ze is shaking things up at UIC by introducing hir students to complicated philosophy concepts and even more complicated gender concepts. "It makes me really vulnerable," Hyacinth admitted.

But ze appears undaunted in the classroom, and hir students follow along as Hyacinth teaches them to apply difficult philosophical ideas to a debate on immigration in the U.S. It might help that ze doesn't get caught up in the formalities of being called "professor." Ze sits cross-legged on the front table to teach and reads student papers and discussion topics off hir iPhone.



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 Home Offices: Bloomington, Illinois

the stats

Name
Hyacinth Piel

Neighborhood
Andersonville

Age
June 27

Hometown
Lakeview (Chicago)

Occupation
Teaching assistant,
doctoral candidate

Hobbies
Watching TV

Pets
One dog (Poggibonsi)

Windy City Times' General Election Guide

Welcome to the 2010 Windy City Times General Election Guide.

Although a lot of local residents are already looking at the mayoral and aldermanic races (which will not be voted on until Feb. 22, 2011), there are plenty of races being voted on Nov. 2, 2010, that will have implications around the county, state and nation.

For example, the senatorial race between Democrat Alexi Giannoulias, Republican Mark Kirk and Green Party candidate LeAlan Jones could play a role in what federal legislation is eventually approved or rejected. (An interesting side note is that voters will actually pick between the three for *two* seats: a replacement for the remaining weeks of the original term (a seat currently occupied by Roland Burris) and a new senator to begin a full six-year term Jan. 3, 2011.

Also, you would have to be on another planet to not know of the gubernatorial race between Democrat Pat Quinn and Republican Bill Brady, but are running neck and neck. And do not forget independent candidate Scott Lee Cohen, who has some very interesting things to say about issues ranging from bullying to marriage equality.

There are also several intriguing U.S. House races throughout the state, including Debbie Halvorson/Adam Kinzinger, Bill Foster/Randall Hultgren/Daniel Kairis, Jan Schakowsky/Joel Pollak/Simon Ribeiro, Melissa Bean/Joe Walsh/Bill Scheurer and Dan Seals/Robert Dold.

County races are plentiful. Toni Preckwinkle, Roger Keats and Thomas Tresser are battling it out in the Cook County board president race, and

Democrat Joseph Berrios is involved in a very interesting contest with independent Forrest Claypool. Also, all of the commissioners' seats are up for grabs. (We talk with 10th District candidates Wes Fowler and Bridget Gainer; their interviews are in this issue.)

Oh, but that's not all, as there are sundry judicial races. In addition, supreme, appellate and Cook County judges are up for retention—with many LGBT individuals advocating that Susan McDunn (who has an anti-gay past) not be retained, as evidenced by Tom Chiola's letter on page 17. (Our interview with lesbian judge Sheryl Pethers is in this week's issue.)

Online, WCT has some interesting articles, including an interview with Republican state comptroller candidate Judy Baar Topinka; our guide to the lesbian and gay candidates in the general election; and a segment on candidates' responses to the AIDS Foundation of Chicago's surveys. There is also a piece on an out member of Gov. Pat Quinn's staff, Austin Baidas.

And, as always, we have our political charts that show recommendations and endorsements from various organizations and associations as well as candidates' scores on our questionnaire.

Lastly, please do not forget to vote; everyone's voice deserves to be heard. And keep in mind that Windy City Times' special election section is designed to be taken into the voting booth.



Locals sound off about races

Windy City Times asked some people which races they are following this election cycle. This is what they had to say:

—**Kit Duffy, gay-rights advocate:** "I am following most closely Jesus (Chuy) Garcia's race for Cook County commissioner from the Seventh District. With Daley's exit, there exists the potential for the revival of a genuinely progressive and independent coalition, one that reflects the diversity of the city and county and which supports community-based direction of how government operates. Garcia, with his long and unbroken history of advocacy for fairness and equality for all individuals, would be the natural leader of that movement, and I'm thrilled that he is back in politics and government."

—**Bernard Cherkasov, Equality Illinois CEO:** "Equality Illinois has endorsed terrific candidates in some very crucial races, such as re-election of Pat Quinn for governor. In addition, we are at risk of losing pro-equality majority in Congress, and I will be following the races of Alexi Giannoulias for U.S. Senate and many strong candidates for U.S. House of Representatives. It is up to the LGBT community to make sure that we elect people who will advance our equal rights."

—**Jamal Edwards, Howard Brown Health Center CEO:** "The leadership at Howard Brown Health Center is carefully watching all of the races that impact our state and its health, and specifically the LGBT community. But we are paying very close attention to the governor's race as well as the U.S. Senate race for President Obama's former seat, the 5th and 9th U.S. Congressional district races, the race for 12th

District State Representative, the state comptroller's race and several others."

—**Anthony Martinez, LGBT-rights activist:** "I am most interested in the governor's race and the state senate race, as I suspect most people are. With the lack of enthusiasm behind Quinn, and the amount of enthusiasm that is being shown from the right, especially the Tea Party, I am very worried we will see 'Gov. Brady' all over the signage on the interstate—I think it would be disastrous for our community, but just might be what we need.

"It is also interesting because of the two other candidates in the governor's race, Whitney and Cohen. I am interested to see how many votes that they gain and what that does to the two main party candidates. I would also like to see Giannoulias win, as he has been very outspoken with regards to LGBTQ equality. Mark Kirk voted against 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' after stating he would vote to repeal it. I would really like to see him held accountable for his lies. The recent polling has been very encouraging in both races, but it is *imperative* that the LGBTQ community and other progressives from across the state not only vote, but engage voters and encourage others to vote."

—**Jim Bennett, Lambda Legal Midwest regional director:** "I'm watching the judicial elections in Iowa this year. In April 2009, the Iowa Supreme Court unanimously ruled in favor of full marriage equality. Three of the Supreme Court justices are on the ballot this year (in Iowa, judges are up for retention every eight years), and a campaign financed by the Family Research Council and the National Organization for Marriage has plowed a tremendous amount of money into Iowa, encouraging people who disagree with the same-sex marriage ruling to vote no on the judges retention."

56 SENATORS VOTED TO REPEAL DON'T ASK, DON'T TELL. WHAT DID THEY ALL HAVE IN COMMON?



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Judge Sheryl Pethers.

ELECTIONS '10: JUDGES Sheryl Pethers aims to stay on the bench

BY KATE SOSIN

The Hon. Sheryl A. Pethers has learned some tough lessons in the last six years, including that sometimes justice and fairness are hard to reconcile, like when defendants face eviction because they cannot pay rent. However, on the upside, Pethers has also watched LGBT judges multiply in number, organize themselves and begin to educate their peers.

In 2004, Pethers won a seat on Cook County's 8th Judicial Subcircuit by just 53 votes (out of 40,000), making her the first elected out lesbian judge in Illinois history.

Now seasoned and settled in her job, Pethers is up for retention this year. Pethers talked with Windy City Times about why she wants to keep that job and the challenges it presents.

Windy City Times: What has changed in the last six years?

Sheryl Pethers: We now have about 15 LGBT judges on the bench in Cook County, and we have formed an association called the Alliance of Illinois Judges. It's wonderful that we're becoming presence. I mean, there are more than 400 judges in Cook County but at least we have 15, and we have a group. We're very visible.

WCT: Is it a tough time to be up for retention?

SP: Definitely, it is. A lot of my fellow judges say "Oh, don't worry. No judge has lost a retention race in 25 years." Others say 40 [years]. I don't know when it was when a judge last lost a retention race in Cook County, but this year does seem to be a little different. There's a lot of anti-incumbent sentiment out there just in general. I feel very fortunate to have very good bar-association ratings because people may need them this year.

WCT: Now, that's something I wanted to ask you about. When I go to vote, I do my homework, but I honestly don't know which judges to vote for. Do people know what they're voting for when they vote for judges?

SP: I don't know if they do or not. It's just not as easy because particularly the retention judges don't do a lot of individual advertising or anything. It's just too expensive, and part of it is just a little unseemly. It's just strange. It's like you're not supposed to be political and yet we have to keep our jobs and run on a partisan ballot. But I think if people want to find out information about judges they can.

WCT: What are you hoping you to accomplish this second time around?

SP: I don't have any goals that are different now from those that I had in the first place, which were just to be the best judge that I can, to know the law, to be fair, respectful, to work hard, and to try to help people resolve their disputes.

WCT: What do you think you've learned in the last six years?

SP: I've learned that many of the legal problems people are facing stem from economic circumstances. For instance, I spent three years in eviction court. The law doesn't really have an answer for people not having enough money to afford a place to live. It's hard to try to resolve that issue. It becomes almost black and white: can you pay your rent or not? And the law says if you can't pay your rent, you're out of there. And that's very frustrating. And that I've learned.

WCT: Some LGBT organizers have stated that the legal system is homophobic. What do you think of that?

SP: I don't think the justice system is homophobic. Parts of our society, as a whole, are homophobic. But I actually think the law itself is less homophobic than other parts of society.

WCT: That's interesting.

SP: Yeah. Well, we have a lot of support from straight judges because they understand and respect the law, and they know that the law is about justice and fairness and equality. There isn't really room in the law for homophobia or any other sort of discrimination against a particular group of people.

WCT: Some of your reviews online call you detail-oriented, compassionate towards marginalized people, and... moody. Would you like to respond to any of those?

SP: Well, I am detail-oriented. What was the other thing?

WCT: Compassionate towards marginalized groups.

SP: Well, I think those are true. I don't know about the moody. I think there was one group that I said I need to work on my temperament, and I thought, "I don't know." I think I'm rather plain-spoken and maybe some people get me in a bad mood. I don't know. [Laughs] Maybe I'm not touchy-feely enough, I'm not sure. I don't think that's my job though.

WCT: It sounds like a tough job.

SP: Yeah ... well, it's not, really. It's just that there's a learning curve there in beginning.... I'm amazed that it's been six years. I guess time really does fly when you're having a good time. I really enjoy my job. I'd like to keep it.

Letter

Feigenholtz, advocate

To the Chicago Tribune editorial board:

We are writing to disagree with the Tribune's editorial of Sept. 29, in which you supported the opponent of state Rep. Sara Feigenholtz in the 12th District. We are advocates for people living with HIV/AIDS, and can attest to the critical difference that Feigenholtz has made in the lives and health of thousands of Illinois citizens who are living with HIV.

Feigenholtz has been a strong advocate for the needs of children, teens, adults and families affected by HIV. She has sponsored many bills that have led to better systems of HIV prevention and care in Illinois, and those service systems have made a vital difference in the lives of many. She has been a champion for people living with HIV, including those living in her district and statewide. And she has worked tirelessly to protect the rights of Illinois citizens living with HIV, giving a voice to those who have experienced stigma and discrimination as a result of their illness. She has done all of this tirelessly and without hesitation.

We need Sara Feigenholtz and more lawmakers like her to keep our state accountable, improve human and health care services, and protect the rights of Illinois citizens affected by HIV/AIDS.

*Sincerely,
Linda Coon
Ann Fisher
John Peller*

On November 2nd Vote "YES" To Retain Experienced Judges

JUDGES SEEKING RETENTION

Supreme Court Judges

Chief Justice Thomas R. Fitzgerald
Justice Charles E. Freeman

Appellate Judges

Joseph Gordon
Shelvin Louis Marie Hall

Circuit Court Judges

Nancy J. Arnold
Robert Balanoff
Jeanne Cleveland Berstein
Robert W. Bertucci
Paul P. Biebel, Jr.
Richard J. Billik, Jr.
Kathleen Marie Burke
Charles P. Burns
Paula Marie Daleo
Thomas M. Davy
David Delgado
Deborah Mary Dooling
Jennifer Duncan-Brice
Laurence J. Dunford
Timothy C. Evans
Thomas P. Fecarotta, Jr.
Denise Kathleen Filan
Nicholas R. Ford
Vincent M. Gaughan
Allen S. Goldberg
Susan Ruscitti Grussel
Sophia R. Hall
Kay M. Hanlon
LaQuetta J. Hardy-Campbell
Thomas L. Hogan
Nathaniel R. Howse, Jr.*
Arnette R. Hubbard
Cheyrl D. Ingram
Raymond L. Jagielski
Dorothy F. Jones
Daniel E. Jordan
Michelle Jordan
Thomas J. Kelley

Carol A. Kelly
John P. Kirby
William J. Kunkle
Bertina E. Lampkin*
Diane J. Larsen
Jeffrey Lawrence
Daniel Joseph Lynch
William D. Maddux
William O. Maki
LeRoy K. Martin, Jr.
James P. McCarthy
Susan J. McDunn
Clare Elizabeth McWilliam
Mary L. Mikva
Patrick T. Murphy
Timothy P. Murphy
Donald J. O'Brien, Jr.
William D. O'Neal
Kathleen M. Pantle
Sheryl A. Pethers
Robert J. Quinn
Jim Ryan
Leida J. Gonzalez Santiago
Kevin M. Sheehan
Irwin J. Solganick
Paul Stralka
Daniel J. Sullivan
Sharon M. Sullivan
John D. Turner, Jr.
John A. Ward
Edward "Ed" Washington II
Alexander P. White
Susan F. Zwick

*Denotes Cook County Circuit Judges assigned to Appellate court

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Election 2010

STATEWIDE RACES

WCT = Windy City Times questions, number listed is of the total questions correct for that race
 IVI = Independent Voters of Illinois Independent Precinct Organization
 PPAC = Personal PAC
 EQIL = Equality Illinois PAC
 LCR = Log Cabin Republicans

	WCT	IVI	PPAC	EQIL	LCR
GOVERNOR					
Pat Quinn (D)	13/14	Y	Y	Y	
Bill Brady (R)					
Rich Whitney (G)					
Scott Lee Cohen (I)	13/14				
Lex Green (L)					
LT. GOVERNOR					
Sheila Simon (D)	13/14		Y	Y	
Jason Plummer (R)					
Don W. Crawford (G)					
Baxter Swilley (I)					
Ed Rutledge (L)					
ATTORNEY GENERAL					
Lisa Madigan (D)	14/14	Y		Y	
Steve Kim (R)					
David F. Black (G)					
Bill Malan (L)					
SECRETARY OF STATE					
Jesse White (D)			Y	Y	
Robert Enriquez (R)					
Josh Hanson (L)					
COMPTROLLER					
David E. Miller (D)	5/8	Y	Y		
Judy Baar Topinka (R)	7/8				Y
Erika Schafer (G)					
Julie Fox (L)					
TREASURER					
Robin Kelly (D)	8/8	Y	Y		
Dan Rutherford (R)					Y
Scott K. Summers (G)	6/8				
James Pauly (L)					

COOK COUNTY RACES

WCT = Windy City Times questions, number listed is of the total questions correct for that race
 IVI = Independent Voters of Illinois Independent Precinct Organization
 PPAC = Personal PAC
 LCR = Log Cabin Republicans

	WCT	IVI	PPAC	LCR
COOK COUNTY 1ST DIST. BOARD OF REVIEW				
Brendan Houlihan (D)		Y		
Dan Patlak (R)				
COOK COUNTY BOARD PRESIDENT				
Toni Preckwinkle (D)	13/14	Y		
Roger Keats (R)				
Thomas Tresser (G)				
COOK COUNTY CLERK				
David Orr (D)	14/14	Y		
Angel Garcia (R)				
COOK COUNTY SHERIFF				
Thomas Dart (D)	13/14	Y		
Frederick Collins (R)				
Marshall P. Lewis (G)				
COOK COUNTY TREASURER				
Maria Pappas (D)		Y		
Carol Morse (R)				
COOK COUNTY ASSESSOR				
Joseph Berrios (D)	7/8			
Sharon Strobeck-Eckersall (R)	5/8			
Robert C. Grota (G)				
Forrest Claypool (I)	6/8	Y		
COOK COUNTY BOARD - 1ST DISTRICT				
Earleen Collins (D)				
Ronald Lawless (G)				
COOK COUNTY BOARD - 2ND DISTRICT				
Robert B. Steele (D)		Y		
Michael Smith (G)				
COOK COUNTY BOARD - 3RD DISTRICT				
Jerry Butler (D)		Y		
Marie Wohadlo (G)				
COOK COUNTY BOARD - 4TH DISTRICT				
William Beavers (D)				
Joseph Barton (G)				

