



**AMY SEDARIS**

PAGE 26



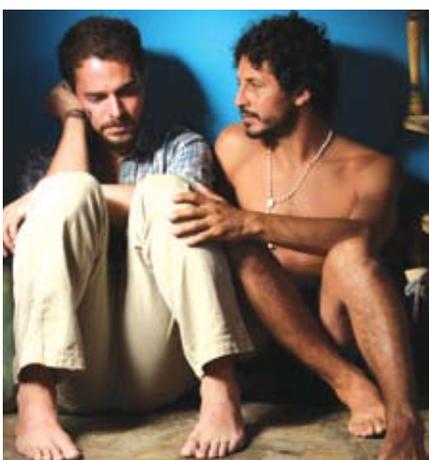
**KIT DUFFY RECEIVES DAMSKI**

PAGE 10



**REBECCA SKLOOT**

PAGE 22



**REELING 2010**

PAGE 21

Undertow (above) is one of the movies being shown during the second week of Reeling 2010.

# Howard Brown Center in crisis

BY YASMIN NAIR

Two principal members of the 36-year-old Howard Brown Health Center (HBHC) announced Nov. 4 that the community healthcare provider needs to raise \$500,000 over 50 days and an additional \$500,000 next year or risk closing its doors.

CEO Jamal Edwards and Board Chair Mark Andrews announced that the Center is also determined to chart a new way forward. In order to do so, HBHC asked the community to participate in a "Lifeline Appeal" by providing direct donations. In addition, the Center is taking steps like the selling of assets, to bring in more money.

HBHC's troubles began in early 2010, when the center announced the ouster of its CEO Michael Cook and CFO Mark Joslyn due to mismanagement of funds. Jamal Edwards, formerly a partner in the law firm of Kirkland & Ellis, took over the job of CEO in April. Edwards has been overseeing a detailed analysis and estimate of the mismanagement in question. As both he and Andrews

emphasized, the truth was irrefutable and HBHC was left badly in the hole. The mismanagement amounted to \$3 million over the course of three years prior to the end of 2009.

Moving forward, the center's staff and board are taking steps to ensure that such mismanagement does not happen again. One step is to have an outside law firm oversee the restructuring of HBHC, while another is to institute a compliance committee (already in effect). A third step involved applications for new, opening board memberships (seven new seats) from the community. Both men also emphasized that key personnel in the leadership are determined to do what it takes to get HBHC back on its feet, foregoing their salaries if necessary.

Asked about the mood at HBHC, Edwards said that the staff had been told of the situation before the press conference and that their commitment to providing care had not changed. Asked how matters had come to this stage, Andrews freely admitted that the Board could have done

things differently: "We should have seen more of these problems early on." But he also emphasized that they were committed to moving forward with new controls in place.

In a post-conference interview with WCT, Edwards provided more specifics about what could happen at the Center without the infusion of cash: "We could not pay our staff, would have to cut services, and stop the clinic." He said that the recent overhaul had "stopped the bleeding" but the previous liabilities incurred constituted a big sum of money, and they were being transparent to the community while asking for assistance. Asked about specifics about the mismanagement, Edwards pointed to the center "living beyond our means." For instance, it was providing medical services it could not afford, and took in a couple of leases which proved unwise in the long run. These included the newer

Turn to page 9

## Some surprises in LGBT races

BY LISA KEEN  
KEEN NEWS SERVICE

The results for some high-profile openly gay candidates is often mixed, and they were Nov. 2—with nine of 18 openly LGBT candidates winning. But there was one big surprise and one shining star and, overall, the Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund reported that 106 of the 164 openly gay candidates won their races.

The big surprise came in Lexington, Ky., where openly gay construction company executive Jim Gray won his mayoral race. The Lexington Herald-Leader reported the news shortly after the polls closed at 6 p.m. Gray has been serving as the city's vice mayor and defeated incumbent mayor Jim Newberry. The paper said the campaign has been one of the most expensive in the city's history and only the second time in history that a sitting mayor has been defeated. The ballot in Lexington does not indicate party affiliation. According to results published by the Herald-Leader, Gray won with 53 percent of the vote, to Mayor Jim Newberry's 46 percent. The Herald-Leader noted that Gray lost a bid for mayor in 2002, when his sexual orientation was not public. Gray came out before running successfully for an at-large seat on the Urban County Council.

In another southern state, North Carolina, openly gay candidate Marcus Brandon of High Point won his first-ever run for state representative and, in doing so, becomes the state's first openly gay legislator in the state. According to the Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund, Brandon also becomes only the fifth openly gay African American to a state legislature anywhere in the country. The race was to

Turn to page 4

## HRC Chicago's gala



U.S. Congressman Mike Quigley spoke at HRC Chicago's "No Excuses" gala Nov. 6. Read more about the event on page 8. Photo by Kat Fitzgerald (MysticImagesPhotography.com); more online at <http://www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com>

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# this week in WINDY CITY TIMES

## NEWS

Electoral implications; results	4
Locals react to election results	5
Gene Robinson to resign	5
DuPage college letter	9
Howard Brown may close	9
Duffy's honor; HRC gala	10
Gay in the Life	11
Rosalind Glanton, Quinn Collins die	12
Views: Burks, Monroe	14

## IT DOES GET BETTER

Essays	13
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Photos on cover (left, from top): Amy Sedaris PR photo; Lori Cannon (left) and Kit Duffy by Helen Adamopoulos; Rebecca Skloot pic courtesy of Skloot; still from the film *Undertow*

## 'ENTERTAINMENT/EVENTS

Dancin' Feats	19
Theater reviews	20
Knight: 127 Hours, Room in Rome	21
Reeling second-week round-up	21
Rebecca Skloot interview	22
Billy Masters	25
Amy Sedaris talks with WCT	26

## OUTLINES

Real estate; classifieds	23
Calendar Q	24
Sports: Teresa Schirrippa	26

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### ARTS AND MINDS

View dozens of intriguing photos from this year's Sculpture Objects and Functional Art Fair (left).

Photo by Andrew Davis



WCT chats with up-and-coming singer Kaci Battaglia.

Photo by Stephanie Pistel



We talk with The Big C's Phyllis Somerville.

Photo from Showtime

### HAVING A BALL

Amuse Bouche continues its soup series by looking at chicken noodle soup with matzo balls.

### OH, THE HUMANITIES

Trans author Jennifer Finney Boylan previewed her new book as part of the Chicago Humanities Festival.

### THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT

This week's entertainment round-up includes bits on Ian McKellen, Glee and Lance Bass.

plus **DAILY BREAKING NEWS**

Wild Pug's last hurrah  
MOvernber at QSC  
Halloween on Halsted  
Project Runway's Mondo

Find Nightspots on [facebook](https://www.facebook.com)

### LYING DOWN ON THE JOB



Several events took place last week, including a "Life with Purpose" workshop and a die-in for LGBT rights (above).