	WCT	IVI	PPAC	LCR
COOK COUNTY BOARD - 5TH DISTRICT				
Deborah Sims (D)		Y		
Miriam Shabo (R)				
COOK COUNTY BOARD - 6TH DISTRICT				
Joan Murphy (D)				
Sandra K. Czyznikiewicz (R)				
COOK COUNTY BOARD - 7TH DISTRICT				
Jesus G. Garcia (D)	13/14			
Paloma Andrade (G)				
COOK COUNTY BOARD - 9TH DISTRICT				
Cary Capparelli (D)		Y		
Peter N. Silvestri (R)				
Brock Merck (G)				
COOK COUNTY BOARD - 10TH DISTRICT				
Bridget Gainer (D)	13/14			
Wes Fowler (R)	13/14			Y
COOK COUNTY BOARD - 11TH DISTRICT				
John P. Daley (D)				
Carl Segvitch (R)				
COOK COUNTY BOARD - 12TH DISTRICT				
John A. Fritchey (D)	12/14	Y	Y	
William C. "Bill" Miceli (R)				
COOK COUNTY BOARD - 13TH DISTRICT				
Larry Suffredin (D)		Y	Y	
Linda Thompson LaFianza (R)				
George E. Milkowski (G)				
COOK COUNTY BOARD - 14TH DISTRICT				
Jennifer Bishop Jenkins (D)	13/14	Y	Y	
Gregg Goslin (R)				
COOK COUNTY BOARD - 15TH DISTRICT				
Jim Dasakis (D)				
Tim Schneider (R)				
Laura Ehorn (G)				
COOK COUNTY BOARD - 16TH DISTRICT				
Jeffrey R. Tobolski (D)	10/14			
Tony Peraica (R)				
Alejandro Reyes (G)				
COOK COUNTY BOARD - 17TH DISTRICT				
Patrick Maher (D)				
Elizabeth Doody Gorman (R)				
Matthew J. Ogean (G)				
WATER RECLAMATION COMMISSIONER				
Michael Alvarez (D)				
Barbara McGowan (D)	7/9	Y	Y	
Mariyana Spyropolous (D)	6/9	Y	Y	
Paul Chialdikas (R)				
Jimmy Lee Tillman II (R)				
John Ailey (G)	8/9			
Nadine Bopp (G)	8/9	Y		
Diana Horton (G)				

US CONGRESS RACES

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 IVI = Independent Voters of Illinois Independent Precinct Organization
 HRC= Human Rights Campaign 110th Congress, ratings are a percentage of total 100% based on HRC tracking of how candidates voted in the 110th Congress

	WCT	IVI	HRC	LCR
U.S. SENATE				
Alexander Giannoulis (D)	18/18	Y	85	
Mark Steven Kirk (R)				
LeAlan M. Jones (G)				
Mike Labno (L)				
1ST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT				
Bobby L. Rush (D)			90	
Raymond Wardingley (R)				
Jeff Adams (G)				
2ND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT				
Jesse Jackson, Jr. (D)		Y	100	
Isaac Hayes (R)				
Anthony W. Williams (G)				
3RD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT				
Daniel William Lipinski (D)			45	
Michael A. Bendas (R)				
Laurel Schmidt (G)		Y		
4TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT				
Luis V. Gutierrez (D)				
Israel Vasquez (R)			100	
Robert J. Burns (G)		Y		
5TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT				
Mike Quigley (D)	18/18			
David Ratowitz (R)				
Matthew Reichel (G)				

	WCT	IVI	HRC	LCR
6TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT				
Benjamin S. Lowe (D)			0	
Peter J. Roskam (R)				
7TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT				
Danny K. Davis (D)		Y	100	
Mark M. Weiman (R)				
Clarence Clemons (I)				
8TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT				
Melissa Bean (D)			80	
Joe Walsh (R)				
Bill Scheurer (G)				
9TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT				
Janice D. Schakowsky (D)	17/18		100	
Joel Barry Pollak (R)	15/18			
Simon Ribiero (G)	15/18			
10TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT				
Daniel J. Seals (D)	18/18	Y		
Robert Dold (R)				
11TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT				
Deborah Halvorson (D)	18/18			
Adam Kinzinger (R)				
12TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT				
Jerry F. Costello (D)			55	
Teri Newman (R)				
Rodger W. Jennings (G)				
13TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT				
Scott Harper (D)			55	Y
Judy Biggert (R)				
14TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT				
Bill Foster (D)			NA	
Randall M. Hultgren (R)				
Daniel J. Kairis (G)		Y		
15TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT				
David Gill (D)	17/18	Y	0	
Timothy V. Johnson (R)				
16TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT				
George W. Gaulrapp (D)			0	
Donald A. Manzullo (R)				
Terry G. Campbell (G)				
17TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT				
Phil Hare (D)			100	
Bobby Schilling (R)				
Roger K. Davis (G)	14/18			
18TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT				
Deirdre Hirner (D)		Y		
Aaron Schock (R)				
Sheldon Schafer (G)				
19TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT				
Tim Bagwell (D)			0	
John M. Shimkus (R)				

ILLINOIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY RACES

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 PPAC = Personal PAC
 LCR = Log Cabin Republicans

	WCT	IVI	EQIL	PPAC	LCR
1ST SENATE DISTRICT					
Antonio Munoz (D)			Y		
4TH SENATE DISTRICT					
Kimberly Lightford (D)			Y	Y	
7TH SENATE DISTRICT					
Heather Steans (D)	14/14	Y	Y	Y	
Adam Robinson (R)	14/14				Y
10TH SENATE DISTRICT					
John G. Mulroe (D)				Y	
Brian G. Doherty (R)					
13TH SENATE DISTRICT					
Kwame Raoul (D)			Y	Y	
17TH SENATE DISTRICT					
Michael Noland (D)			Y		
19TH SENATE DISTRICT					
M. Maggie Crotty (D)			Y	Y	
Adam Wojcik (R)					
22ND SENATE DISTRICT					
Michael Noland (D)				Y	
Steven Rauschenberger (R)					



Wes Fowler. Photo by Andrew Davis

ELECTIONS '10: COOK COUNTY COMMISSIONER

Wes Fowler: Gay Republican fights the odds

BY ANDREW DAVIS

To say that Wes Fowler has fighting an uphill battle against Cook County Commissioner incumbent Bridget Gainer might be the understatement of the year. Not only is he a Republican in a primarily Democratic city, but he is openly gay—and he said that means facing ostracism within his own political party. In addition, he's running on a shoestring budget.

Windy City Times: It seems that you have quite the uphill battle. How do you assess your chances at beating your opponent?

Wes Fowler: I'm used to uphill battles: coming out, going through law school, etc. I think that my chances are pretty good against Bridget because she hasn't been campaigning that hard. She's been campaigning for mayor; she was interviewed on Fox. [Note: Gainer addresses mayoral rumors in her interview.] Besides, I know that we have a large number of reasonably prudent voters in our district; they are really concerned about our community.

WCT: What do you feel that she's not doing right?

WF: I don't want to phrase it like that [but] when I think of her, I think of another [Mayor Richard] Daley appointee. I think she had the inside track when candidates met to become the new commissioner. I think she's just a cog in the Daley machine.

WCT: So it's not what she's done—it's who she is?

WF: Not who she is—*what* she is. [Laughs] Her attendance at board meetings has been a little [spotty], and there are issues that are important to us, like the red-light cameras—and she was absent for that vote. She has voted a lot of times with [Commissioner Tony] Peraica and [Commissioner Elizabeth Doody] Gorman [who are both Republican]. She's a good follower, but she's not a good leader.

Also, other press have tried to get a hold of her, but it's [apparently] hard to [do so]. I'm like, "I'm here all day. Call me day or night."

WCT: You recently posted something interesting on Facebook: "Chicago would vote for a peanut-butter sandwich if it was a Democrat."

WF: Yes; there are a lot of people who are like that. One reason that it's an uphill battle [for me] is that a lot of Chicagoans are used to a Democratic mindset. They're used to, "This is Madigan's daughter so I have to vote for her." They haven't seen a lot of people who think differently, and who celebrate our differences—but you have to start somewhere.

Read much more of WCT's interview with Wes Fowler—including his thoughts on marriage equality and his message to voters—online at <http://www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com>.

ELECTIONS '10: COOK COUNTY COMMISSIONER Bridget Gainer on her job— and those mayoral rumors

BY ANDREW DAVIS

Since April 2009, when she was appointed as Mike Quigley's successor as Cook County commissioner, Bridget Gainer has successfully tackled a variety of issues, ranging from the budget to STD/HIV testing. She recently talked with Windy City Times about her opponent, marriage equality and rumors that she is running for mayor of Chicago.

Windy City Times: How much do you know about your opponent [Wes Fowler]?

Bridget Gainer: I know that he works at [a large law firm]. I haven't met him—and I'm surprised I haven't come across him at some community function. He seems sincere.

WCT: Something he mentioned to me was that you're thinking about dipping your toe in the mayoral race.



Bridget Gainer.

BG: I did think about it. I don't know anyone who hears Mayor Daley doesn't think, "Holy cow." That's the opportunity of a lifetime, but I don't plan on running. My name was mentioned, and there was a lot of conversation.

WCT: One site had that you were circulating petitions.

BG: There was a lot of conversation about women running, and there's an article [on the Huffington Post by Rebecca Sive] about how a woman can win the mayoral race. There were all

of these stories and photos showing men and their potential, so there was a lot of activity around that type of thing.

Part of it is timing (having the time to pull things together). The fundraising is really onerous; you need a base already. You have many [capable] women who could run but, outside of [Attorney General] Lisa Madigan, who have gotten to a larger position. But I certainly thought about it.

WCT: So how has it been being commissioner?

BG: I've loved it. So I spent the first seven years of my [professional] life in the nonprofit sector. I went to work for the City of Chicago in the budget department, and then at the Park District. I've also worked in insurance.

For the county [seat], my experience is a perfect fit. The main issue for the county right now is financial stability; I have enormous depth and understanding in not just budgeting, but also capital structure, bond deals, credit ratings and pension/employee benefits.

Read much more of WCT's interview with Bridget Gainer—including his response to accusations that she is part of the "Daley machine"—online at <http://www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com>.

We endorse ^{PAT} QUINN For Governor

- Quinn advocates the need for marriage equality in Illinois and has vocally worked to pass Civil Union legislation.
- Quinn has aggressively enforced Illinois' Human Rights and Hate Crimes laws.
- In June, Quinn signed Anti-Bullying legislation to protect school children.
- Three Directors of major State Departments serving under Quinn are openly gay.
- Quinn has fully funded the AIDS Drug Assistance Program and the Illinois Breast and Cervical Cancer Program.
- Quinn has fought his entire life for equal treatment under the law with his motto being "everyone in, nobody out!"

State Representative Greg Harris Alderman Tom Tunney ■ Commissioner Debra Shore

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IT DOES GET BETTER

A special section of
**WINDY CITY
TIMES**



President Obama: It Gets Better

BY PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA

The following is from the president's *It Gets Better* video.

Like all of you, I was shocked and saddened by the deaths of several young people who were bullied and taunted for being gay, and who ultimately took their own lives. As a parent of two daughters, it breaks my heart. It's something that just shouldn't happen in this country.

We've got to dispel the myth that bullying is just a normal rite of passage – that it's some inevitable part of growing up. It's not. We have an obligation to ensure that our schools are safe for all of our kids. And to every young person out there you need to know that if you're in trouble, there are caring adults who can help.

I don't know what it's like to be picked on for being gay. But I do know what it's like to grow up feeling that sometimes you don't belong. It's tough. And for a lot of kids, the sense of being alone or apart – I know can just wear on you. And when you're teased or bullied, it can seem like somehow you brought it on yourself – for being different, or for not fitting in with everybody else.

But what I want to say is this: You are not alone. You didn't do anything wrong. You didn't do anything to deserve being bullied. And there is a whole world waiting for you, filled with possibilities. There are people out there who love you and care about you just the way you are. And so, if you ever feel like because of bullying, because of what people are saying, that you're getting down on yourself, you've got to make sure to reach out to people you trust. Whether it's your parents, teachers, folks that you know care about you just the way you are. You've got to reach out to them; don't feel like you're in this by yourself.

The other thing you need to know is, things will get better. And more than that, with time you're going to see that your differences are a source of pride and a source of strength. You'll look back on the struggles you've faced with compassion and wisdom. And that's not just going to serve you, but it will help you get involved and make this country a better place.

It will mean that you'll be more likely to help

fight discrimination – not just against LGBT Americans, but discrimination in all its forms. It means you'll be more likely to understand personally and deeply why it's so important that as adults we set an example in our own lives and that we treat everybody with respect. That we are able to see the world through other people's eyes and stand in their shoes – that we never lose sight of what binds us together.

As a nation we're founded on the belief that all of us are equal and each of us deserves the freedom to pursue our own version of happiness; to make the most of our talents; to speak our minds; to not fit in; most of all, to be true to ourselves. That's the freedom that enriches all of us. That's what America is all about. And every day, it gets better.

“Learning about the suicide deaths of Tyler Clementi, Seth Walsh, Asher Brown, Billy Lucas and Justin Aaberg has been heartbreaking for me. These young people were bullied and tormented by people that should have been their friends. We have a responsibility to be better to each other, and accept each others' differences regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, race, ability, or religion and stand up for someone when they're bullied. When a friend is feeling depressed or says they're thinking of killing themselves, we must take it seriously and get them help.”

- Actor Daniel Radcliffe
(Harry Potter)

Dan Savage, the nationally syndicated writer, author and blogger, started a new YouTube channel, *It Gets Better*, to give hope to our next generation of LGBTs. The bullying, suicides and all-around difficulties of growing up different are still cause for alarm in 2010, even as society becomes more accepting of LGBTs. Savage started this project before the recent tragic news of more suicides among gay youth.

This is the third week *Windy City Times* is including a special section on the topic, in the words of our writers and guest essayists, hoping to be part of the dialogue with youth, telling them “it does get better.”

Windy City Times will be taking submissions of essays to run on our Web site, www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com, and in future issues. Please send your submission to editor@windycitymediagroup.com



Roscoe's held a star-studded fundraiser on October 25 to benefit The Trevor Project. In addition to the cash raised by drag queens, cabaret performers and musicians, Roscoe's donated \$4,000 to the cause. Pictured here (L-R) are The Trevor Project's Waymon Hudson, Honey West, Roscoe's manager Shawn Hazen and Frida Lay.

Photo by Kirk Williamson. See more photos online at www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com

It Gets Better

BY BRIAN BOND

The below blog post by White House Deputy Director of the Office of Public Engagement Brian Bond, which includes a video message from the President, is available at www.whitehouse.gov/itgetsbetter.

Recently, several young people have taken their own lives after being bullied for being gay—or perceived as being gay—by their peers. Their deaths are shocking and heartbreaking tragedies. No one should have to endure relentless harassment or tormenting. No one should ever feel so alone or desperate that they feel have nowhere to turn. We each share a responsibility to protect our young people. And we also have an obligation to set an example of respect and kindness, regardless of our differences.

We all have a responsibility to protect all of our children. But we also have an obligation to set an example of respect and kindness regardless of our differences.

This is personal to me. When I was a young adult, I faced the jokes and taunting that too many of our youth face today, and I considered suicide as a way out. But I was fortunate. One of my co-workers recognized that I was hurting, and I soon confided in her. She cared enough to push me to seek help. She saved my life. I will always be grateful for her compassion and support, the same compassion and support that so many kids need today.

In the wake of these terrible tragedies, thousands of Americans have come together to share their stories of hope and encouragement for LGBT youth who are struggling as part of the *It Gets Better* Project. Their messages are simple: No matter how difficult or hopeless life may seem when you're a young person who's been tormented by your peers or feels like you don't fit in, life will get better.

President Obama is committed to ending bullying, harassment and discrimination in all its forms in our schools and communities. That's why he recorded this message.

Last year, the Departments of Education and Health and Human Services joined forces with four other departments to create a federal task force on bullying. In August 2010, the task force staged the first-ever National Bullying Summit, bringing together 150 top state, local, civic, and corporate leaders to begin mapping out a national plan to end bullying. The task force



also launched a new Web site, www.bullyinginfo.org, which brings all the federal resources on bullying together in one place for the first time ever.

If you're a young person who's been bullied or harassed by your peers, or you're a parent or teacher who knows a young person being bullied or harassed, here are a few resources that can help you:

The Trevor Project

The Trevor Project is determined to end suicide among LGBTQ youth by providing resources and a nationwide, 24-hour hotline. If you are considering suicide or need help, call 866-4-U-TREVOR (866-488-7386).

BullyingInfo.org

BullyingInfo.org is a project of the Interagency Working Group on Youth Programs (IWGYP) focused on providing tools and resources for youth, parents, teachers and mental health providers to prevent and address bullying.

It Gets Better Project

President Obama's video is just one of thousands of videos submitted by people across the country to inspire and encourage LGBT youth who are struggling. You can watch more videos at ItGetsBetterProject.com.

For even more information and resources visit:

Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN)

Matthew Shepard Foundation

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG)

Being Bullied is Hard, But It Gets Better

BY LZ GRANDERSON

One night before going to bed, I walked into the bathroom, opened the medicine cabinet, and swallowed an entire bottle of aspirin. I was 12, poor and not very attractive.

My stepfather routinely used me as a punching bag, and as I was entering puberty, I was entering a confusing period with regard to my sexuality. I just didn't see life getting any better, and so that night I decided to end mine.

When I woke up the next morning, I was dizzy, lethargic, vomiting -- and confused. "Why am I still alive?" I wondered. Maybe I was a loser, as my stepfather had told me countless times before; after all, I couldn't even kill myself right. Of course I would find out much later that I had less than a 5 percent chance of dying from an aspirin overdose.

And despite everything that was going on in my life, and I mean everything, life would get better.

That doesn't mean things immediately turned around after that night.

In fact, when my stepfather learned I was too sick to go to school because I swallowed a bottle of pills, he beat me again. And for four more years the beatings continued. But eventually I grew stronger and I learned to fight back -- physically, but more important, mentally.

The abuse stopped, and his chokehold on the way I saw myself was gone. I earned a scholarship to college, then a full ride to graduate school, and today I am happily partnered and the proud father of a 13-year-old boy who thinks my sole purpose in life is to drive him around.

So for any young person who is being bullied in school, or as in my case, at home, don't give up. It gets better.

But if I had died that night, 25 years ago, I would not have been around to know. I would not have been around for all of the amazing opportunities I've had the pleasure of experiencing, like having beers with my favorite singer, Kenny Chesney; driving through a rainstorm with the Jeep top down; or falling in love. For years I continued to have nightmares from my violent upbringing, but they are happening less and less, as the pain of my childhood continues to give way to the joys of life. And believe me, there are joys, even if the dark cloud of your current circumstances makes it difficult to see.

Brad Paisley has a song, "Letter To Me," and in it he fantasizes about an adult being able to offer encouraging words to his teenage self in a letter.

You've got so much up ahead,
You'll make new friends.
You should see your kids and wife.
And I'd end by saying have no fear,

These are nowhere near the best years of your life ...

The first time I heard the song, I began recalling the sense of hopelessness and desperation that used to haunt my life, and then the tears freely began to flow. If I could've written a letter to my 12-year-old self, I would've told him,



this too shall pass. If I could've written a letter to Tyler Clementi, the Rutgers student who jumped off the George Washington Bridge after his college roommate allegedly posted an embarrassing video of him online, I would've told him, "I know life is hard right now, but it does get better."

The same for 13-year-old Hope Witsell and 18-year-old Jesse Logan, two girls who committed suicide in separate incidents last year after explicit photos of them were made public. My heart just breaks hearing stories about someone as young as Carl Joseph Walker-Hoover, who was just 11 when he hanged himself last year because he was being bullied at school and felt so helpless and alone. This is why I felt compelled to open up about the troubling things that happened early in my life—so any young, hurting soul who stumbles across this column would know he or she is not alone.

Syndicated columnist Dan Savage recently started the "It Gets Better" project on YouTube as a way of rallying support for GLBT students who are being bullied and feeling alone.

But I would say the stories are universal and can offer comfort to any student who may be a victim of bullying. Remember, pain and isolation know no race, gender, socioeconomic status or sexual orientation.

And thankfully, neither do hope and love.

I was around Walker-Hoover's age when, one morning before school, I was beaten so badly, the blood coming from the welts on my arms soaked portions of the sleeves of the shirt I was wearing. The spots caught the attention of one of my teachers, Ms. Jackson, who asked what happened. Fighting back tears, I said "nothing." She asked if I was sure, and I said "yeah," afraid of what would happen if I said otherwise.

I'm not sure how things would have turned out if I had reached for her helping hand that day. But I do know how things would've turned out had the hand of death grabbed me that night 25 years ago.

I would've missed life getting better. So much better.

This column originally appeared on CNN.com. LZ Granderson is a senior writer and columnist for ESPN The Magazine and ESPN.com, and has contributed to ESPN's Sports Center, Outside the Lines and First Take. He is a 2010 nominee and the 2009 winner of the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) award for online journalism, and a 2010 and 2008 honoree of the National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association (NLGJA) for column writing.

Making Our Schools Safe and Welcoming for LGBT Students

BY RAHM EMANUEL

The recent string of LGBT youth suicides across the country has underscored the bullying that is plaguing our schools. For many in the LGBT community, this problem is all too familiar—over 85 percent of gay and lesbian youth report being harassed in school and a third report having skipped school out of fear. Right at the moment when they are coming to terms with their identities and most in need of love and support, bullying can have a profound impact on their lives.

Calling out bullying is not enough. We need to change the culture in our schools to prevent it from happening in the first place. Anytime bullying is accepted or ignored, a student pays the price.

Teachers and administrators, hall monitors and lunch room aides all must set the tone and engage directly whenever bullying takes place. Encouraging parental involvement in our students' education increases the likelihood that students will succeed in school—and it can also have an impact on a student's conduct in the classroom. Rather than avoiding the issue, schools should embrace LGBT youth and make clear that it's okay to be a gay or lesbian student in Chicago and Chicago Public Schools. Gay-straight alliances and other programs that provide support for LGBT youth can help to ensure that our schools are welcoming all students.

As a Congressman, I represented many LGBT Chicagoans and I fought for equality. I worked with community leaders to secure funding for the Center on Halsted which provides a lifeline to LGBT victims of bullying and abuse through its Anti-Violence Project and youth program. I co-sponsored legislation that would make targeting someone because of their sexual orientation or gender identity a hate crime, and saw that it was signed into law as White House Chief-of-Staff.

Chicago is a city that thrives on its diversity. We are strong because we are different. The threads of many communities run across our city, and make Chicago what it is today. We have made great strides toward equality and acceptance in Chicago, but our city cannot be whole until every child feels welcome in our schools.



"School doesn't have to be horrible just because you're LGBT! Schools should be safe for everyone. Through the Make It Better Project, youth and adults can work together to prevent suicide and make schools safer for LGBT youth right now. Go to www.MakeItBetterProject.org to learn how."

- Carolyn Laub, executive director of Gay-Straight Alliance Network

RESOURCES



THE TREVOR PROJECT
866-4-U-TREVOR
www.TheTrevorProject.org



IT GETS BETTER
www.youtube.com/user/itgetsbetterproject

PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays)
www.pflagchicago.org

GLSEN (Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network)
www.glsen.org

IL SAFE SCHOOLS ALLIANCE
312-368-9070
www.IllinoisSafeSchools.org



Watch Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton's video entitled "Tomorrow Will Be Better" at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zXBpW8GCDtY>.

GOINGS-ON

WINDY CITY TIMES' ENTERTAINMENT SECTION



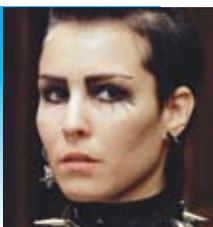
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by Amy
Boyle
Photogra-
phy

BRIT BY BRIT

The acclaimed musical *Billy Elliot* (featuring four boys in the title role of the dancing English lad) is ending its local run Nov. 28. See below.

MOVIES

Simply the 'Nest.'
Page 31.



EVENTS

Gerber/Hart's gala.
Page 29.

Photo of Karen Sendziak by Kat Fitzgerald
(MysticImagesPhotography.com)



SPORTS

The Indy city.
Page 38.

Photo of Fred Glass
courtesy of Jon Kitto



SCOTTISH PLAY SCOTT

Billy Elliot, Halloween and more

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

Billy Elliot's early goodbye

The Chicago engagement of the musical *Billy Elliot* is closing early, despite its arrival in March of this year with a roster of rave reviews and an impressive array of 10 Tony Awards. Instead of closing in January, producers are ending the run of *Billy Elliot* at the Ford Center for the Performing Arts, Oriental Theatre on Sunday, Nov. 28 (missing out on the typically lucrative Christmas holiday season).

It's a bit of a blow to Broadway in Chicago, and to the Windy City's reputation of hosting long hit runs of other musical hits like *Wicked* (three years) and *Jersey Boys* (two years). But unlike those shows that respectively had America's built-in love for *The Wizard of Oz* and a nostalgic jukebox score, *Billy Elliot* tackled more serious real-life issues with a very thick Northern English accent.

The two times I caught *Billy Elliot*, I overheard some audience members complaining at intermission at how very British the whole show was (not a problem for me since I'm a huge Anglophile). Then there's the global economic downturn to consider, which might have kept local audiences from repeat visits to compare and contrast the different strengths of the rotating young *Billy* actors.

Still, I felt the story of a young lad who defies the odds and his hard-scrabble community to pursue his dream of dancing to be a universal and uplifting story. So if you've been dragging your feet on seeing the show, now is the time to buy your tickets to see this superlative staging



Ed Jones as Rip Nelson. Photo by Rick Aguilar

before it heads to Toronto early next year.

For more information on the final four weeks of *Billy Elliot*'s Chicago run, visit <http://www.broadwayinchicago.com>.

Exits and entrances

Chicago's theater artistic administrative landscape has seen a few shakeups in the past few weeks and months.

Strawdog Theatre ensemble member and Next Theatre associate artist Jennifer Avery was initially serving as the interim artistic director for Next Theatre in Evanston (following the dismissal of Jason Southerland who was accused of plagiarism and copyright violations on the production *The Return to Haifa*).

Now Avery has been officially appointed as Next Theatre's new artistic director. She's joined by Jim Davis as producing director, and Avery has already switched the season's lineup of plays to match her vision (the regional premiere of Julie Cho's *The Piano Teacher* kicks off Next Theatre's 30th anniversary season with a run from Nov. 4 to Dec. 5).

L. Walter Stearns is abandoning ship from his artistic director position with Porchlight Music Theatre (a role he's had since in 1998). According to a report in the *Chicago Tribune*, Stearns is to be the executive director of the Mercury Theatre on Southport Ave. A private group of investors has purchased the theater from long-time owner Michael Cullen, who suffered a stroke in January.

The 298-seat Mercury Theatre is set not only to continue as a rental house, but one that will produce its own shows.

At the start of this year, Remy Bumppo Theatre Company co-founder and artistic director James Bohnen announced his intention to step down at the end of the 2010-11 season (he's been with the troupe since 1996).

Earlier this month, Remy Bumppo Theatre announced Timothy Douglas is to be the company's next artistic director. Douglas worked in the Chicago area from 1988-1991, before going on to serve as a resident director for the Mark Taper Forum in Los Angeles from 1994-1997, and as an associate artistic director at Actor's Theatre of Louisville from 2001-2004.

Though Douglas' new position begins in July of 2011, he is slated to join the company on a part-time advisory basis for the rest of the season to work on the company's programming and budgeting for the future.

Halloween theater haunts

If you like your Halloween entertainment to come with generous amounts of camp comedy, then be sure not to miss the following shows playing around Chicago. They'll definitely help you catch the campy Halloween spirit.

The Annoyance Theatre has always been great for providing scary laughs, and there are plenty of shows playing in repertory to choose from. If you like your history to be sung, then check out the *Lizzie Borden* musical *40 Whacks* and the witch trial show *Salem! The Musical*. If you prefer you horror flicks spoofed, then catch a revival of *Splatter Theater*, the Annoyance's first-

ever show. And any time is a good time to catch Co-Ed Prison Sluts. Visit <http://www.annoyanceproductions.com> for more information on all these productions.

Hell in a Handbag Productions also offers a campy way to celebrate the season with David Cerda's original comedy *The Rip Nelson Halloween Spooktacular*. Ed Jones stars as the 1960s comedian who his doing his damn best to revive his flagging career. The show plays until Nov. 6 at Mary's Attic. Visit <http://www.handbagproductions.org> for more details.

Who knew that John Carpenter's 1980 horror flick *Halloween* could be combined with the easy rock ballads of Karen and Richard Carpenter? Find out when the revival of Carpenters' *Halloween* plays until Oct. 30, this time at Circuit nightclub. Visit <http://bigtopjojo.com> for more information.

Before there was *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*, there was the London and Broadway stage musical of *The Rocky Horror Show*. Night Blue Theater gives *Rocky Horror* fans a chance to see the original show through Oct. 30 at Stage 773. Visit <http://www.nightbluetheater.com> for more information.

Jeff Awards

By now, the 2009-10 Joseph Jefferson Awards for professional Equity theater in and around Chicago have been handed out. An earlier deadline for this column prevents me from naming all the winners who were announced on Monday, Oct. 25, during a ceremony at the Drury Lane Theatre in Oakbrook Terrace.

Still, I can make some safe assumptions. Rachel Rockwell's superlative production of the musical *Ragtime* for Drury Lane should rightfully clean up several awards, while Kristoffer Diaz's Pulitzer-finalist pro-wrestling drama *The Elaborate Entry of Chad Deity* should anoint several awards for its co-producers of Victory Gardens Theater and Teatro Vista.

Visit <http://www.jeffawards.org> for a full list of winners.



Cat on a Hot Tin Roof. Photo courtesy of the Raven Theatre

THEATER REVIEWS

Sweet Bird of Youth

Playwright: Tennessee Williams
At: The Artistic Home, 3914 N. Clark
Phone: 866-811-4111; \$28
Runs through: Nov. 28

Cat on a Hot Tin Roof

Playwright: Tennessee Williams
At: Raven Theatre, 6157 N. Clark
Phone: 773-338-2177; \$30
Runs through: Dec. 19

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

For the next two months, Clark Street should be renamed "Honorary Tennessee Williams Way." That's because two Clark Street theater companies, The Artistic Home and Raven Theatre, are respectively doing great honor to the late gay American playwright with juicy productions of Williams' 1959 drama *Sweet Bird of Youth* and his 1955 Pulitzer Prize winner, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*.

Both productions richly capture Williams' heightened poetical style filled with desperate Southern characters caught up in a hot house climate that drives everyone to emotional extremes. It's easy to get hot and bothered from all of the radiated heat because both productions are so intimate.

Catch *Sweet Bird of Youth* first, because it plays for a shorter time. (It also comes with a celebrity gossip factor since Nicole Kidman has been announced to star in a Broadway revival next year.)