Photo by Andrew Davis

Lesbian playwright Patricia Kane  
Show #391

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# Electoral implications for LGBTs

NEWS ANALYSIS BY ANDREW DAVIS

The oft-repeated phrase "The wheels of justice grind slowly" might be one phrase some pro-LGBT forces were saying the day after the Nov. 2 nationwide elections.

On the national front, the Republican Party had gained control of the U.S. House of Representatives. The GOP needed 39 seats, and won 60. The change means that Nancy Pelosi has to step down as speaker of the House (although the GOP were not projected to win enough seats to take over the Senate). Republican John Boehner of Ohio will now take over that post.

However, a couple numbers might have made the difference in several close U.S. House contests: The Huffington Post reported that the GOP captured 31 percent of the LGBT vote this year, compared to 19 percent in 2008. The Democrats' share of the gay vote dropped from 80 percent in 2008 to 68 percent in 2010.

Gay-rights organizations immediately weighed in on the shift in the political landscape. National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Executive Director Rea Carey said in a statement, "We'll cut to the chase: The shift in the balance of power will very likely slow advancement of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender rights legislation in Congress. Does this mean a blockade on LGBT rights? Not if we can help it. Fact is, our community has always had to fight—and fight hard—for equality."

Human Rights Campaign (HRC) issued a statement saying that the election results "indicate new challenges as well as some opportunities ahead for moving forward on lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender equality. ... The loss of the House of Representatives to an anti-equality leadership, along with the loss of some fair-minded Senators, will certainly impede federal legislative efforts. Perhaps most strikingly

though, candidates who were the most vociferous opponents of LGBT equality did not fare well against fair-minded candidates."

Saying that the "loss of the House to anti-equality leaders is a serious blow to the LGBT community," HRC President Joe Solmonese said, "Even though we will face greater challenges in moving federal legislation forward, nothing will stop us from using every tool to advance LGBT equality at every level. Attempts to hold back the tide of the equality movement will surely put anti-LGBT leaders on the wrong side of history."

However, Log Cabin Republicans Executive Director R. Clarke Cooper had different take, saying "The American people have voted in favor of new and pragmatic leadership in Washington and in state houses throughout the country. Log Cabin Republicans are proud to have helped usher in a 112th Congress charged with enabling economic growth and restraining runaway government spending. We look forward to working with new and returning Republican allies to remove any barriers to equal employment access and job growth. We will also work to secure tax reform, which will benefit Americans' personal budgets while stimulating market growth."

In the race for President Obama's former U.S. Senate seat, Republican Mark Kirk narrowly defeated Democrat Alexi Giannoulias. Kirk, a social moderate, is not necessarily seen as "anti-equality" as more conservative colleagues.

Speaking of conservative, the Tea Party movement—a grassroots initiative that no one knew of just two years ago—asserted itself, although the results were a mixed bag.

In Delaware, Tea Party candidate Christine O'Donnell lost to Democrat Chris Coons in the race for the U.S. Senate seat formerly occupied by U.S. Vice President Joe Biden. Also, in Nevada, Tea Party candidate Sharron Angle lost to Democratic incumbent Harry Reid in a race that sometimes became vicious.

However, there were at least two bright spots in the U.S. Senate for the Tea Party: Rand Paul and Marco Rubio. In Kentucky, Paul defeated Democrat Jack Conway, while Rubio beat Independent candidate (and current Florida Gov.) Charlie Crist and Democrat Kendrick Meek. Tea Party wins are expected to make it tougher to



advance pro-LGBT measures.

In other House races, Democrats in Illinois were losing seats, reflecting a national trend.

In the 10th Congressional District, Republican Robert Dold defeated Democrat Dan Seals, while Republican Randy Hultgren beat Democratic incumbent Bill Foster in the 14th District. In the 11th Congressional District, Republican Adam Kinzinger defeated incumbent Democrat Debbie Halvorson.

Bucking the trend, pro-LGBT Democratic incumbent Mike Quigley easily beat Republican Adam Ratowitz and Green Party candidate Matt Reichel in the 5th Congressional District. In addition, Democratic incumbent Jan Schakowsky (another ally of the LGBT community) routed Republican Joel Pollak.

## Statewide office

In Illinois, the gubernatorial race was not officially called for at least three days—until the Associated Press officially projected Democratic incumbent Pat Quinn as the victor Nov. 4. However, the following day Republican challenger state Sen. Bill Brady finally conceded.

This race was seen as probably one of the most polarizing, especially regarding social issues, as the main candidates are on opposite ends of the spectrum. While Quinn supports abortion rights and civil unions for same-sex couples, Brady is not only seen as anti-gay but anti-woman in some circles as well, since he opposes abortions, even in cases of rape or incest.

Although some have said that independent candidate Scott Lee Cohen may have had the last laugh (as he took enough of the vote to contribute to the post-electoral chaos), others have pointed to organizations such as the Chicago-based pro-choice group Personal PAC.

A Rich Miller article on the website Capitol Fax discussed how Kirk fared better in many Illinois districts than fellow Republican Brady—and talked about how Personal PAC Executive Director Terry Cosgrove cannily targeted "very middle of the road, average suburban women" (including some 170,000 pro-choice Republican women) regarding Brady's pro-life stance.

Personal PAC's sophisticated messaging also included a mailing about screening for prostate cancer. Brady voted against a measure requiring prostate-cancer screenings.

Equality Illinois (EQIL)—the state's largest organization advocating for full equality for LGBT individuals—praised the election of a "pro-equality slate of candidates in Tuesday's election," adding that "[t]he organization was especially pleased with the edge that its aggressive election efforts gave to Gov. Pat Quinn, enabling his re-election."

"I am so proud that Equality Illinois was able to play the key role in re-electing Governor Quinn. We amassed an aggressive get-out-the-vote effort, energizing thousands of voters," said Bernard Cherkasov, CEO of Equality Illinois.

## ELECTIONS from cover

represent North Carolina's District 60, which encompasses Guilford County in the middle of the state. Brandon told the News-Record newspaper of Greensboro that his sexual orientation was not a secret but that "[t]his is not something I wanted to take over my campaign."

"Nobody in a year-and-a-half ever asked me about my sexuality," Brandon said, in an Oct. 15 blog by an editorial writer in which the paper noted his race was one of the Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund's "Ten Races to Watch" this year.

Laurie Jenkins has won her bid to the Washington state House, and becomes its first openly lesbian state lawmaker. Another lesbian, Nickie Antonio, won an unopposed race for the Ohio state house, making her that state's first openly gay state legislator.