Sweet Bird of Youth focuses on two characters who are desperately trying to cling on the perceived remnants of their youth: the washed-up

Hollywood actress Alexandra del Lago (a very throaty and amusingly scattered Kathy Scambiattera) and the arrogantly ambitious pretty boy Chance Wayne (Josh Odor, very lovely to look at from all angles).

Alexandra is dealing with the ramifications of disastrous big-screen comeback, while Chance has grand plans to use del Lago to further his own Hollywood ambitions and to lord it over his politically corrupt hometown of St. Cloud, Fla.

In the sleek and versatile white-on-white set design of Mike Mroch and with Adam Smith's evocative sound design, director Dale Calandra conjures up a very sudsy soap opera that is filled with passionate actors who revel in their characters' grand-standing and glaring hypocrisies. It may be all a bit much, especially with the threatened plot twist of castration. But Williams liked to push the extreme buttons (remember those cannibals in Williams' *Suddenly, Last Summer?*), and it all makes *Sweet Bird of Youth* a cracking good time.

If you want Williams in a more earthbound mode, then Raven Theatre's *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* is also extremely enjoyable. The suggested gay conflict between the alcoholic former football star Brick and his late friend Skipper, also makes this an historically important LGBT drama.

Director Michael Menendian helms a solid production for Raven, with great work from Liz Fletcher's chatty Maggie the Cat, Jason Huysman's agonized Brick and Jon Steinhagen's commanding Big Daddy. (True, Steinhagen is technically too young for the role, but he more than makes up for it in his devil-may-care performance.)

As the weather turns colder, my advice is to get some great theatrical Southern heat from these two Clark Street companies. Williams' way with words is always welcome, and in the case of these two productions, truly wonderful.



26 Miles. Photo by Suzanne Plunkett

THEATER REVIEW

26 Miles

Playwright: Quiara Alegria Hudes
At: Teatro Vista/Rivendell Theatre Ensemble at Chicago Dramatists, 1105 W. Chicago
Phone: 773-334-7728; \$15-\$25
Runs through: Nov. 21

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

For a successful road trip, you want a reliable mode of transportation, food and shelter for rest stops along the way, and sufficient money to ensure access to same. Pleasant companions are also desirable, and a destination, too, however many delays or side-excursions may prove necessary to reach it. But a *literary* road trip requires, in addition, unresolved questions whose answers are revealed only after navigation of unknown territory has engendered the communality rendering their discussion safe.

Quiara Alegria Hudes' smartly articulate play has all of these elements, served up with the maturity, compassion and humor we expect from the author of *In The Heights*. Her pilgrims this time are an estranged daughter and mother: brainy Olivia, chafing under the tensions arising from her Anglo father's remarriage, and peppery Cubana Beatriz, whose second marriage is likewise undergoing a period of unrest. Since Western myth mandates a return to nature the remedy for all troubles, the two impulsively embark on a drive from Philadelphia to Wyoming in search of Yellowstone Park and the buffalo herds hitherto the stuff of pictures in *National Geographic* magazine.

And whattaya know? Secrets initially concealed are confided, woman-to-woman topics are broached, long-festering misunderstandings are exorcised, dreams deferred are fulfilled—not only for Olivia and Beatriz, as both struggle to forge a filial bond despite mutual inexperience regarding such relationships, but for the menfolk left at home, who must confront their own part in the events precipitating abandonment by the women upon whom they have come to depend. But though their progress encompasses only a bare 100 minutes of performance time, never does it feel rushed or contrived, so deftly and efficiently has Hudes packed each item in her text with an eye to equipping her characters for their journey to self-empowerment.

Tara Mallen's direction likewise allows the action to unfold gradually and seamlessly, each new discovery arriving in a flash—but never a blast—of illumination. An early publicity release incorrectly called this shared Teatro Vista/Rivendell Ensemble production a "Thelma and Louise" adventure. The emotion fueling Hudes' odyssey is not the anger that finds deliverance only in destruction, however, but a sensitive quest for the cosmological equilibrium so often emerging peripatetically from the simple act of Getting Away From It All.

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SPOTLIGHT



If you're one who likes to boast to friends that, "I saw it first" when it comes to world premieres, then get a jump on the action by seeing one of the new plays in Steppenwolf Theatre's **6th Annual First Look Repertory of New Work**. Three plays are performed in repertory, while three others are given a free reading (including Sarah Gubbins' lesbian parenthood comedy *The Kid Thing* at 3 p.m. Nov. 5). Robert O'Hara's *The Etiquette of Vigilance*, Sam Marks' *The Old Masters* and Jason Wells' *The North Plan* each play as part of the First Look Repertory of New Work Oct. 27-Nov. 14 at the Steppenwolf Merle Reskin Garage Theater, 1624 N. Halsted. Individual tickets are \$20 and \$45 for a three-play pass. Call 312-335-1650 or visit <http://www.steppenwolf.org> for more information and an exact schedule. Photo of (left to right) Robert O'Hara, Jason Wells and Sam Marks by Brian McConkey

Online this week:
—McMeekin Finds Out
—Kingsville

CRITICS' PICKS

Macbeth, Lyric Opera of Chicago, through Oct. 30. Chicago Shakespeare Theater founder and artistic director Barbara Gaines may over-apply the flying special effects in her operatic debut, but she certainly knows how to lure truly dramatic performances from her starry singing cast. SCM

The Mamet Repertory, American Theater Company, through Oct. 31. Two beautifully acted quintessential Mamet plays in rotating rep: the Hollywood spoof *Speed-the-Plow* and the more pertinent and powerful *Oleanna*, dealing with academic freedom and sexism. JA

She Loves Me, Writers' Theatre, through Nov. 21. Luxury casting abounds in director Michael Halberstam's lovely take on the acclaimed 1963 musical comedy romance. You probably won't see this beloved show performed better any time soon. SCM

The Lady's Not For Burning, Theo Ubique at the No Exit Café, through Oct. 31. An imprisoned witch may be the precipitating factor in Christopher Fry's verbally dazzling romantic comedy, but the complexities leading to a happy reconciliation are more Georgette Heyer than Mary Shelley and you've got only one more weekend to share in the fun. MSB

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge and Morgan



Levi Kreis' show and tell

BY JERRY NUNN

Levi Kreis personified Jerry Lee Lewis in the musical *Million Dollar Quartet*. After taking the show to New York and winning a Tony, the talented (and out) singer returns to Chicago to reunite in the space where it all began with the cast and play a solo show as well.

Windy City Times: Hello, Levi. So you are coming back to Chicago...

Levi Kreis: I can't wait. I have missed Chicago.

WCT: When was the last time that you were here?

LK: Late January. When you are living in midtown Manhattan it feels like forever.

WCT: Your show is at the Apollo Theater.

LK: Yes—where *Million Dollar Quartet* is still playing and where we opened it. It was my last place performing there and where everything began for me here on Broadway. It is great to

only be with *Million Dollar Quartet* but also my church is there, a wonderful supportive place for our community.

WCT: What is that called?

LK: It's called Bodhi Spiritual Center. They have a wonderful LGBT group there that is thriving. They are getting the word out that we are perfect just the way we are. We don't need fixin'!

WCT: Exactly. I saw *Million Dollar Quartet* at the Apollo with you in the role. That is a breakout part. Congrats on the Tony.

LK: Thank you. It is fun to be called a Tony Award-winning actor, even for me it is strange to hear.

WCT: You are from Tennessee, just like me.

LK: You are? I am from Oliver Springs, which is a stones throw from Dollywood.

WCT: Did you always want to do theater?

LK: I never made any major life decision based on wanting to do musical theater. It has never been on my radar, which makes it more interesting. I had just finished over 350 cities touring my own album. Acting was never something that I pursued but always fell into. I had just finished *The Gospel According to Levi* and I wanted to sit down and write *Where I Belong*. So I was planning to write it in Chicago and the next thing I know they invited me to do the show in New York.

WCT: Wow.

LK: The entire experience has made me realize something about myself that I avoided because I had a paralyzing fear, Jerry, well this is a story that merits telling and I am on my first cup of coffee for the day. When I first moved to LA my friend picked up a copy of *Backstage West*, which is an audition publication. I think I would love to experience what LA is all about and see what an actors world is like. I didn't have a picture or resume and did not know what this thing called *Rent* was. I am 167th in line at a cattle call around the block. Six callbacks and six months later I get called for the part of Roger for the west coast tour.

WCT: That is a wild ride.

LK: It is something that is indicative of something within me that is trying to get out. To intentionally pursue it, I was too afraid. Every opportunity that I have had has slid in the back door, so to speak. The winning of the Tony was not the enjoyable experience that it would be for other people. I can't even own the word actor let alone Tony Award winning actor so I have to learn to find my power very quickly and understand my instincts are good and I can validate this within myself and give it a life instead of running from it.

WCT: Well, this is all so intimidating.

LK: I came home and put that Tony in the back of the closet and could not look at it for three months! To look at it made me afraid to go to work, because I felt like I was fraud. How could I wear this title when this is something that I had never pursued? The past four months have been me recognizing my gift. Actor is equal to recording artist in my mind now.

WCT: This is an exciting time for you.

LK: I love this book called the *Big League* because it talks about all the upper limits that we create in our own mind. We sort of start dreaming smaller because we possibly can't think that could happen for us. I have been trying to remove the ceiling on my upper limit for the past five months.

WCT: I think as gay men we are beat down sometimes.

LK: You are absolutely right. We are already inherently flawed as a kid. How could we possibly feel good enough to own our accomplishments?

WCT: Are you currently in a relationship?

LK: Yes, I am. I have been together with a new partner for a year. This was after four years of being domestic partners. We just grew apart.

WCT: You are working on a fifth album, right?

LK: I started writing material for my fourth album but it is my fifth release. I came back and realized that I put a lot of work in *Where I Belong* and while *Million Dollar Quartet* has been great, I have not given the vision and energy



Levi Kreis.

to this product that I want to give to it. I put the pen and the paper down and decided to go on the road with this album. I want to get this to radio and let the world hear this project. The wonderful thing about being an independent artist is that we don't care about release dates. I can work this album for the next five years if I want to!

WCT: That is convenient.

LK: There is always someone that has not heard it. As an independent artist there is always more persistence because we don't have a machine cramming "California Gurls" down everybody's throat!

WCT: That is true.

LK: The great thing is that our community has been on board since the beginning because they have been supportive of my career since my debut album, when I came out and went on the road with Eric Himan in the first place and it was sponsored by gay.com. We took out in 2006 and hit, like, 65 cities together in three days—something ridiculous like that!

WCT: Sounds like a lot of work.

LK: I had that core support but realized there are indie music listeners, spiritual circles and 35-to-45 [year-old] women that are slowly discovering it now. I wanted to get as much reach with it as possible. I am more proud of this album than any project that I have done.

WCT: Great. Does *Million Dollar Quartet* have an end date?

LK: It is an open-ended run. My contract will be over in a few months but they are planning London and a tour; Chicago is still running strong.

WCT: When I saw it I knew my parents would love a show like this, growing up with Johnny Cash and all.

LK: Oh, yeah; our parents totally dig the show. It's a good mom and dad date night. I have to say that I love you wearing the nun outfit on your website.

WCT: [Laughs] Well, I am honored that you checked it out!

LK: Of, course. I was just looking at it this morning.

WCT: I can't wait to see your show.

LK: Are you going to review it or just attend and smile your smile?

WCT: Both!

Where I Belong: An Intimate Evening With Levi Kreis is on Monday, Nov. 1, at 7:30 p.m. along with Eric Himan and Jason Antone at the Apollo Theater, 2540 N. Lincoln. Call 773-935-6100 or visit <http://www.apollochicago.com> for tickets.

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BOOK REVIEW

Be Careful of What You Wish 4

by Barbara Wells
iUniverse; 188 pages
REVIEW BY TRACY BAIM

At least one serial killer is stalking young girls in Chicago in a new horror mystery, *Be Careful of What You Wish 4*, by local author Barbara Wells. The novel even includes companion music.

The story of a serial killer is not unique, but what is unique is making the main character an African-American lesbian music writer who sees through the eyes of the killer. And she's dating an African-American lesbian cop, and tracking a multi-racial killer. So it's not playing to the usual stereotypes.

While the plot is actually interesting, and the characters compelling, my main criticism is with the over-writing and lack of editing. Wells has a good story here, and complex characters, but she crowds them out with an over-use of adjectives and descriptive comparisons. And in some cases the wrong word is used, which could be easily fixed with editing. The devil also plays some role in this Halloween-tinged horror story, but he, too, is an unnecessary and confusing addition. There is enough real terror among humans without the odd interloping of Satan, at least in this story.

What is most fun about the book (fun if you like horror mysteries) is the use of Chicago settings, including Cook County Forest Preserve locations, restaurants, expressways, and more. The book ends with a promise of more horror mysteries to come. Next time, I urge Wells to seek out an editor to focus more clearly on the plot and characters.

Barbara Wells will read from and sign copies of *Be Careful of What You Wish 4* Friday, Oct. 29, 7:30 p.m. at Women & Children First, 5233 N. Clark—just in time for Halloween. Also, her leather bags, inspired by her novel, are available at Turley Road, next to Women & Children First.



Gerber/Hart's gala



Attendees at this year's Gerber/Hart Library Annual Benefit got more than dinner, live piano music and an auction Oct. 23. Keynote speaker and transgender singer/actress Alexandra Billings delivered a message that left many tearful and earned her a standing ovation.

In a room of about 100 people at the Swedish American Museum in Andersonville, Billings talked about her suicide attempts at a young age, her struggle to find her gender identity, her history of sex work and the best friends she lost to the AIDS pandemic in the 1980s. "I just wanted someone to hear me," Billings said. Billings challenged attendees to begin to "speak [their] truth," stating that young people were committing suicide because they "felt helpless and alone" and "because [older generations] don't speak." Billings ended her address on a hopeful note, drawing from her own success story. "I'm finally speaking, and I'm finally breathing, and people are listening to me," she said.

The Gerber/Hart Library celebrates its 30th anniversary this year. Members of the Good Shepherd Parish presented library board president Karen Sendziak with a donation of records and a check for \$10,000. Volunteer coordinator James DeLoach was honored for his five years of service to the library. Text by Kate Sosin and photos by Kat Fitzgerald (MysticImagesPhotography.com); more pictures online at <http://www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com>

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HRC gala Nov. 6
The Human Rights Campaign will hold its annual fundraising gala, "No Excuses," Saturday, Nov. 6, at 7 p.m. at the Fairmont Hotel Chicago, 200 N. Columbus.
Among this year's festivities is the awarding of the Community Equality Award to feminist/peace activist Rev. Dr. Susan Brooks Thistlethwaite.
Tickets for the dinner and general reception, including access to notable speakers from the community, may be purchased for \$225. Tickets for exclusive access to the VIP reception are \$350. Visit <http://www.hrcchicago10.com>.

MOVIES

Mary Morten focuses her lens on Black youth

BY MICKI LEVENTHAL

Woke Up Black, the first feature documentary by LGBT activist Mary F. Morten, chronicles the lives of five diverse African-American young people. There will be a preview Nov. 11 at a fundraiser hosted by community businessman and philanthropist Michael Leppen.

Known for her award-winning career on behalf of women, straight and gay, this focus on youth and race might not seem the obvious first choice. Morten, a 1996 inductee into the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame, was the first African-American president of the Chicago chapter of the National Organization for Women. She chaired the Chicago Abortion Fund; served as board president and executive staff at the Chicago Foundation for Women; and has been involved in countless other social-justice initiatives at both the grassroots and government levels.

Ultimately, it was her friendship with University of Chicago professor Cathy Cohen, who served as principal investigator for the Black Youth Project, that inspired her to take on this topic.