U.S. Rep. Barney Frank won re-election to a 16th term as Massachusetts Congressman from the 4th District. Frank won against an aggressive Republican challenger, Sean Biebat, who had a surge of out-of-state funding in the final days of the campaign to fuel a flood of campaign literature and robocalls. While Frank's re-election was considered predictable, the margin of victory represents a significant drop in support for Frank. Frank garnered only 54 percent of the vote, dropping well below his previous lowest re-election take of 68 percent in 2008. The returns almost guarantee an even tougher rematch against Biebat in 2012.

U.S. Rep. Tammy Baldwin, D-Wis., won re-election to a seventh term with 62 percent of the vote, down just a few points from her previous re-election margin. U.S. Rep. Jared Polis, D-Colo., won a second term with 56 percent of the vote.

Providence, R.I.'s, openly gay mayor, David Cicilline, won his bid to represent the 1st Congressional District in the U.S. House. The win will make him the fourth openly gay member of the Congress. With all precincts counted, Cicilline had secured 50.6 percent of the vote, compared to Republican John Loughlin's 44.5 percent and 4.9 percent for two other candidates.

In Connecticut, openly gay healthcare advocate Kevin Lembo won his race for the state comptroller's seat. The win makes Lembo the only openly gay candidates to win a statewide race Nov. 2.

And Victoria Kolakowski appears to have won election as a judge on the Superior Court of Alameda County, Calif., becoming the first transgender trial court judge in the country.

But there were losses, too.

Two openly gay candidates lost their bids for seats in the U.S. House. Democrat Ed Potosnak, a teacher and businessman, lost his bid to unseat Republican incumbent Leonard Lance in New Jersey's 7th Congressional district. And Steve Poughnet, the openly gay mayor of Palm Springs, Calif., garnered 40 percent in his first run for Congress against incumbent Republican Mary Bono Mack.

Two openly gay candidates for lieutenant governor lost as the head of their tickets fell to defeat. Steve Howard lost as the number two person on the Democratic ticket in Vermont. And Richard Tisei lost as part of the Republican ticket in Massachusetts, where incumbent Democratic governor Deval Patrick won re-election with 49 percent of the race, against Republican Charlie Baker's 42 percent, and Independent Tim Cahill's 8.

And openly gay Republican Ken Rosen appears to have lost his bid to represent Michigan's 26th District in the state house. At 11:23 Tuesday night, early results showed Rosen with 44 percent of the vote, trailing Democrat Jim Townsend who has 53 percent.

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Rea Carey (left) and Joe Solmonese. Carey pic by David Munar; Solmonese photo by Rex Wockner

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Far left:  
Gail Morse.  
Near left:  
Andy Thayer.  
Morse photo  
by Kat  
Fitzgerald;  
Thayer pic  
by Andrew  
Davis

## Locals react to election results

COMPILED BY ANDREW DAVIS

Windy City Times asked some local members of the LGBT community—who span the political spectrum—how they felt about the results of the Nov. 2 general elections. Below is what they had to say:

—**Gail Morse, attorney:** “While the national and state results were devastating for progressives, a small light shines through from Illinois with the re-election of Attorney General Lisa Madigan and Secretary of State Jesse White, and the election of Gov. [Pat] Quinn. (Maybe now he will be fully supportive of marriage equality after all the hard work many in the LGBT community put into the election on his behalf.) But, an even brighter light is shining from Cook County with the quiet election of former Alderman Toni Preckwinkle as board president. My hope for the new year and next big election—that progressives can hang together and elect a progressive mayor in 2011.”

—**Sean Bennett, president of Log Cabin Republicans-Chicago:** “Log Cabin Republicans is pleased at the election of Mark Kirk, the capture of the House of Representatives by the GOP, and the elections of pro-LGBT advocates Robert Dold and Judy Biggert. We hope that, through continued lobbying, members of the GOP will reach bipartisan support on the issues of ENDA, DADT and DOMA. We see the participation of the LGBT community in the Republican party as an important step in securing this bipartisan support. A recent poll showed that 31 percent of gays voted Republican in these 2010 midterm elections. This shows a significant uptick in the importance of fiscal and economic matters to the LGBT community, as more and more GOP legislators embrace LGBT issues of importance.”

—**Michael Bauer, community leader:** “The U.S. House election results are a disaster for the LGBT community—no doubt about that. Speaker [John] Boehner and the rest of the Republican leadership in the U.S. House certainly will be hostile to making any progress on LGBT issues and I fear what their position will be on maintaining current funding levels for HIV/AIDS-related matters. The U.S. Senate could have been much worse considering that the Democrats won their races in Nevada and Colorado and probably Washington State.

“The big question to me: How will the functioning of the Congress change with seven or eight senators who are Tea Party members and with about 30 such House members? In Illinois, on a statewide basis, we seemed to have escaped the disaster that hit so many other states, especially in the Midwest. Gov. Quinn won his election and the Democratic losses in the Illinois Senate and Illinois House were very limited, keeping alive the possibility of progress in Illinois on LGBT issues such as civil-union legislation.”

—**Andy Thayer, Gay Liberation Network co-founder:** “The Democrats got what they deserved Nov. 2. No Ralph Nader excuses this time. They shat on the people they claimed to support. It started with the Rick Warren invocation, contin-

ued with no actions on ENDA and DOMA, diminished world AIDS funding and finished with an obnoxious defense of DADT in court just before the election. The same pattern was replicated on virtually every ‘non-LGBT’ progressive issue, too.

With his headlong spin to the right since 2008, Obama has followed the same sorry trajectory as Clinton before him—ably supported by A-list LGBTs fawning over him at posh White House receptions, then making excuses for him to the LGBT community afterwards. Ironically, Republican-appointed judges have often proven more reliable supporters of LGBT rights than our

alleged Democratic ‘friends.’ As ACT UP proved with its winning of the Ryan White AIDS Care Act and the Americans With Disabilities Act, LGBTs can win big things from Republican-dominated governments—if we are prepared to fight. The

tragedy is that too many people bought the ‘pro-gay’ Democratic Party marketing and, so, didn’t fight against the Obama administration from the left, and we won virtually nothing over the past two years as a result.”

### Robinson to retire

V. Gene Robinson—the first out gay Episcopal bishop—said at the annual diocesan convention in Concord, N.H., that he will retire in 2013, according to Advocate.com. Robinson said, “Death threats, and the now worldwide controversy surrounding your election of me as bishop, have been a constant strain, not just on me, but on my beloved husband, Mark” as well as congregants throughout the state. Robinson was elected in 2003. Last year, he gave the invocation for the opening ceremony of President Obama’s inauguration.

Human Rights Campaign Religion and Faith Program Director Rev. Harry Knox said in a statement that Robinson’s “courage, poise, and grace in the face of vitriolic attacks on his humanity and faith have made him a model by which the rest of us judge our daily actions. We rejoice that he and his husband Mark are anticipating more time together in Bishop Gene’s

retirement and that our esteemed bishop will be free to do even more advocacy on behalf of LGBT justice beginning in 2013.”

### DOMA to face two challenges

Two different organizations had planned on filing separate lawsuits challenging the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) as they represent different plaintiffs, according to MetroWeekly.com.

The Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders plans to file a lawsuit in Connecticut challenging section three of DOMA; the section says “marriage” and “spouse” are only applicable to opposite-sex couples. Elsewhere, the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) is challenging DOMA in New York City. The ACLU is representing Edith “Edie” Windsor, who was married to the late Thea Spyer for 44 years, according to an organizational press release.

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## **INDICATIONS**

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

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

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

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

## **IMPORTANT RISK INFORMATION**

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

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

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

**What is ISENTRESS?**

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

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

**How does ISENTRESS work?**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Know the medicines you take.**

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

**How should I take ISENTRESS?**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**When ISENTRESS has been given with other anti-HIV drugs, 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.

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An anti-gay editorial that appeared in the College of DuPage's Courier.

# Anti-gay letter at college sparks outcry

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

The College of DuPage is in the midst of a firestorm of controversy generated by an anti-gay editorial in its campus newspaper, the Courier.

According to the faculty advisor for the paper, Cathy Stablein, Wayne Lela from H.O.M.E. (the Downers Grove-based Heterosexuals Organized for a Moral Environment, which has been identified by the Southern Poverty Law Center as an anti-gay hate group in the state of Illinois) has submitted anti-gay letters to the editor for years. The paper has printed a number of them, including one in its Oct. 29 issue entitled "Homosexuality isn't a human right." In that editorial, Lela, under the guise of responding to the Courier's previous week's point/counterpoint article on the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," compares gay and lesbian relationships to incest.

This is not the only way that Lela has tried to influence students on the school's campus. He has also gotten permission from the Student Life department to distribute flyers at an information table with the titles "The Uncensored Truth about Homosexuality"; "Gay' Activism and Freedom of Speech"; and "Religion and 'Gay' Pride: A Contradiction?" Stablein said that other outside groups have been allowed to distribute information on campus. She also said that Lela's influence has been diminishing each year he has had his presence on the campus. So the question remains: Why has he been able to have continued access to the students at COD?

In its staff editorial in the Nov. 5 issue, the Courier said, "If we did not publish the letter, we would be denying his rights as a community member as well as the rights of all community members who may share H.O.M.E.'s viewpoint." The editorial went on to say that "the decision to print the letter wasn't about ethics; it was about constitutional rights. It's about the free speech of a minority group." They also said that "by denying anyone—including a hate group—the same basic right, the Courier would have infringed on the rights of all citizens in the community, including LGBT's." At the end of the staff editorial they go on to say "Mr. Lela's letter does not reflect the opinion of the Courier, College of DuPage or any other college group. Mr. Lela has written letters to the Courier for the past five years. Each time, his letter was met with a community response."

Lela's letter prompted many people, from students to faculty members to community members, to respond. Three of these letters were published in the print edition, along with at

least 15 additional letters that are available on the publication's website (<http://www.cod.edu/courier>). All of the letters spoke out against Lela and asked why the Courier would publish such a letter. Vikaas Shanker, the Courier's editor-in-chief, told Windy City Times that the Courier knew Lela's group was classified as a hate group but said the publication does not "have a right to censor him or others from the Courier public forum, however extreme or mild their opinions may be." Shanker also said that the Courier has printed pro-LGBT pieces, including one that he wrote entitled "Gay romances aren't so odd after all" and that the paper has "promoted LGBT rights, views and lifestyles on campus" over the years. (Incidentally, attempts to reach the Student Life offices were unsuccessful.)

Lela responded to e-mail queries from Windy City Times, but did not answer several questions, including "What is your motivation in targeting young people in this way?" Lela only countered these questions with the following response: "Homosexuals are targeting even younger people than college students via the different media. They are filling the heads of young people with ideas that can't be intellectually defended, misleading young people into falsely believing an immoral lifestyle is perfectly okay, and setting these misled young people up for a fall (e.g., mental depression) when they find out their pro-homosexual arguments just don't make any sense."

He added, "The suicide rate for young people might actually be lower if people weren't filling their heads with so much unfounded pro-homosexual propaganda and were instead telling them the truth in a caring way. (The truth being certain behaviors are immoral, whether they have a basis in nature or not.)" He offered no fact-based information and directed Windy City Times to Google him to find other publications that have printed his writings.

Since the original publication of Lela's letter, a petition was set up through Change.org; "Demand Apology from College of DuPage Newspaper Over Anti-Gay Column" has logged 390 signatures as of Nov. 7. Also, GLAAD (the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation) has been working with the LGBT group Pride Alliance on campus to schedule a meeting with the board of trustees and the Courier staff to discuss the matter.

GLAAD President Jarrett Barrios weighed in on the situation, e-mailing Windy City Times, "The Courier made the editorial decision to publish a letter full of factual inaccuracies and messages that only serve to promote a climate of intolerance and hate. Media outlets should be held accountable for such choices and for serving as a platform for spreading anti-gay lies. It is also important to let the students and community members who were attacked by this letter know that these 'opinions' were nothing more than false and defamatory information from a known hate group."

## HOWARD BROWN from cover

office spaces on Broadway; Edwards has already relocated his office to the main Sheridan space. As he put it, "anyone connected to the mismanagement is gone."

As for the reconstitution of the Board, Edwards was clear that some current members may have "had their capacity exceeded" and that those conflicted about working in the new culture would be urged to move on. Asked what qualifying new members would be like, he said that ideally they would be members of the community, used Howard Brown services, and showed a commitment to fundraising, an arena in which the Center had not been aggressive enough.

Both Andrews and Edwards reiterated their commitment to seeing the Center through. Asked why he felt the Center was so important

to the community, Edwards responded, "We're at a pivotal moment in our history [as a community]. We lack equal rights to marry, greater numbers of our youth are committing suicide in record numbers, and more of us are losing healthcare by the day. Whether you are a drag queen; a gay man; someone recently diagnosed with HIV; a straight person—you can come to Howard Brown and be treated with dignity. At Howard Brown, we're committed to providing quality and culturally competent care to everyone who needs it."

**Donations to the Lifeline Appeal may be made directly on the Center's website, <http://www.howardbrown.org>. The Center is also urging people to shop more often at The Brown Elephant. Other options are also listed on the website.**

**Next: Details about HBHC's financial plans.**



Mark Andrews (left) and Jamal Edwards at the Nov. 4 press conference. Photo by Kat Fitzgerald (MysticImagesPhotography.com)

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# Hall of Fame inducting 11 people, four groups

The Chicago Commission on Human Relations' Advisory Council on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Issues has released the names of 11 individuals and four organizations to be inducted into the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame, the only known government-sponsored hall of fame that honors members of the LGBT community.