"If somebody would have said my first full-length feature would be on Black youth I would have said, 'Oh, no. It will be something on the women's community, or something much more directly related to the LGBT community,'" Morten said. "But, I was reading Cathy's report, which really shed a light on the reality of Black youth that we've not seen before. At the end of the day what we see on the news are these 20-second sound bites, just about without fail always bad news and very much stereotypes of these young folks being projected into the wider culture."

She realized another story needed to be told. Morten, who had completed a number of short documentaries, began pre-production on Woke Up Black in New Orleans, San Francisco and Chicago, doing preliminary interviews with approximately 18 youth in the three cities. Morten wanted to represent a real diversity of socioeconomic and life experience within the Black community, and the subjects' willingness to "let the camera in" to their daily lives and interactions was critical. With so many compelling stories to tell, the decision on who to include was challenging. Kartemquin Films (Hoop Dreams) served as creative consultants and suggested that a first cut might focus on Chicago-area youth.

"This was in the fall of 2008. Obama was getting ready to get the nomination for president, Chicago was in the midst of an Olympic bid and, really, all eyes were on Chicago. The stories of the youth are universal and would resonate with people everywhere. We made the decision pretty early on to follow Chicago area youth," Morten said.

Throughout the two years of filming, Morten's associate producers—Aparna Sharma, Marisol Ybarra and Keisha Farmer Smith—worked closely with the young people, often developing a mentor relationship with their assignees.

The final cut, shot in high definition and running 60 minutes, focuses on the distinctive stories and shared concerns of three young women and two young men, now ages 18-22 and in college.

Morgan, a science student at the University of Iowa, grew up in an affluent predominately white suburb, the daughter of successful businesspeople. Sheldon graduated high school after serving time for a felony; he is now a community organizer parenting a young daughter and attending community college. Rosalee was ad-



Mary Morten. Photo courtesy of Morten

opted, along with her brothers and sisters, by an aunt and uncle when their mother couldn't care for them; she is the first of her family to attend college.

The stories of Carter and Ace are of particular interest to LGBT audiences. Carter, the oldest of eight children, was in foster care for a number of years before being adopted by an African-American gay male couple. "Carter was adopted when he was 10 years old," said Morten. That, she said, goes against the common "wisdom" that you don't adopt Black boys and you "certainly don't adopt older Black boys. In a matter of eight years the strides he's made with the love, encouragement, structure, resources, is incredible. He's the most valuable player of his football team and on the honor roll and also feels very deeply the family pressure to succeed. His story undercuts all those stereotypes about adoption."

Ace identifies as genderqueer, and is out and proud despite significant problems with her father and stepmother. Raised by her grandmother, Ace was a consistent honor-roll student at Chicago Freedom School, where she also "honed her activist skills." She is now on a full academic scholarship at University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she's succeeding academically, but finds the dual otherness of queer identity and race to be more challenging than she anticipated, especially at a campus as white and midwestern as Madison. "She came out as genderqueer in a class of 120 students and the teacher didn't even know what that meant," said Morten. "Fellow students were asking her if she had both sets of genitals. She had a difficult first semester, there's no two ways about it." She was also dealing with rejection from her father and homesickness despite the rejection. "All these factors impacted her daily life, but she came out on the other side of it and she's stronger for it," said Morten. "What we wanted to show was that she is still a young woman who is vulnerable and who wants to belong. Everyone wants to belong. Yet she's very clear about her life and is unapologetic."

The five stories, which reflect the young people's personal struggles and dreams, are intercut with footage when the group got together to discuss issues of mutual concern. "They talk about discrimination, about violence, about media images, their futures, sex and relationships and gender roles within the African American community," said Morten.

Morten noted that when she mentioned Black youth "people automatically assumed I was talking about Black boys. That was very interesting. I had to make it clear to everyone from my designers on down that we were including young

women. People have very set ideas about Black youth.

"I'm hoping that this film will be a message to the youth that they can accomplish anything. These kids did not all come from privileged homes. At the end of the day the message is, they had some struggles, they have some dreams, and they are moving on. They have ideas and views and they are going to be successful adults."

Throughout the film Morten has called on the perspective of a youth advisory panel, working with the panel members to assess interview questions and review footage. "Youth have been involved in the production of the film throughout. That was really important—to have someone under the age of 35 working on it," Morten laughed. "You can imagine, they don't hold back. If they don't like it, if they don't think it's real, they will tell you in a second. It's been very helpful to have their input."

Plans for the film include both broadcast and the festival circuit. "I've already had early interest from channel 11 [WTTW] to show it in the spring," Morten said. "I've had someone contact me from University of Arizona to show it there in the spring. We want it to be on the festival circuit and to be shown on PBS channels across the country, that's the most logical vehicle. We submitted the film to Sundance in September; we won't know if it will be part of the 2011 festival until the first week in December."

"It's been a labor of love," said Morten, who dedicated the film to her 4-year-old god daughter Ella. "Now that I have a rough cut—we're 99.9-percent done with post-production and in the process of building a website that will include extra footage and putting together a discussion guide. Now that I have a rough cut, I can go for more fund raising opportunities, but we've done a lot of individual fund raising, people have been very supportive," she explained. "We've had a lot of support from [the nightspot] Sidetrack and [philanthropist] Michael Leppen. I'm really happy to have Michael's support as he really gets issues around youth."

Much of the money raised to date has been through Kickstarter, an online funding platform for creative projects. Projects are set with all-or-

nothing fundraising goals with a self-imposed deadline. The Kickstarter goal for Woke Up Black is \$12,000 and the deadline is 6 p.m. on Oct. 29. Individuals can contribute \$10 or more at <http://www.kickstarter.com>.

Although the Kickstarter goal is \$12,000, the productions "wants to go beyond that because there is no end to the money that is needed to make a film," explained Morten. "We probably need, conservatively, another \$50,000 to do distribution, the guide and the website."

Individuals are also invited to attend the Woke Up Black preview; meet Morten; enjoy cocktails and appetizers; and learn how to become involved as contributors Thursday, Nov. 11, 6-8 p.m., at the Illinois Room of the Metropolitan Club, 233 S. Wacker. RSVPs are required; contact Jeff at JEFFHMC@GMAIL.COM or 847-835-3350. For additional information on the film and to view the trailer visit <http://www.mortengroup.com>.

Lawyer Jerry Glover to be honored

Jerry W. Glover—a partner at the law firm of Leavens, Strand & Glover, LLC, and vice president of the Lawyers for the Creative Arts (LCA) board of directors—is among those receiving awards at LCA's 2010 Annual Benefit Luncheon. The event will take place Thursday, Oct. 28, at 12 p.m. in the Empire Room at the Palmer House Hilton, 17 E. Monroe.

Glover, who is openly gay, will receive the Thomas R. Leavens Award for his service and dedication to the LCA.

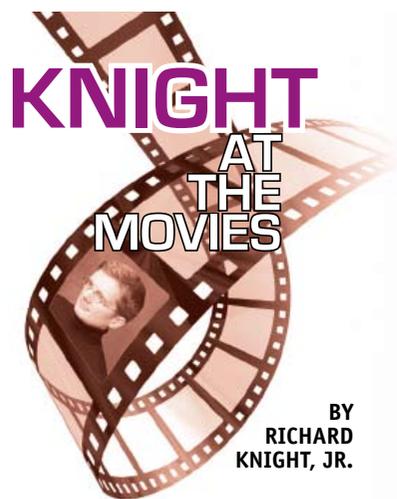
Other awards will go to Scott McCue, a partner at Mayer Brown, LLP; his wife, Judith McCue, a partner at McDermott, Will & Emory; Kit Woods, retired assistant executive director/TV/Theatrical Contracts of the Screen Actors Guild/American Federation of Television and Radio Artists, Chicago office; the law firm of Kirkland & Ellis, LLP; and the late jazz legend Fred Anderson, in memoriam.

Individual tickets are \$125 per person. See <http://www.law-arts.org> or call 312-649-4111.

Alan Cumming gets OUTrageous



Noted activist, actor, writer, director, singer and all-around renaissance man Alan Cumming was honored by the Chicago International Film Festival Oct. 18 as the first recipient of its OUTrageous Award for Artistic Achievement. Cumming walked the red carpet, chatting with a host of journalists and greeting fans before festival founder and artistic director Michael Kutza presented the openly gay entertainer with the honor before a sold-out, preview screening of *The Tempest* at the AMC River East Theatres. Kutza cited Cumming's creative choice of roles and passionate advocacy for a number of causes as just two reasons for his being named the inaugural recipient of the award. "You should call this the Queeries award," Cumming commented with a laugh in accepting the honor. Richard Knight, Jr., Windy City Times' film critic and founder/president of the Queer Film Society, introduced the evening and conducted a lively Q&A with the actor following the screening, covering everything from Cumming's role in *The Tempest*, which stars Helen Mirren (opening Dec. 15), to working with Cher in *Burlesque*, his devoted commitment to gay rights and more. Knight's interview with Cumming will be featured in an upcoming issue of WCT. Photos by Bob Dowey



BY RICHARD KNIGHT, JR.

Hideaway; ...Hornet's Nest; film note

For gore-flick fanatics the Cineplex has two new slice-and-dice movies that look to fulfill your demented Halloween sweet tooth—My Soul to Take and Saw 3D. Not having seen these two pictures (neither was screened for critics) I can only presume they'll do the trick or treat if these are your particular bent. But for those with a different cinematic palate, I can recommend two alternatives hitting theaters this week. The first is **Hideaway (Le Refuge)** from openly gay French auteur François Ozon and the second is **The Girl Who Kicked the Hornet's Nest**, director Daniel Alfredson's final film adaptation from the international best-selling *Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* book series.

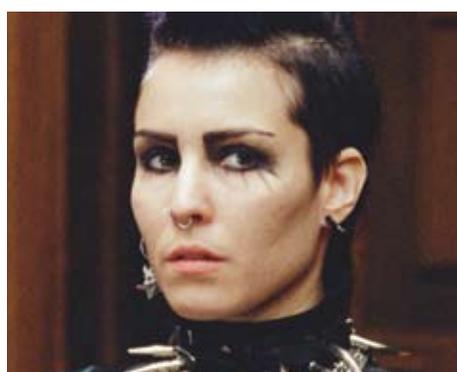
Hideaway (Le Refuge), though not nearly as enthralling as previous Ozon efforts (*Swimming Pool*, *Under the Sand*, *Time to Leave*) is nevertheless a bit of a return to form. Ozon and co-writer Mathieu Hippéau have crafted an ellip-

tical relationship drama that works largely due to the nuanced acting; the nuanced, sumptuous camera work; and the nuanced, gorgeous people on screen.

Mousse (Isabelle Carré) and Louis (Time to Leave's Melvil Poupaud), who we meet at the outset shooting up in an apartment in Paris, are perhaps the prettiest pair of junkies since Matt Dillon and Kelly Lynch in *Drugstore Cowboy*. But their high is short-lived: Louis dies from an overdose and Mousse finds she's pregnant with his child. Louis' family, who distance themselves from her, advise Mousse to have an abortion. Several months later, Louis' handsome brother, Paul (Louis-Ronan Choisy), pays an unexpected visit to Mousse at the country getaway where she's living far from Paris, and discovers she's decided to go through with the pregnancy. Prickly and defensive at the outset, Mousse is quickly charmed by Paul's easygoing ways and isn't put off that he's gay (though she gets a bit taken aback when he picks up the grocery delivery man, Serge).

Slowly, we come to realize that both Mousse and Paul are social outcasts and that their oasis offers them a chance at renewal. In their sun-drenched paradise, each finds time for reflection on the past and what lies ahead. The leisurely pace of Ozon's movie and its French cinematic accoutrements will send dedicated Francophiles into blissful orbit. *Hideaway (Le Refuge)* isn't the dramatic head turner that other Ozon movies have been but it is charming, moody, delicate, somber and erotic as hell—more than enough positive "adjectifs" to recommend it to discerning audiences. It plays exclusively at the Gene Siskel Film Center, 164 N. State; see www.siskelfilmcenter.org.

When we last saw our heroine, the Swedish goth computer hacker Lisbeth Salander, she was en route to the hospital after being shot in the head during the slam-bang finish to *The Girl Who Played with Fire*, our previous installment.



Noomi Rapace in *The Girl Who Kicked the Hornet's Nest*.

The Girl Who Kicked the Hornet's Nest picks up just moments later, when Lisbeth is in recovery from her near-fatal wounds—just like Laurie in *Halloween II*.

But unlike Laurie, who had to fight off psycho Michael Myers garbed in a hospital gown throughout most of the picture, Lisbeth is pretty much sidelined until nearly the last sequence—the movie's biggest frustration. She's either in recovery mode or sitting, defiant in her punk regalia in court snarling and silent facing an attempted murder charge, when we want her kicking butt, hacking into computers and carrying out one of those thrilling revenge scenarios which show her cool intelligence and fearlessness.

The story revolves around a secret organization that is framing Lisbeth for the attempted murder and is trying to have her permanently committed. It's up to her friend and sometime lover, the sloe-eyed investigative journalist Mikael (Michael Nyqvist), to prove her innocence once and for all. Then, finally, near the end, Lisbeth goes into high gear and enacts—what else—revenge on a character who was dumb enough to try and stop her, and the movie really moves.

Lisbeth and Mikael don't have nearly enough

interaction (and I miss Lisbeth's girlfriend, too) but the movie ends with a nice, unsentimental wrap up for them. The Swedish "dragon tattoo" trilogy has indeed set a high mark for the Hollywood remake thanks to Noomi Rapace's thrilling performances as Lisbeth in each of the films (matching up nicely with Nyqvist's understated ones).

Film note:

—One-time Chicagoan Hugh Hefner, the legendary founder of the men's magazine *Playboy*, is the subject of a new documentary, *Hugh Hefner: Playboy, Activist and Rebel*. The title is the first clue that the movie, from filmmaker Brigitte Berman, is going to focus on Hefner's oftentimes laudatory achievements via the magazine in social advancement. But access to Hefner's personal archives which help back up the assertion that Hef was a fighter for racial and sexual parity is obscured by an approach that edges the movie close to hagiography (Hef is the on camera narrator of his own achievements).

The lone dissenting voice—feminist Susan Brownmiller—is dispatched without much of a look back and there are few women among the coterie of on-camera Hef devotees to make a case for his greatness. Still, the contrast of *Playboy's* hedonistic philosophy against the rigid conservatism of the '50s and early '60s, during which it rose to stratospheric heights, will be a fascinating object lesson for the queer community still struggling for both equality with and simultaneous rejection of mainstream culture. The film plays a week long engagement exclusively at the Siskel Film Center, 164 N. State, and Hefner himself will appear at the Friday, Oct. 29, screening (already sold out). See <http://www.siskelfilmcenter.org>.

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

For two years, we followed five black youth and got a glimpse of their lives, their struggles, and their dreams...

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LEGAL NOTICES

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. D10123644 on October 4, 2010 Under the Assumed Name of: Short Stuff Chicago with the business located at 2054 W. Irving Park Road, #3A, Chicago, IL 60618. The true name(s) and residence address of the owner(s) is: Anthony D. Colston II, 4533 N. Paulina, Chicago, IL 60640. (10/13/10-10/27/10)

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. D10123552 on September 27, 2010 Under the Assumed Name of: Mindful Spirit with the business located at 1818 Dempster Ave., Evanston, IL 60201. The true name(s) and residence address of the owner(s) is: Sarah McLaughlin, 2509 W. Gunnison Street, 3E, Chicago, IL 60625. (10/13/10-10/27/10)

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Altered: Yes

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Sly is a bit overweight and will need to slim down once in her new home so she can stay healthy and happy. Sly also has some hair loss on her chin which may be due to a bout of feline acne or possible allergies—either way, nothing that can't be managed with a little help from you.

Sly would be a wonderful addition to an all-adult family. However, Sly doesn't care for her fellow felines, so no other cats please. A devoted companion and friend, Sly would love a place of her own where she can relax and enjoy life. Are you looking for a cat who would be happiest as your only pet? Sly is at The Anti-Cruelty Society and is ready to go home today.

Contact the Anti-Cruelty Society, 510 N. LaSalle, Chicago, Ill. 312-644-8338, www.anticruelty.org. Ask for #9901223.

**Halloween
Weekend
Events**

calendar 
page 37

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VEHICLE REVIEW

smart fortwo BRABUS: Spicy collegiate tidbit

BY CASEY WILLIAMS, GAYWHEELS.COM

Two of my favorite places to visit in New Haven, Conn., are Claire's Corner Copia at Yale and the Canadian-import known as Tim Hortons doughnut shop. I love Claire's vegan salad with soy chipotle chicken, avocado, organic egg and balsamic vinaigrette. Afterwards, there's nothing better than a half-dozen cherry Timbit doughnut holes. If I could combine the spicy no-guilt flavor of Claire's with moist cherry Timbits and set it to wheels, it would look something like the smart fortwo BRABUS.

If not a chipotle Timbit, then the smart BRABUS is at least one coated with little colored sprinkles. It keeps the classic cute smart design, replete with integrated safety cage, but adds a German tuner kit to keep your man card in



The smart fortwo BRABUS. Photo courtesy of Gaywheels.com.

circulation. Sported-out facias, ground effects, 15" front/17" rear alloy wheels, low-profile tires and center-exit twin chrome exhausts flaunt the promise of a fun ride. A lowered ride height and meatier rubber noticeably improve the BRABUS' handling over base smarts, making them almost agile on curvy backroads.

Handling is definitely improved, although at interstate speeds, the car is still a pawn in Mother Nature's game of wind. As with other smarts, the BRABUS runs with a 70 hp 1-liter three-cylinder engine that helps the car achieve 33/41 mpg city/highway—same as less exotic smarts. German burble from the exhaust sounds yummy, but the car waddles from 0 to 60 mph in 12.8 seconds on the way to an electronically limited 90 mph top speed.

Smarts cruise happily at 80 mph, although a turbo—available in Europe, but denied to us Yanks—would give the car better breathing through long inclines and mountain passes. European smart BRABUS models not only have classier interiors with fancy leather and chrome, but also add significantly more power. Turbos gain 28 hp for 98 hp total. That lowers the 0-60 mph run to 9.2 seconds. As it is, the normally aspirated Mitsubishi-built engine gives its all to wisp the Smart down the highway, but that additional 28 hp would make the 1,800-lb. car a spicy little 'bit without cutting up its green cred.

Engineers obviously worked on the five-speed sequential-shifting transmission's auto mode,

creating a level of smoothness that makes it almost livable. Thinking of the transmission, with paddle shifters on the steering column, as more manual and less automated helps the mind get over its occasional herks and jerks.

All but the very base smarts come standard with speed-sensitive power steering, which feels heavy on the highway. Available heated leather seats, rain-sensing wipers, six-disc CD changer, iPod input jack, and subwoofer keep the joy coming. Safety is enhanced by dual front airbags, side airbags, electronic stability control, four-wheel ABS, brake force distribution, cornering control, traction control and hill start assist (which holds the car on hills when shifting from the brake to the accelerator).

People always ask if the fortwo is safe. Besides four airbags, substantial headrests, and a Mercedes-load of electronic stability controls, the car is essentially a crash shell with everything else attached to it. The black or silver outlines you see around the passenger compartment are actually exposed sides of the crash cell. The car was tested against Mercedes' E-Class large sedan and sports an array of high-star crash ratings. Nothing is indestructible, but the fortwo is one

stoutly built mini-mite that can't be beat for finding a tight parking space on the Yale campus.

I've already driven 10,000 miles in my personal fortwo passion, from Indianapolis to beyond. It's taken me on vacations in the Smoky Mountains; Memphis, Tenn.; Asheville, N.C.; and Myrtle Beach, S.C. I drove it to snowy Detroit for the auto show in January. It has enough power to flat-foot it through mountains, though I would love a BRABUS with the Euro turbo. It handles well, but some low-profile sport rubber wouldn't be turned away. I love its style, but some ground effects and twin exhaust pipes would pump some sexy. I love my car, but could go positively weepy over a BRABUS convertible.

One of the best parts of eating at Claire's is the student-professor get-togethers that stimulate profound thought and new perspectives on the world. Driving a smart fortwo BRABUS will definitely open your horizons—both for the economy it provides and endless conversation you'll encounter at every gas pump, restaurant, and stoplight. I've heard the jokes, ridden the roller skate, and counted the clowns. Dressed in BRABUS attire, it would be welcome at Yale, Claire's, or Tim Hortons hauling home the 'bits.

To sample a smart before plunking down at least \$17,990 for a BRABUS Coupe or \$20,990 for a convertible, check out a Hertz rental to see if eating such fiery dumplings fits your stomach.

See <http://www.Gaywheels.com>.

VEHICLE REVIEW 2011 Kia Optima

BY JEFF STORK, GAYWHEELS.COM

They are everywhere, but seldom noticed. Parking lots are full of them, yet they receive nary a nod. Like undocumented domestic help, they are relied on but seldom mentioned publicly. Of course I mean the mid-sized sedan, the embodiment of greige, the unwaxed, unloved, and often unwashed workhorses that take Mr. and Mrs. United States of Generica on their daily commute, often with little thanks or even acknowledgment.

If there were such a thing as a Most Unloved Automobile award, it would go to the mid-size sedan, followed by a loud public yawn. The automotive equivalent of the strip mall, this segment of vehicles primarily exists to fit the tastes of time and cash-strapped commuters, and major rental car companies. While the entries in the segment tend to be competent and reliable choices, they tend to be a bit low on the glam scale. No twelve year old buys a car magazine because there's a beige Camry on the cover. And the Kia Optima has been trodding along in the middle of the pack—affordable, reliable, neither a penalty box nor a reward—a good car, but way low on the glamour.

Until the advent of Kia 2.0, that is. The latest testament to the design-led transformation of the Kia brand, the former dowager is no longer a wallflower. Transformed from the wheels up, it's now a standout more suited for Darth Vader than Debbie Downer.

Longer, lower and significantly wider, the car that Kia describes as the "antidote for seldandom" is a totally new product based on a platform shared with the Hyundai Sonata. But that's where the similarity ends, as Kia has an aggressive and unique exterior that shares no panels with its Hyundai brethren. The streamlined design features an angularity which gives the car a purposeful look. From certain angles I detect the influence of European sedans such as Saab and Alfa Romeo 164. The new Kia signature tabbed grill has an aggressive texture and a matching lower grill encapsulates the fog lamps giving the car a Darth Vader-like smile. The shape of the grille is reflected in the upper windshield line, a thoughtful touch. Flared fenders, a nicely integrated rear spoiler, and four different wheel choices (including two factory 18" choices) all add up to make one very aggressive looking sedan.

The transformation continues into the interior. The center stack of the console has been angled 15 degrees toward the driver for



2011 Kia Optima.

a sporty cockpit feel. The interior materials are significantly upgraded, with attractive and comfortable leather seating standard in the uplevel EX and SX models. All models include a standard power driver's seat, trip computer, AM/FM/CD/MP3 audio with Sirius Satellite Radio, USB input, power windows and locks, and even a cooled glove box. Optional features include navigation, Infinity audio, and an enormous panorama sunroof with full power shade. Kia's hands-free UVO system, similar to Ford's SYNC, will be available mid-year.

The Optima utilizes Kia's own 200 HP Theta 2.4-liter four-cylinder powerplant and the 274 HP Theta II 2.0-liter four cylinder. Both engines are shared with the all new Sportage I drove last month. Independent front and multilink rear-suspension is used on all models. A six-speed manual transmission is standard on the base LX with a six-speed automatic as an option. The automatic is standard on the EX and SX models. Fuel economy numbers are impressive, with the 2.4-liter engine achieving a rating of 24/35 mpg with a manual transmission and 24/34 mpg with the automatic, and the turbo coming in at 22/34 with its standard automatic.

We spent a day driving through the Temecula wine country. Our test car was the EX trim with the 2.4-liter engine and premium package. My initial impression is that the Optima is smooth, stable, and confident. The ride is equal to the best cars in the class and the drivetrain is smooth and competent, although sporting drivers will no doubt prefer the 2.0 turbo to give the car a sporting character that lives up to its styling. Yes, the electric power steering is a bit numb but that's a bit the nature of the beast. The overall road manners are quite competent and it is high praise to Kia that the Optima behaved very similarly to the leaders of the class—Accord, Camry and Malibu—cars they simply were not able to compete with in the past. The gap has been closed and the Optima is a serious contender worth consideration. I was particularly impressed with the optional panorama sunroof, it provided a light and airy-feeling cabin, yet could be fully closed with a power shade, not just a screen.

So, Kia has come up with a very competent car that offers standout styling and a fantastic panoramic sunroof to brighten your commute. Pricing is yet to be released but the base LX is expected to be around \$18,000. If Kia achieves residual values with Optima anywhere similar to what they achieved with the redesigned Sportage, they could become a player in the all-important lease market. So, if you're after a mid-size sedan, the 2011 Kia Optima might be worth checking out. Tell 'em Darth sent you.

Auto news

—**Infiniti debut:** Infiniti will debut its M hybrid sedan at the 2010 Los Angeles Auto Show, according to CNET.com. The car will enter production in 2011 as the 2012 Infiniti M35 Hybrid. The event will take place Nov. 19-28 at the Los Angeles Convention Center.

—**Toyota recall:** Toyota, the world's top car manufacturer, recalled 1.5 million vehicles Oct. 19 because of problems involving brake fluid and fuel pumps, according to the Chicago Tribune. Toyota has now recalled more than 11 million cars and trucks over the past year for problems including bad gas pedals, stalling engines and

braking problems. The most recent recall some Toyota and Lexus vehicles from 2004 to 2006.

—**Car thefts on the rise:** After declining in recent years, auto thefts in Chicago rose 22 percent through September compared to the same time last year, according to the Chicago Sun-Times. Chicago Police Sgt. Phil Cappitelli believes the increase is connected to young thieves who were stealing older cars, such as early 1990s Hondas and Toyotas, on the Northwest Side. However, motor vehicle thefts are down overall locally over the long term; in 2004, there were 22,788 motor vehicle thefts in Chicago, compared with 15,472 in 2009.

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calendar

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WINDY CITY TIMES



Wed., Oct. 27

Tracy Baim, author of new book: Obama and the Gays: A Political Marriage Chicago-based journalist Tracy Baim offers an in-depth look at Obama's trajectory on gay issues, including documents, photos, and interviews with Obama illustrating how his views on LGBT issues have changed over the years, as well as the accomplishments and stumbles of his presidential administration; 6 p.m., Harold Washington Library Center, 400 S. State, <http://www.obamaandthegays.com/>

Chicago Area G/L Chamber of Commerce Mix & Mingle Networking Event Joint networking event with BBR Chicago (Business by Referrals), a networking organization representing a variety of companies, dedicated to building business relationships. 6 p.m., Illinois Nut & Candy 3745 W. Dempster, Skokie, <http://www.glchamber.org>

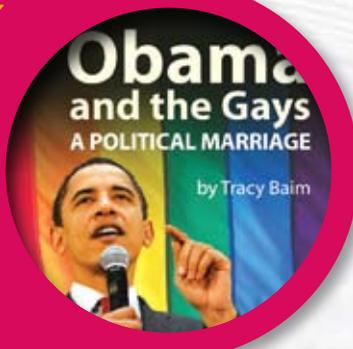
Amy & Freddy Live at Rehab Join that dynamic duo, Amy Armstrong and Freddy Allen for a fun-filled evening at Rehab. You're guaranteed great laughs, swell music, and tasty drinkie-poo! 9 p.m., Rehab Lounge, 3641 N Halsted, <http://www.amyfreddy.com>

Thursday, Oct. 28

danceOUT with River North Chicago Dance Compa River North Chicago Dance Company gives a sneak peek of New York choreographer Sidra Bell's newest work, and showcases Three, choreographed by newly appointed artistic director of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Robert Battle. Get a first look at these works that will appear onstage at River North's Contem-

LIKE A BARACK Wed., Oct. 27

Tracy Baim will discuss her book, *Obama and the Gays* at the Harold Washington Library, 400 S. State.



porary Fall Engagement at the Harris Theater in Millennium Park on November 13, 2010. 6:30 p.m., Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted, <http://centeronhalsted.org>

Free Confidential HIV Testing Asian Human Services and The Banyan Tree Project is conducting free HIV testing Monday-Friday from 10 AM- 5 PM. Appointments are encouraged; walk-ins welcomed. We are located at 4753 N. Broadway, Suite 700. CTA Red Line Lawrence. 10am, 773-293-8430, Asian Human Services 4753 N. Broadway, Suite 700, http://www.ahschicago.org/community_health.htm

Carpenters Halloween It's the return of The Scooty & JoJo Show's cult hit Carpenters Halloween, the spine-shivering send-up of John Carpenter's slasher classic set to the The Carpenters' classic songs. Opening Oct. 21 and plays only eight performances through Oct. 31. \$15-\$25 per person. 8 p.m., Circuit Night Club, 3641 N Halsted, <http://www.scootyjojo.com>

Friday, Oct. 29

The Rocky Horror Picture Show In its 35th anniversary year showings of the cult classic midnights on the last Friday of every month, \$10 per person. Dress the part and participate in the interactive viewing experience along with live actors singing, dancing and "time-warping" along with the film. Classic props will be for sale (\$2-\$5) and provided by the "actors" for audience partici-(SAY IT!)-pation. 12 p.m., Excalibur Nightclub, 632 N Dearborn, <http://www.excaliburchicago.com>

Author reading: Barbara Wells, Be Careful of What You Wish 4 In the book, a struggling songwriter Lindsey-Smith Cutter faces her greatest passion and her own rage when a Halloween wish becomes a question of Trick or Treat in this new lesbian paranormal thriller by Chicago writer Barbara Wells. 7:30 p.m., Women & Children First, 5233 N. Clark, <http://www.womenandchildrenfirst.com>

Amy & Lloyd Acoustic open mic Amy Armstrong & Lloyd Young have put together an open mic like no other. An acoustic collaboration of local musicians coming together to jam. But there's more! You're hosts Amy & Lloyd have put together books of music, hundreds of songs for you to choose from and sing. Lloyd plays the guitar and Amy plays the drums. Both singing harmonies to make you the star of the show. Percussion instruments on all the tables for all to join in. Everyone has a good time. Don't miss out! Come sing with the diva. 9 p.m., 773-325-2233, Rehab Lounge, 3641 N Halsted

A Night Out for the LGBT Community P&J Productions Presents A Night Out every Friday with special guests. Hosted by your one & only MC Kal! We have DJ XL (from StarGaze) spinning the hottest in House, R&B, Hip-Hop, Chi-Town Stepping! We party from 9 p.m. to 3am and our shows are at 12am to 1am. 9 p.m., Temptations Nightclub, 10235 W Grand Ave, <http://www.facebook.com/pjproductions>

Saturday, Oct. 30

Welcoming liturgy each Saturday St. Nicholas is an open and welcoming church to all. The LGBTQ community is invited to attend and find a home where everyone is included. 4:30 p.m., St. Nicholas Episcopal Church, 1072 Ridge, Elk Grove Village

It Takes a Village, People! It Takes a Village, People! is the first gay-themed production from Salsation Theatre Company, NFP; 5:30 p.m., (773) 598-4549, Gorilla Tango Theatre 1919 N Milwaukee, <http://www.salsation.com>

Chicago Sinfonietta Presents In a special concert new to the 2010-2011 season, the