The event will take place Wed., Nov. 10, in Sidney R. Yates Gallery at the Chicago Cultural Center, 77 E. Randolph. The reception begins at 5:30 p.m., and the program is scheduled for 6 p.m. The event is free and open to the public.

The inductees are as follows:

## Individuals

—Claudia Allen, 55, perhaps the most prolific contemporary writer of lesbian-themed plays; 11 of her 24 produced plays have lesbian themes or a major character who is lesbian or bisexual, including *Hannah Free*, which premiered at Chicago's Bailiwick Repertory Theatre in 1992 and became an award-winning feature film in 2009

—Dan Di Leo (1938-1989), a U.S. Army veteran and co-founder of *Gay Chicago Magazine*; his experience and knowledge as a journalist and businessman were largely responsible for the early growth of the magazine, which is a cornerstone of Chicago's LGBT community; he died of complications from AIDS

—Scott Free, 50, activist, musician and founder of both *Homolatte*, the longest-running queer performance series in the nation, and *ALT Q*, another of the nation's longest running festivals for LGBTQ performers

—Bob Gammie, 84, an active organizer and fundraiser since 1949, for his many years of community service, including being one of the first organizers of gay activities in non-bar settings,



**David Munar.**  
Photo by JasonSmith.com

in particular the volleyball games in Lincoln Park that grew into the Lincoln Park Lagooners, which continues to flourish

—E. Patrick Johnson, 43, scholar, artist, and performer; for his leadership in the African-American LGBT community, including publishing two books that focus on Black LGBT life: *Black Queer Studies* and *Sweet Tea: Black Gay Men of the South*, an oral history of Black gay men

—David Ernesto Munar, 40, for his leadership and advocacy on both local and national LGBTQ and Latino issues and, as a person living with HIV, for his work to shape local, state, and federal policy on HIV/AIDS

—Achy Obejas, 54, activist and writer; appointed by former Mayor Harold Washington to the city's first Committee on Gay and Lesbian Issues and by former Mayor Eugene Sawyer to his Advisory Council on Gay and Lesbian Issues, she worked to secure passage of the Chicago Human Rights ordinance; as a journalist she shared a Pulitzer Prize in 2001, and she has published fiction, non-fiction and poetry

—Paul G. Oostenbrug, 60, runner and community volunteer, for his long and dedicated service to Team Chicago, which takes LGBT Chicagoans to the Gay Games, and for his involvement on the boards of the Federation of Gay Games and Chicago House, a local AIDS service agency

—Jose R. Rios, 42, police officer, for his nine years of service as the Chicago Police Department's liaison to the LGBT communities of Chicago, including his extensive outreach to the deaf community, youth, other government offices, community organizations, and police depart-

ments across the nation

—The Rev. Stan Sloan, 47, Episcopal priest and CEO of Chicago House, for his dedicated and innovative leadership in the homeless and AIDS service communities, including opening Sweet Miss Giving's Bakery, which serves as both a jobs program and a source of income for Chicago House

—Mark E. Wojcik, 48, legal scholar, John Marshall Law School professor, and founder of the Chicago Bar Association's Committee on Legal Rights of Lesbian and Gay Men, for leadership and mentorship in the legal profession and for promoting legislative change at the state and federal levels

## Organizations

—Asians & Friends: Chicago, for 26 years of providing a social network for gay men of Asian descent and building a bridge between them and the larger LGBT community, culturally, socially, and philanthropically; as one of the first orga-

nizations of its kind, it inspired other similar groups to form elsewhere

—International Mr. Leather, for 31 years of drawing worldwide attention and attendance to Chicago by way of its annual weekend of events for the international leather community, significantly contributing to Chicago's tourism revenue; it has also been a pioneer in support of LGBT rights and health issues

## Friends of the community

—American Civil Liberties Union of Illinois, for decades of support for the civil liberties of the LGBT community and persons living with HIV as well as for advocacy of nondiscrimination laws covering sexual orientation, gender identity, and HIV status

—Chicago History Museum, for decades of acquiring and preserving LGBT historical documents and artifacts and for its groundbreaking "Out at CHM" lecture series, which presents LGBT history in the context of Chicago history.

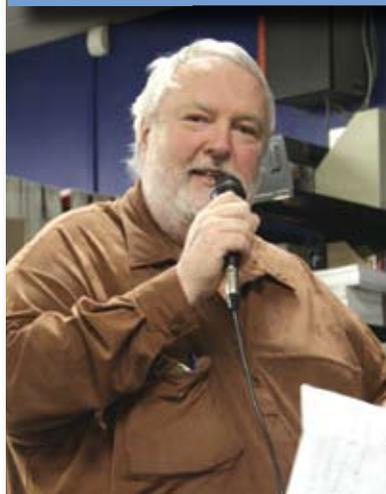
## HRC Chicago's 'No excuses' gala



The Chicago chapter of the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) held its gala—with the theme "No Excuses"—Nov. 6 at the Fairmont Chicago, and several hundred people attended. Among the many highlights were appearances and speeches by actor Luke McFarlane (who plays Scotty, one half of the same-sex couple on the TV show *Brothers and Sisters*); U.S. Congressman Mike Quigley, D-Ill.; and Allyson Robinson, who is the national HRC's associate director of diversity and promotes awareness of transgender-related issues.

Regarding honors, the Rev. Dr. Susan Brooks Thistlethwaite received the Community Equality Award; Nielsen was the recipient of the Corporate Equality Award; and DePaul student Evan T. Phillips was honored with the 5th Annual LGBT College Student of the Year Award. As for other highlights, there was a silent auction that featured everything from a party at the gay sports bar Crew to a two-night stay at the posh Drake Hotel. Musician/choreographer Niki Harris—who was a longtime backup singer for Madonna in addition to releasing her own solo hits—provided entertainment. Photos by Kat Fitzgerald (MysticImagesPhotography.com); many more are online at <http://www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com>.

## Duffy honored with Damski



Katherine "Kit" Duffy received the 13th Annual Jon-Henri Damski Award Nov. 7 for her service to Chicago's LGBT community. At the award ceremony, held at the Gerber/Hart Library, other activists spoke about Duffy's accomplishments. They focused on the work she did after former Mayor Harold Washington appointed her Chicago's first liaison to the LGBT community in 1984.

Bill Greaves, the city's current liaison to the LGBT community, said Duffy made sure all parts of the community had their voices heard and got support from the city. He described her as one of his "most cherished mentors," adding, "Kit laid a really strong groundwork for all those since her." Educator and activist Albert Williams recalled Duffy's part in organizing a meeting between gay activists and city department heads, as well as her help in orchestrating a gay-rights rally in Lincoln Park in 1984.