Sinfonietta commemorates the Mexican holiday Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) honoring the dearly departed. Guest conductor Hector Guzman. 7:30 p.m., 312-236-3681 ext. 2, Harris Theater for Music and Dance, 205 E Randolph, <http://www.chicagosinfonietta.org>

One View: Uniting People Funder for One View:Uniting People GLBT Veteran Memorial installation in Space Park in Boystown next Memorial Day. Surprise guest host and performance. Costume contest at 1 am for \$200 first place. \$5 suggested donation at; 8 p.m., Parlour on Clark, 6341 N Clark

Never Have I Ever: The Musical Heckle Her Productions announces the world premiere of Never Have I Ever: The Musical, an original one-act musical comedy with book/ lyrics by Adrienne Dawes, lyrics and music by Amanda Murphy, directed by Tiffani Swalley. Never Have I Ever: The Musical debuts in the De Maat Studio Theater and stars Kate Carson-Groner, Charles Lane Cowen, Landree Fleming, Megan Gotz, Duncan Miller and Michael Sherman. 10:30 p.m., (312) 337-3992, De Maat Studio Theater at Second City 1616 N. Wells, 3rd Floor, <http://neverhaveiever.weebly.com>

Sunday, Oct. 31

Urban Village Church service LGBT welcoming worship services at Urban Village Church are eclectic and experiential, practical and intelligent, relevant and, hopefully, inspiring. Music ranges from traditional and contemporary songs to U2 and jazz. You will be welcomed generously, wherever you are on your journey. You will be challenged to live out your faith Monday-Saturday: in your relationships, your work, in the world that needs you to make it a better place. 10:15am, Urban Village Church, Spertus Institute, 610 S. Michigan, <http://www.newchicagochurch.com/>

Brunch w/i Sapphic Adventures Join ladies from Sapphic Adventures at Café 28 for some traditional Cuban and Mexican style brunch. Follow this link for details: <http://www.cafe28.org/pages/brunch/19.php>. Every Sunday at 11am, they also feature Neil Dixon Smith's guitar performances: <http://neildixonsmith.com>. This event is scheduled for ladies in their 20s and 30s. 11am, Cafe 28, 1800 W Irving Park, <http://www.sapphicadventures.org>

14th Annual Halloween Parade The 14th Annual Northalsted Halloween Parade hosted by Miss Foozie. This year's theme is "Little Street of Horrors," taken from the Hollywood film and Broadway show "Little Shop of Horrors." 6 p.m., Halsted and Belmont, North to Grace, http://www.northalsted.com/pages/halloween_on_halsted/31.php

Monday, Nov. 1

Levi Kreis: "Where I Belong: An Intimate Evening with Levi Kreis" Solo acoustic performance will showcase the out musician/actor's exceptional songwriting in a stripped down, unplugged atmosphere. After playing Jerry Lee Lewis in the Chicago production of Million Dollar Quartet for more than 15 months, Levi moved to Broadway. Concert features Eric Himan and Jason Antone opening. 7:30 p.m., Apollo Theatre, 2540 N Lincoln Avenue, <http://www.ticketmaster.com>

Singles Night hosted by Lance & Lyndon at Velvet Rope Join the Velvet Rope for their Monday Monday specials hosted by Lance & Lyndon! 5 p.m., 708-358-8840, Velvet Rope, 728 W. Lake, <http://velvetropelounge.com>

Tuesday, Nov. 2

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



HOOKED ON A REELING Thursday, Nov. 4

Reeling 2010 will kick off at Showplace ICON, 150 W. Roosevelt .

Photo from 2009
by Kat Fitzgerald (Mystic ImagesPhotography.com)

HIV/STI testing Free, confidential testing for Chlamydia, Gonorrhea & Hepatitis C. 10 a.m., Better Existence with HIV, 1244 W. Thorndale, <http://www.behiv.org>

Wed., Nov. 3

Pre-Holiday Season Wine Tasting Party Sample more than 75 wines from around the world. Your \$20 contribution benefits Equality IL PAC. 6 p.m., Sidetrack, 3349 N Halsted, <http://www.sidetrackchicago.com>

Queer Social Club A no-attitude, casual evening for the Humboldt/Ukie Area LG-BTQ (and their friends) to come in, have drinks, meet new friends, mingle, etc. Just a fun night beyond the traditional outlets in Boystown and dance parties in Wicker Park - Doing our own thing across the Western Ave divide! 8 p.m., Archie's Iowa Rockwell Tavern 2600 W. Iowa, 60622, <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=10150094929770492&ref=ts>

Thursday, Nov. 4

Reeling 2010: Opening Night! Children of God Reeling 2010's delectable Opening Night Gala follows the showing of Children of God at ShowPlace ICON Theatre. All gala attendees must be 21+ and must have a ticket. Festival runs through Nov. 13. Film Only: \$15 (\$13 members), Film & Gala: \$35 (\$32 members), VIP Film & Gala: \$40 (\$38 members); 7 p.m., ShowPlace ICON, 150 W Roosevelt, <http://http://reeling-filmfestival.org>

Friday, Nov. 5

More for Gay Men: Being Out with a Purpose Go beyond a life that merely guarantees survival and security free from ridicule, unwanted scrutiny, abuse and oppression, to one in which gay men thrive as a group and redirect their leading extraordinary lives of service, contribution to others, fulfilling potential. Strategic partner with the Center on Halsted and part of proceeds go to the Center, part to ongoing development of More for Gay Men programs. 6:30 p.m., Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted, <http://www.moreforgaymen.com>

Sunday, Nov. 7

13th Annual Jon Henri Damski Award The 13th Annual Jon Henri Damski Award will be presented to Katherine "Kit" Duffy. Refreshments compliments of Gerber-Hart. Dramatic readings by the Theo Ubique Theatre artistic director Fred Anzevino. 4 p.m., Gerber/Hart Library, 1127 W. Granville, <http://www.gerberhart.org>



CROWNING ACHIEVEMENT

Sunday, Oct. 31

The 14th Annual Halloween Parade will take place at 6 p.m. at Halsted and Belmont.

Photo from 2009 by Jerry Nunn

BILLY MASTERS



The phrase "love hurts" could apply to Steven Daigle (above). Photo by Jerry Nunn

"Those who practice abstinence have no chance of becoming pregnant."—wise words from "teen activist" Bristol Palin.

We have to start this week with the big story everyone is talking about: my guest-starring appearance on *The Real Housewives of Atlanta*. Let's face it: I ask the tough questions wherever I go. So when Jeffrey Sanker had me and Candis Cayne handle white-carpet interviews at his White Party, it was a perfect fit. When I was told I'd be chatting with Kim Zolciak, I have to admit I was stumped. Obviously I couldn't gush about her "singing"—I had my credibility to consider (and I'm not sure she'd know what air quotes were). Instead, I decided to ask her about her *tête-à-tête* with DJ extraordinaire Tracy Young. After all, we're at the biggest gay-dance party in the world and she's come out of a relationship with a woman—it's not a huge leap! Candis starts the conversation to soften Kim up. And then I pounce like a puma and ask about Tracy. What you don't see is Kim rolling her eyes and saying, "I should have known you'd wanna talk about that." I said, "No problem. We don't have to," and turned to walk away. She grabbed me in a death grip and said, "No, that's OK"—because if there's one thing Zolciak wants more than getting away from me, it's publicity. The Bravo telecast picks up with Zolciak answering the question defensively, Cayne looking positively ashen, fellow housewife/songwriter Kandi Burruss trying to figure out which of us blonds was the most feminine and me gloating. I don't think it's too soon to be talking spin-off.

Because I'm always overbooked, I couldn't attend the gala screening party of our episode at WeHo hotspot Eleven. Zolciak and Burruss were there with the beaming Sanker. Several porn stars were also in attendance—including Steven Daigle. After the viewing, Daigle and some porn pals (including Landon Conrad) headed across the street to The Abbey, where Cayne was doing her show. The trouble began when porn star (and recent Daigle paramour) Trent Locke arrived. No one knows what the ensuing argument was about, but in short order both boys are outside, punches are thrown, blood is spilled and both are brought to the hospital. Locke was kept overnight for observation while Daigle was arrested and charged with misdemeanor battery and held on \$20K bail. Somewhere, Chi Chi LaRue is typing this up as a future film treatment.

Last week, lawyers for the estate of Joe DiMaggio threatened to sue Yale University Press if they used a photo of him on the cover of their

book about DiMaggio's marriage to Marilyn Monroe. Of course, if Yale finds someone with the legal rights to a photo of the two, problem solved. But what about a photo of Joe DiMaggio's penis? Who has the rights to that? I'm guessing I do, since it just appeared in my inbox with no explanation. Jumpin' Joe's manhood is exposed in this photo from 1940 showing him showering after a game—and smiling for the cameras. You'll be smiling too when you check it out at BillyMasters.com.

If that made you smile, the nude photo of Mickey Mantle may induce a cartwheel! It should go without saying that I've seen a lot of penises in my day. Many in person. Many in photos. Many belonging to famous people—both in person and in photos. But, Lord have mercy, this is something! Mickey standing in front of his locker, in front of reporters, without a lick of clothing. Between his face, his body, and that dick, it's almost too delectable for words. But in the back of my mind, a word did pop up—skeptical. And that's not because it looks fake; this looks pretty genuine. And it certainly provided me with several minutes of "pleasure." But really??? Head on over to our website and you tell me what you think.

For decades, there have been rumors about sexy Gavin Rossdale having bedded and/or dated notorious British drag queen/singer Marilyn. I believe Boy George was the first to talk about this, which was immediately denied by Rossdale. Then George Michael brought it up, and Rossdale denied it again. Then Marilyn told all, and Rossdale ... well, you get the idea. Finally Rossdale came clean in the November issue of *Details* magazine. Rossdale said, "It's not something I've talked about really because it's always been in the glare of a tabloid world. It's just one of those things: Move on. When you're 17, Jesus Christ. I don't think there's anything strange about any form of—you're learning about life. It's a part of growing up. That's it. No more, no less." Well that clears up absolutely nothing. Rossdale's version calls it a "one-time experimentation," but Marilyn insists they were in a five-year relationship. I've had some one-night-stands that certainly felt like five years, but that's another story.

Our "Ask Billy" question this week comes from Randy in Bangor: "Have you seen the new *Old Navy* commercial with the hot leaf blower and the mannequins? Who is he?"

I assume you're talking about the leaf blower and not the mannequin. And he should look familiar—I told you all about him in the Sept. 13 installment of this column (available with the rest of the archives on our website). That would be the very sexy Brazilian model Thierre di Castro. You'll also recognize him in the Zoosk commercial as the hot shirtless fantasy man who bangs into that woman (as if...). He's certainly rocking those abs and looking cuter than ever in this clip—to say nothing of the many sexy shots we have on BillyMasters.com.

When it's mid-October and we're already into reruns, it's definitely time to end yet another column. Did I mention that my big episode with those *Housewives* is running pretty incessantly on Bravo? I wonder if I'll get residuals for each airing? Hmm, I'll have to give my lawyers a call. While I'm looking into this, you can look into www.BillyMasters.com—the website that always puts out. For your more personal needs, I'm only an e-mail away. Just send your every desire to Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before Kim and I record a duet for the (inevitable) reunion show. So, until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible.

Halloween Weekend Events calendar

Friday, Oct. 29

- 3160** Halloween Costume Contest. Join Chicago 3160 for the costume contest at midnight. Cash and prizes! 11 p.m., 3160 N. Clark Street, www.facebook.com/chicago3160
- Berlin** Nightcaps FROM OUTER SPACE. A special edition of the monthly variety show celebrating B-movie horror. Starring Adam Guerino & the Puterbaugh Sisters with special guests. 11p.m., 954 W. Belmont Ave., www.berlinchicago.com
- Big Chicks** Jai Ho(rror) All Bollywood, all queer, all night. Special Jai Ho performance at midnight. DJ Sachin. 10 p.m., 5024 N. Sheridan Road, www.bigchicks.com
- The Call** Monster Ball Monster Ball with Scary Diva costume contest. Cash prizes. DJ Riley York. Free DeKuyper tasting and giveaways. No cover. 9 p.m., 1547 W. Bryn Mawr, www.cattlecallchicago.com
- Cocktail** Boys and Booze featuring Chicago Cher at Cocktail Join DJ Freddie Bain & Chicago's very own Cher plus hot & sexy go go boys! 10pm, Cocktail Chicago, 3359 N. Halsted Street, <http://www.cocktailbarchicago.com>
- Crew** Halloween Pub Quiz and Costume Contest. Pub Quiz: Halloween edition at 9 p.m. All Halloween-themed questions. Teams encouraged to dress up. Followed by Halloween costume contest at 11 p.m. 1st place \$125, 2nd place \$75, 3rd place \$25 Crew gift card. 4804 N. Broadway, www.worldsgreatestbar.com
- Hydrate** A-List Party feat. Austin Armacost, Logo's newest and sexiest star. For \$25 enjoy a complimentary premium open bar along with appetizers and get to mingle with the new gay reality star. The party goes from 9:30 p.m.-midnight and the dance party goes until 4 a.m. 3458 N. Halsted St., www.hydratechicago.com
- Parlour** Medusa's Halloween. Join host Dave Medusa and DJ Teri Bristol. \$4 Skyy cocktails and \$3 Jäger bombs. 9 p.m., 6341 N. Clark, www.parlouronclark.com
- Scarlet** Little Shop of Whores \$4 well and domestics. \$5 old school shots. DJ Dolo. 10 p.m., 3320 N. Halsted, www.scarletbarchicago.com
- Spin** Shannel LIVE, Zander Mander and Shower Party. A special Shower Party in the back bar featuring Orlando and Anthony until 1 a.m. In the dance bar, Shannel and Zander Mander will be taking the stage at 11 p.m. and midnight for two dazzling shows. \$5 cover & \$10 VIP (with meet & greet and photograph with Shannel). 800 W. Belmont Ave., www.spin-nightclub.com
- Touché** Black Out Party. Dare the dark at Touché's blackout party. 10 p.m., 6412 N. Clark St., www.touchechicago.com
- Saturday, Oct. 30**
- @mosphere** Asians and Friends present One Night in Bangkok. Costume contest, burlesque show and surprises. \$5 Death's Door cocktails (gin, vodka, whiskey). 7 p.m., 5355 N. Clark St., www.atmospherebar.com
- Berlin** Devil's Night featuring Big Top Jojo's Towering Show of Wonder at 11 p.m. DJ Chester spins. 954 W. Belmont Ave., www.berlinchicago.com
- Big Chicks** Halloween Costume Contest—cash and award prizes for best costume, sexiest costume, scariest costume and best drag. Contest around 11:30 p.m. 5024 N. Sheridan Rd., www.bigchicks.com
- Bobby Love's** Bobby's big Halloween party with costume judging at midnight. 10 p.m., 3729 N. Halsted St., www.bobbyloves.com
- The Call** All Halls Eve Eve with costume contest at midnight. Cash prizes. \$5 Absolut cocktails. \$5 Jameson. 1547 W. Bryn Mawr, www.cattlecallchicago.com
- Club Krave** "Spooktacular" Costume Party & Contest with 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes. \$4 cover after 9 p.m. includes one drink ticket. 8 p.m., 13126 S. Western Ave, www.clubkrave.com
- Cocktail** Yelloween featuring DJs Dhanna and Psycho Bitch. Cocktail hosts it's Halloween costume contest featuring DJ's Dhanna and Psycho Bitch plus devilishly hot go-go boys. 10pm, Cocktail Chicago, 3359 N. Halsted Street, <http://www.cocktailbarchicago.com>
- D.S. Tequila Co.** Prison Break Costume Contest. First of two nights of costume contests. \$1000 in cash and prizes, judged by crowd favorite. Be in by 10 p.m. to sign up, contest at midnight. 9 p.m., 3352 N. Halsted St., www.dstequila.com
- The Glenwood** Costume Contest. Have a boo-tiful night and win a cash prize at The Glenwood's Halloween costume contest. Contest begins at midnight. 10 p.m., 6962 N. Glenwood Ave., www.theglenwoodbar.com
- Hydrate** Join DJ Ralphie Rosario for this special Halloween blackout party. 10 p.m., 3458 N. Halsted, www.hydratechicago.com
- InnExile** Special Halloween costume party. No cover. Open until 4 a.m.! 9pm, InnExile, 5758 W 65th St, www.innexilechicago.com
- Jackhammer** Afterlife Halloween Party to Benefit Vital Bridges. Let's Make a Deal costume contest at midnight hosted by Chanel Exotique. Hundreds in cash and prizes. 10:30 p.m., 6406 N. Clark St., www.jackhammerchicago.com
- Maneuvers'** Halloween Party. Come out to Joliet for a ghoulishly great time. Prize for best costume: \$200 and a Las Vegas getaway for two. 10 p.m., 118 E. Jefferson St., Joliet, IL, www.jolietmaneuvers.com
- North End** Spooky-Oke with the costume contest. 10 p.m., North End, 3733 N. Halsted St., www.northendchicago.com
- Parlour** Halloween Bash w/ Costume Contest at 1 a.m. with \$200 1st prize, \$100 2nd prize and \$50 3rd prize. \$3 caramel apple shots and \$4 swamp water. Surprise

guest host and performance. Portion of bar sales go to benefit 1vu (www.1vu.org). \$5 suggested donation at the door includes two raffle tickets. 10 p.m., 6341 N. Clark St., www.parlouronclark.com