The ceremony also featured tributes to Damski, Duffy's co-conspirator and fellow activist as well as a renowned gay columnist. Danni Smith and Eric Martin from Theo Ubique Cabaret Theatre (with Artistic Director Fred Anzevino) performed dramatic readings based on Damski's columns. And Vital Bridges co-founder Lori Cannon read from a Chicago City Council proclamation praising Damski as a witty and elegant writer.

Duffy said she felt honored to receive the award. She thanked the activists at the ceremony and urged them not to lose their cynicism toward politicians. "It has always been my privilege to have done this work," Duffy said. Photos and text by Helen Adamopoulos

**Wed., Nov. 17  
7:30 p.m.  
Christine Sneed  
Portraits of a Few  
of the People  
I've Made Cry: Stories**

**Thursday, Nov. 18  
7:30 p.m.  
Norma Price  
Crossing with the Virgin:  
Stories from the  
Migrant Trail**



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# Ricky Martel

Housing Assistance Manager

TEXT AND PHOTOS BY JERRY NUNN



Following Ricky Martel around one day led to the AIDS Foundation of Chicago where he works as the Housing Assistance Manager.



It was quick to see the important work that he does. He has developed a Web site ([www.direct2housing.org](http://www.direct2housing.org)) where case managers, social workers and the community can find the contact information, eligibility criteria and application process for supportive housing options. The Web site is like a Facebook for supportive housing providers where they can update their agency status as often as they wish with a simple click of the mouse.



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**Name**  
Ricky Martel

**Neighborhood**  
Rogers Park

**Age**  
42

**Hometown**  
Morton Grove, Ill.

**Hobbies**  
Country Line Dancing and Two-Stepping

**Pets**  
Two kittens named Prince Milos and Princess Meeka



Windy City Times caught up with Ricky later that night inside Charlie's, 3726 N. Broadway. It's at this bar where he first learned about the group he performs with, The Windy City Cowboys. It was obvious to see Ricky loves being a part of this group whose mission is to entertain with country and western fabulousness. Martel is active in his community by contributing his talents along with the group to festivals, parades, rodeos, and special events such as the Windy City Rodeo, The AIDS Run and Walk, and Halsted Street Market Days.

Look for Ricky out shaking his bon bon to a country twang, Windy-City style!



Rosalind Glanton.  
Photo by Hal Baim

## Rosalind Glanton dies

Long-time community activist Rosalind Glanton died suddenly Nov. 8.

Glanton was recognized for her work as a founding board member of Affinity at the agency's 15th anniversary benefit at Sidetrack in October.

Affinity Community Services reported the news on their Facebook page, and friends immediately posted their shock at the sudden loss.

As a photographer, Glanton helped document hundreds of community events, and produced a calendar of African-American women. She was ubiquitous at community events and benefits, supporting a range of causes.

More details will be posted as they become available.

## Transgender PFLAG inspiration killed in car accident

BY KATE SOSIN

Quinn Collins, the transgender man who inspired Chicago's first PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) support group for parents of transgender kids, was buried last weekend by a family that set a community example by supporting him unequivocally through transition. Collins was killed in early hours of Nov. 1 in New Buffalo, Mich., when his 2007 Honda Accord was rear-ended on I-94. He was 38.

Quinn "Q" Collins was born Nov. 17, 1971, on Long Island, N.Y. He was the fourth child in a family of five kids (Thomas, Maureen, Kathleen and the late Michael, who passed away at a very young age). Described as a "typical middle child" by his mother, Arlene Collins, Quinn grew up playing tricks on teachers and friends. In high school, he got in trouble for cutting class and roller-skating through the hallways and for spiking the punch at a high school dance.

Collins spent much of his free time reading and writing. He loved music and foreign films. His family described him as a "fabulous dancer."

In 1992, Collins' family moved to Chicago. Collins lived between New York City and Chicago for years, but relocated to Chicago when his father, John H. Collins, became ill with a brain tumor and passed away.

A resident of the Andersonville neighborhood, Collins regularly attended "Formerly Known As," the queer Chicago dance party held monthly at Big Chicks in Uptown. In 2002, he came out to his mother as transgender and told her that he wanted to transition from female to male. She vowed to support him.

"He knew at a young age," Arlene Collins told Windy City Times. She regretted that she had failed to see her child wrestling with gender for years.

Quinn struggled through transition. He was self-conscious and feared for his safety. His family worried, too. Collins had reported being harassed by police and strangers.

Quinn wanted Arlene to have a community of parents who dealt with similar issues. After some convincing, Arlene attended a PFLAG meeting, but she found that most of the parents were dealing with having gay and lesbian kids, not



Quinn Collins. Photo courtesy of Arlene Collins

transgender kids. Collins told his mother that there were countless transgender people whose parents had rejected them, and that there were many parents with transgender kids in need of spaces to talk.

Arlene decided to open her home to them. In January 2009, she held the first PFLAG group for parents of transgender children. "I thought I was going to be sitting here by myself for the first meeting," she said. But other parents came, and the meetings grew slowly. Arlene began speaking publicly about her son.

Heartened by his mother's effort, Quinn, too came regularly to the meetings. He educated parents who were afraid to ask their own kids about transgender issues and used his own experience to counsel them through difficult questions.

"He was such an inspiration to other parents because he was so open," Arlene said. "It wasn't that he was loud. It wasn't that he was boisterous. It was that when he spoke, he said something."

In June 2010, Quinn moved to New Buffalo in search of peace outside the city. He told very few people that he was transgender. One night while driving home from work, Quinn was randomly stopped by a police officer. The officer questioned Quinn about his identification until Quinn conceded that he was transgender. Quinn had not broken the law, so the officer let him go. But after that, Arlene said, Quinn worried for his safety. He feared that the officer might out him as trans in the community. Arlene said that Quinn was probably avoiding the road where he got pulled over when he took I-94 home on Halloween. But no one knows why he pulled his car over. The road was dark, and Quinn's car was black. A woman driving with her family in a van failed to see the car, which was partially sticking out into her lane. Quinn was killed on impact.

Quinn's sister, Maureen Piechaczek, said that her brother had only recently come into himself. "He was at his peak," she said.

Quinn was in the process of moving out of his family's house in Michigan into his own apartment. He was working a job he loved as a waiter. His transition had gone smoothly, and he was passing as male. He was confident for the first time, Arlene said.

Arlene Collins said she will continue the PFLAG transgender support group. She also said she intends to fight for transgender rights and speak out more. "[People] can't assume that a family is embarrassed because their kid is trans," she said. "That is unforgivable."