- Scarlet** Night of 1000 Zombies. Free zombie makeup 3-6 p.m. \$5 wells, imports, and old school shots. DJ Konsept. 3 p.m., Scarlet, 3320 N. Halsted St., www.scarletbarchicago.com
- Scot's** Scaryoke: It's the Vampire's Prom at this year's Scaryoke karaoke. Come in costume and sing your favorite hits. 8 p.m., 1829 W. Montrose Ave.
- Spin** Naughty Halloween Party. Tricks & Treats Drag Revue at 11 p.m. featuring Saya Nam, Phoenix O'Hara, Kinley Preston & Kaycee Ortiz. DJ Cody Domino follows. Go-go boys Ajit & Fabion will be in the Main Bar with VJ Teo. \$5 cover. 800 W. Belmont Ave., www.spin-nightclub.com
- T's** Win big at T's costume contest. Cash prizes for best costume. Contest begins at 11:30 p.m.; 5025 N. Clark St., www.tsbarchicago.com
- Touché** Halloween Hi-jinks. Celebrate Halloween as only Touché can. Pumpkin fistin', bobbini' for dick and more. 10 p.m., 6412 N. Clark St., www.touchechicago.com
- Urbano** Halloween Party. Sexy Urbano dancers Hurrricane, Oscar, Rico and more. Spectacular effects, decor, Halloween dance performances. DJs Anton, Corona and Stoney spinning hip-hop, R&B and reggaeton. \$5 cover w/costume. 11 p.m., Circuit, 3641 N. Halsted St., www.urbanochicago.com

Sunday, Oct. 31

- 14th Annual Halloween Parade** Hosted by Miss Foozie. This year's theme is "Little Street of Horrors," taken from the Hollywood film and Broadway show "Little Shop of Horrors." 6 p.m., www.northalsted.com/pages/halloween_on_halsted/31.php
- Berlin** Saved By the HELL Halloween party. It's a block-rockin' '90s Halloween with all '90s music and videos with DJs Greg Haus and Chester and special live vocal performances by DJ Adam El at 11 p.m. 954 W. Belmont Ave., www.berlinchicago.com
- Carpenters Halloween** The spine-shivering send-up of John Carpenter's slasher classic set to the Carpenters' classic songs. \$15-\$25 per person. 8 p.m., Circuit, 3641 N. Halsted St., www.scootyjojo.com
- Charlie's** Halloween costume contest at 10 p.m. Prizes: 1st prize \$150; 2nd prize \$75; 3rd prize \$50. After-hours dance party 1-4 a.m. 9 p.m., 3726 N. Broadway, www.charlieschicago.com
- Club Krave** Star Finder Craig's Scary-Oke costume party with Tina and Brandi. Theme: Halloween songs. Prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners. 7 p.m., 13126 S. Western Ave., Blue Island, IL, www.clubkrave.com
- Cocktail** Get the best seats for the Northalsted Halloween Parade with early haunting music sessions with DJ Uncle Milty at 8 p.m. DJ Pete Augusta presents the bloody jam factory 11 p.m. - 2 a.m. plus devilishly hot go-go boys! 3359 N. Halsted St., www.cocktailbarchicago.com
- D.S. Tequila Co.** Prison Break Costume Contest. Second of two nights of costume contests. \$1000 in cash and prizes, judged by crowd favorite. Be in by 8 p.m. to sign up, contest at 10 p.m. 3352 N. Halsted St., www.dstequila.com
- Hydrate** Join hostess Cyon Flare as we kick off the Halloween celebrations at 6 p.m. with a simulcast of the parade on our TVs. After the parade, try your luck in the costume contest to win some of \$1600 in cash and prizes. DJ Greg Drescher. 6 p.m., 3458 N. Halsted St., www.hydratechicago.com
- InnExile** Cross-Dress Karaoke Come dressed as your favorite recording artist and sing their songs on stage. 8 p.m., 5758 W 65th St., www.innexilechicago.com
- Mary's Attic** Scary-Oke! A frightening night of karaoke with Velicity Metropolis and the Bud Light Boys. Halloween Costume Contest at 11 p.m., along with raffles and other fun surprises. \$3 "Blood Light" drafts. 5400 N. Clark St., www.hamburgermarys.com/chicago
- minibar** Fangtasia: True Blood Vamps and tramps will be on parade at this True Blood-style celebration. Costumes are encouraged. 10 p.m., 3341 N. Halsted St., www.minibarchicago.com
- North End** Rocky Horror Halloween Party. Dress as your favorite Rocky Horror character and time warp the night away. 7 p.m., 3733 N. Halsted St., www.northendchicago.com
- Roscoe's** Huge costume contest hosted by Frida Lay. 1st prize is \$1500, 2nd prize is \$750 and 3rd prize is \$250. 9 p.m., 3356 N. Halsted St., www.roscoes.com
- Sidetrack** Watch the parade on our screens from 6 p.m. Stay tuned for the crazy costume contest at 10 p.m. with a \$500 cash prize for best costume. 3349 N. Halsted St., www.sidetrackchicago.com
- Spin** Watch the Halloween Parade at Spin, then stick around for our costume contest at 10 p.m. We will have two categories: Best Overall Costume and Best Drag. First prize in each category is an Apple iPad, second prize is \$250 cash and third prize is \$100. 800 W. Belmont Ave., www.spin-nightclub.com
- T's** Pumpkin Carving Contest Sign up by 2 p.m.; carving contest 3-6 p.m. Cash prizes for best pumpkin. 5025 N. Clark, www.tsbarchicago.com
- Touché** Costume contest at 11 p.m. Cash prizes. \$5 Jim Beam cocktails. 6412 N. Clark St., www.touchechicago.com
- Velvet Rope** Halloween edition of karaoke. Sing in costume. \$6 Martinis, \$5 Long Islands, \$3 cocktails. 7 p.m., 728 West Lake St., Oak Park, IL, www.velvetropoakpark.com



Jon Kitto (left) and Pat Kraft. Photo courtesy of Kitto

ATHLETICS

Indiana University's pro-LGBT position

BY ROSS FORMAN

Indiana University (IU) is taking yet another groundbreaking step forward with its athletic department's strong pro-LGBT stance.

The Hoosiers play host to Northwestern University on Saturday, Oct. 30, and the football game will be LGBT Appreciation Day at Memorial Stadium on the Bloomington campus.

Jon Kitto's dream is coming to life—and this isn't some Halloween hoax.

Jump back to the summer of 2009. Kitto, 52, an associate director at IU, began talking with several Indiana officials in hopes of having an annual event at a football game designed to attract high school-aged LGBT individuals and their parents. Kitto spoke with Scott Dolson, executive director of the IU Varsity Club; Fred Glass, athletic director; Pat Kraft, senior assistant athletic director; and Rachael McAfee, director of alumni programs.

"The idea was to use football as a symbol that would send a message to all people: 'Indiana University Welcomes You!'" Kitto said. "I felt it would send a powerful message of acceptance to have an area that has historically been associated with homophobia, sponsor a festive event for gay, lesbians, bisexual, transgender and questioning young people. My feeling was that it would take at least a year to plan an event the size that I envisioned.

"But Pat Kraft told his director of development, Andrew Rosner, to put together a special package for the LGBT community. With that, the athletic department and alumni association jumped in and really put this thing together. A special ticket price includes food, a T-shirt and an invitation to The Hoosier Village, a large pre-game tailgate party on the stadium grounds."

And, yes, "we do hope to make this an annual event of some type," Kitto added.

IU's athletic department jumped on the pro-LGBT campaign with both feet earlier this year, setting up June 12 at Pride Fest in Indianapolis.

"Indiana has always been on the forefront of acceptance and inclusion," Kitto said. "Reaching out wasn't on their radar, but neither was

not reaching out. The short answer is that they were asked, and said 'yes.'"

Kitto said IU's pro-gay stance has been received very well, even with a sense of excitement within the athletic department. "The four straight members of the department who volunteered to work the department's booth at Pride were so excited that they proposed an athletic department float at the next Pride," Kitto said.

IU's campus in Bloomington is a four-hour drive from Chicago, and about 45 minutes by car from Indianapolis.

"Indiana University has long had a sizeable LGBT population," Kitto said. "Under the 70-year tutelage of Herman B Wells, Indiana promoted research and understanding in the area of sex and sexual orientation. Wells was very active in hiring diverse faculty and staff, so the University community has been accommodating for many years. Estimates are that there are approximately 10,000 LGBT people in the Bloomington community."

During the 2010 Indianapolis Pride, four IU athletes went to the athletic department's booth and identified themselves as gay to the personnel. "They said that the presence of the department sent such a strong message of acceptance that they came out to the department for the first time," Kitto said.

IU football coach Bill Lynch has volunteered to serve on a diversity panel and he was a judge in the "Mr. Out at Kelley" contest for the Kelley School of Business at Indiana University, Kitto said.

"Imagine that—a football coach judging a gay beauty contest," Kitto noted.

Doug Bauder, coordinator of the IU GLBT Student Services Office, confirmed that there has been an ongoing and escalating involvement with the athletic department for a number of years. Bauder points to a sign of the department's efforts as the results of a complaint involving homophobic comments being made by members of one team.

"We got a call immediately from the coaches," Bauder said. "They had us set up an anti-harassment workshop. A few days later, the GLBTSS office received a letter from the members of the team that had made the comments thanking them for the presentation and apologizing for the comments."

In addition, several teams have participated in training and Bauder serves on the board of a group that mentors athletes.

Kitto said IU's athletic department's presence in Indianapolis this past June, "caused quite a stir, in a very positive way." He said that thousands of people stopped by the booth, many to simply say, "Thank you for being here."

Alex Perry, a former IU linebacker who is now working on his master's in sports administration (and who happens to be heterosexual), e-mailed Kitto after Pride Fest and said, "Thank you so much for allowing me to participate in the Pride event. I learned so much about people and myself. It was one of the best days of my life."

Kitto e-mailed IU Athletic Director Fred Glass to thank him for the department's support of Pride Fest, and Glass replied, "It's the right thing to do."

Kitto said the same sentiment runs throughout IU's athletic department.

"I think that everyone hopes that this type of interaction becomes so normal that it is not newsworthy," Kitto said. "But, for now, there are a number of things being discussed, in ad-

dition to the float at next year's Pride, [such as] a cooperative dinner and some social interaction between the groups."

IU also is extending the welcome mat to Northwestern's LGBT fans.

"This is bigger than just one school," said IU Alumni Association Executive Director JT Forbes. "This is about inclusion; we want to make a statement. Come to the party, root for your team, enjoy the experience."

Kitto said organizers are not expecting any protesters at the game—"absolutely none."

Just support—from everyone, even the players.

IU quarterback Ben Chappell e-mailed Kitto, "Thank you for all you are doing for Indiana University."

Chicago Force leaves one league, starts another

BY ROSS FORMAN

The Chicago Force is one of seven elite level women's tackle football teams that have left the Independent Women's Football League (IWFL) and are working in cooperation with the Women's Football Alliance (WFA) and Art-fest International to create a platform to unify the sport at the top level of play, starting with the 2011 season.

The other teams leaving the established IWFL are the DC Divas, Kansas City Tribe, Dallas Diamonds, San Diego Surge, New York Sharks and Pittsburgh Passion.

"We want to challenge ourselves by playing against the highest level of competition, which is no longer in the IWFL," said Chicago Force General Manager/Owner Linda Bache, a former Force player.

Six of the eight 2010 IWFL playoff teams, including the defending champion, have left the IWFL as well as several other top teams and former champions.

"All of these teams are leaving in an effort to advance women's football, create more opportunities and have a greater voice in their team and league operations," Bache said. "We will have a much more competitive regular season schedule [in 2011] than was possible in our previous league. We'd also be facing the absolute best teams in women's football in the playoffs. It's a huge challenge and a great opportunity."

Bache said the group of teams that left the IWFL has not officially joined the WFA; it is more of a partnership, she said.

"We are developing an affiliation with the WFA that would involve their top teams joining ours to create a top division of women's football teams," Bache said. "It will be a separate entity that is an affiliate of the WFA. For the sport to truly advance, we need the leagues to begin working together. If we're successful,

this could be the beginning of that unification."

The Force will play eight regular-season games in 2011, with its season still running from early April until July.

"It's not entirely clear yet how the divisions will line up, as it appears that more teams may be joining us," Bache said. "But the Midwest Region will be very well represented. Between our group and the WFA, we'll have six playoff teams and/or champions located in the Midwest: the Chicago Force, Kansas City Tribe, Pittsburgh Passion, Columbus Comets, St. Louis Slam and West Michigan Mayhem."

Bache said the team's home field for the 2011 season might be back at Amundsen High School, but that is not confirmed.

"We left [the IWFL] to pursue a situation that would allow for a more democratic approach to league operations, an improved level of competition, reduced travel costs and greater marketing opportunities," Bache said. "[It] became an easy decision as most of the power teams left the IWFL. We want to play tough teams and challenge ourselves, so we need to go where the tough teams are."

The Force will hold its first tryouts for the 2011 season on Saturday, Nov. 20, at Evanston Township High School, starting at 10 a.m. A second tryout will be held in mid-December at Northwestern University's turf arena.

"Head coach John Konecki is returning after leading Team USA to a gold medal in Sweden last summer," Bache said. "He is the best head coach in women's football, so I hope we can find more talent for him to develop at the upcoming tryouts. There is also an effort underway to develop some kind of production deal so that games could be televised next season. It's a lofty goal, but we're hopeful that we can achieve it—if not this [upcoming] season, then next year. Women's football is still in its infancy, but for the first time in many years there is a real buzz about what this could mean. My phone is ringing off the hook; I'm getting tons of inquiries from women who want to try out, and there is a palpable excitement for next season. We need to seize this momentum and take the sport to the next level."



Members of the Chicago Force. Photo by Ross Forman

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Ray is a legal authority on all of his practice areas, which include probate, trusts, guardianship, estate planning, and elder law, including the litigation of those areas. He is a longtime advocate for and member of the LGBT community, and is involved in several charitable groups, community associations, and professional organizations. Ray is a member of Clark Hill PLC, a full-service law firm consisting of a diverse team of attorneys and professionals committed to our clients and our communities.

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