Occasionally, Quinn would lament that he was 38 years old and had yet to do the things he wanted in life, like write more and find a close community. But Arlene told him that he was actually young because he had only recently transitioned. "I told him, You just started your life," she said. "He was himself for the first time."

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—SELMA

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# IT DOES GET BETTER

A special section of  
**WINDY CITY TIMES**

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

Windy City Times will be taking submissions of essays to run on our Web site, [www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com](http://www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com), and in future issues. Please send your submission to [editor@windycitymediagroup.com](mailto:editor@windycitymediagroup.com)

## Love's Crusade: NOH8!

BY DANIEL DELA CERDA

One voice may seem minuscule and small,  
But the voices of many could break down the wall!

One force could mean hardly a dent,  
But the force of thousands is more than a "hint."

One man's fight can be alone and unheard,  
But the fight of many could help spread the "word."

We should love and not HATE!  
We could bond; don't discriminate!

We're all the same both inside and out,  
We're all deserving of love and equality, no doubt!

It's time for a change to be made,  
To use our voice, stand up and start our "love's crusade"!



## RESOURCES



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[www.TheTrevorProject.org](http://www.TheTrevorProject.org)



**IT GETS BETTER**  
[www.youtube.com/user/itgetsbetterproject](http://www.youtube.com/user/itgetsbetterproject)

**PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays)**  
[www.pflagchicago.org](http://www.pflagchicago.org)

**GLSEN (Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network)**  
[www.glsen.org](http://www.glsen.org)

**IL SAFE SCHOOLS ALLIANCE**  
312-368-9070  
[www.IllinoisSafeSchools.org](http://www.IllinoisSafeSchools.org)



## It Gets Better

BY RYAN KOLODZIEJ

Growing up in an Irish Catholic family and attending Catholic school for eight years was no walk in the park for a somewhat effeminate gay boy like me. I only had "girlfriends," I played with Barbie dolls and I played dress up with girl clothes all the time. I knew I was different from as far back as I can remember.

The taunts and teasing started around 4th grade. My class had only around 25 students in it, so standing out was very easy. By the time 8th grade came, I knew I was a "fag" because I was called it every day, but had no idea exactly what that meant. That same year, I made a (luckily) unsuccessful attempt to try and end my life. I started going to psychiatrists and psychologists to try and find what was going on. But the truth was, I didn't even know myself—that is, until I finally came out of the closet as an openly gay man sophomore year of high school. And you know what? It wasn't that bad.

I was one of the lucky ones who came out to an extremely supportive mother and siblings. For the first time, I knew exactly what I was and knew that there was nothing I could do to change it and life as I knew it could only get better.

Life did get better. After I came out of the closet, the taunting seemed to disappear completely because I was living an open and honest life and would not let anyone tease me anymore for simply being me.

Life does have its ups and downs, but always remember that IT GETS BETTER.



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# VIEWPOINTS

## WINDY CITY TIMES



**KOBI  
BURKS**

## Meeting Kobi

Hello, everybody. My name is Maikobi Burks. I go by "Mia" or just "Kobi." I am a 34-year-old single person who identifies as a transgender woman. Soon I will start hormones and begin to live my everyday life as the woman I have always identified as. It's taken me some time to become healthy enough to take these steps given that I have what I call an original sin (my therapist's words, not mine). I have a spirit that will not allow me to give up but that spirit was forged in horror.

What you are about to read is about anger, pain and yes, choices. If you have grown up in a perfect world, you have been accepted for your differences and allowed to be or become whomever your heart desires. If this is the case, God bless you. However if the worse and sometimes more common case scenario is true, you have had to face some tiring opposition to being whole, happy, yourself. I have lived through such trials and, I'm sad to report, have not done so with flying colors. Thus the reason I'm writing this. It is my hope that others will pass the life test I failed.

I remember vividly each and every day that led to my breakdown. And although it is painful

to recount, I do so with the purpose of healing myself first, and secondly to provide a mirror of sorts for those of us who may be on a similar path of self-destruction from which I assure you there is no return. I hope this glimpse into the life of a child murderer does cause you to pause and think. If it does, I will be on the path to redemption. Please read on.

I'm sitting at the desk in my 8' by 7' by 14' cell, in the only maximum-security mental facility in the state of Illinois. I've just eaten a very modest dinner of fish sticks and pasta salad (sans dressing) while security stood nearby to collect the plasticware and break up the all-too-common fights that have to a patient losing an eye to a chicken bone. Security yelled profanities at a patient who stood without permission.

This is my life. "Why?," you might ask. Because one day I made a choice—the choice to explode, the choice to kill.

Although born male, I have always identified as female. It's just who I am. However my father, a Chicago police officer, could be quoted as saying, "Those people are disgusting and should be killed; that's why God created AIDS." Surely having a transgender daughter would change his mind?

Father would handcuff me to radiators and beat me with extension cords, with a waiting salt-water bath, or have me sleep with dog feces in my bed. All this happened because I was different, and my mom and sister watched, unwilling or unable to help. I thought I had nowhere to turn—not even to my "straight" and sadistic older lover.

At 17 years of age, I made an emotional choice. With my father's service weapons I took

the lives of those closest to me, my parents and sister. I have spent the rest of my life since then in a mental institution, having been found "not guilty by reason of insanity."

In the weeks to come I would like to let you in, all of you. I want to share honestly who I am and what I have experienced so that others might avoid making choices similar to mine. It's easy to allow our anger and rage to build up and consume us, easy to feel justified in a moment of blind passion. It is much more difficult to realize that we all have choices, and the choices that we make can lead to sorrow and pain that none of us could have imagined.

My aim is not to sound preachy. I am in no position to give a lecture. Beyond that, I am tall enough without a soapbox. I just want to do what I can to help others, young and old, in poor relationships or stressful home situations. I want to help them to realize that I am traveling a road paved by the horror of poor choices. I really hope and pray it is a road I will not have company traveling.

All too often, I wonder how many other young people feel like they are out of options. This is my opportunity to make a difference and I hope that you will read with an open mind and heart—not only to learn about me but so you can, hopefully, understand any situation you may be in that you feel has limited your options. I humbly accept any thoughts you, the reader of this, might have, as I see this as a growing experience for me and if your life is relationship anxiety-free, bless you.

Yes, I failed the test—but no one else has to.

**E-mail klemenst@comcast.net.**



**REV. IRENE  
MONROE**

## Re-introducing LBT women of African descent

I thought I would re-introduce a subgroup in our LGBTQ community that is too often forgotten and/or ignored—lesbians, bisexual and transgender women of African descent.

I want to re-introduce this group because a groundbreaking study in July came out titled "Black Lesbians Matter" examining the unique experiences, perspectives, and priorities of the Black LBT community, and, sadly, little is known about it.

This report reveals that LBT women of African descent are among the most vulnerable in our society and need advocacy in the areas of financial security, healthcare, access to education and marriage equality.

The study is akin to a census conducted over several months in 2009-10 where 1,596 LBT women from regional, statewide and local organizations in New York, Atlanta, Chicago and Denver participated (online and offline). The study focused on five key areas: health, family/parenting, identity, aging and invisibility.

Key findings of the survey revealed the following:

—Health: There is a pattern of higher suicide rates among us. Scholars have primarily associated these higher suicide rates with one's ability to deal with "coming out."

—Family/Parenting: Forty-five percent of Black female same-sex households include a biological child of one of the partners in their household. Anti-gay parenting policies in the United States will disproportionately affect Black LBT parents or would-be parents.

—Identity: In the 18-24 age group, 69 percent are least likely to identify as lesbian. Mostly identify as queer.

—Aging: Twenty-five percent over the age of 50 live alone and fear poverty and homelessness.

—Invisibility: Forty-eight percent have been rejected and discriminated against, disclosing one's identity in the workplace leading to exclusion from company events, and even termination.

It's clear the survey brings to the forefront information from a traditionally marginalized group, highlighting the needs and concerns defined by the community. But Zuna is the first to gather the data on us.

Although Zuna Institute has been around since 1999, people still ask who they are.

In the inimitable way that Black women's kitchens function as "think tanks" on social justice and civil rights issues, birthing numerous organizations, is also how Zuna Institute was founded. Zuna is the first of its kind in becoming a national organization providing services to the Black LBT community. Believing that the development of a healthy Black LBT identity can only come about by advocating specifically for LBT of African descent on a national level, and it would effectively eliminate the stigma and the barriers of race, class, gender, and sexual orientation discrimination we face daily, Zuna aims at bettering our quality of life by holding national conferences providing relational/social and educational resources to use for healthcare, political and economic advocacy.

Since the 1970s there has been nearly a 20-year hiatus since the country has seen collective Black LBT activism on a national level.

However, back in the 1970s LBT women of African descent had a more prominent and visible role in queer and feminist politics. Two of the hot spots were New York and Boston.

In New York the "Salsa Soul Sisters, Third World Wimmin Inc Collective" was the first "out" women of color organization and oldest Black lesbian organization in the country. Today the group is known as "African Ancestral Lesbians United for Social Change."

And in Boston the "Combahee River Collective," referring to Harriet Tubman, Conductor on

the Underground Railroad, who freed 750 slaves near the Combahee River in South Carolina in 1863, was an active Black feminist lesbian organization during the years 1974-80. The group is most known for "The Combahee River Collective Statement," a key document in the history and shaping of Black feminist thought. The document presented a new paradigm to look at oppressions by not ranking them, like race, class, gender and sexual orientation, on a hierarchy of oppression, but rather to look at them all from a multidimensional analysis, recognizing them as interlocking oppressions.

Today here in Greater Boston the ethos of the "Combahee River Collective" is continued with "Queer Women of Color and Friends" (QWOC+ Boston), a grassroots organization dedicated to creating a diverse social space for LGBTQ women of color.

Deceased African-American poet and activist Pat Parker, in her book *Movement in Black*, wrote about how society did not embrace her multiple identities. "If I could take all my parts with me when I go somewhere, and not have to say to one of them, 'No, you stay home tonight, you won't be welcome, because I'm going to an all-white party where I can be gay, but not Black.' Or I'm going to a Black poetry reading, and half of the poets are antihomosexual, or thousands of situations where something of what I am cannot come with me. The day all the different parts of me can come along, we would have what I would call a revolution."

After nearly two decades of LBT women of African descent's invisibility on a national level Zuna is causing a revolution by taking the bold step in this era of single-issue queer politics to remind us all we, too, matter.

Send letters and viewpoints to [Andrew@WindyCityMediaGroup.com](mailto:Andrew@WindyCityMediaGroup.com). Items may be edited for length or clarity.

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*Windy City Times* Deadline every Wednesday.  
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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.

**Day 365**  
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\*Eligibility restrictions apply. See card for details. Medication coverage must be part of your KALETRA-based regimen.

#### 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](http://www.fda.gov/medwatch), or call 1-800-FDA-1088 (1-800-332-1088).

If you cannot afford your medication, contact: [www.pparx.org](http://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](http://KALETRA.com).

Please see Brief Summary on adjacent pages.

**KALETRA**<sup>®</sup>  
(lopinavir/ritonavir)

Positive  
PARTNERSHIP  
Program

Model is for illustrative purposes only.

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039-418110 August 2010 Printed in U.S.A.

# KALETRA® (kuh-LEE-tra) (lopinavir/ritonavir) Tablets

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

CONSUMER BRIEF SUMMARY  
CONSULT PACKAGE INSERT FOR  
FULL PRESCRIBING INFORMATION

## 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 methylegonovine (Ergotrate, Methergine), ergotamine and methylegonovine
  - Ergotrate Maleate, methylegonovine 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.

- 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.

Throw away any medicine that is out of date or that you no longer need.

**Keep KALETRA and all medicines out of the reach of children.**

#### General information about KALETRA

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 *Mycobacterium avium* complex (MAC) infections.

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.

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](http://www.KALETRA.com).

#### What are the ingredients in KALETRA?

Active ingredient: lopinavir and ritonavir

Inactive ingredients:

**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.

**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.

**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.

**KALETRA oral solution contains 42.4% alcohol (v/v). "See How should I take KALETRA?"**

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.  
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This Medication Guide has been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

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Revised: June, 2010

036-395113 **MASTER**

039-418110



# GOINGS-ON

**WINDY CITY TIMES' ENTERTAINMENT SECTION**


The movie *Fit* (above) is just one of many movies screening during the second week of the Reeling 2010 LGBT film fest. See page 21.

## THEATER

'Trace' time.  
Page 20.

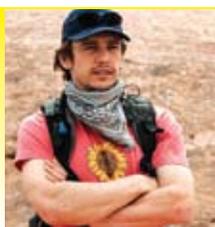
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## MOVIES

'Hour' of power.  
Page 21.

Photo by Chuck Zlotnick



## SPORTS

'World' view.  
Page 26.

Photo courtesy of Teresa Schirrippa



## Dancin' Feats

BY ALICIA WILSON

This month, collaborations abound in the Chicago dance community. Music and movement meld, multiple companies share a stage and area non-profits are supported through the happenings of November dance. Before the holiday season begins, catch some of these highlighted performances.

The Chicago Human Rhythm Project (CHRP) will conclude its 20th-anniversary season with the annual "Global Rhythms" event. Taking place at the Harris Theater for Music and Dance Nov. 26-28, Global Rhythms will showcase four unique programs, giving voice to several local, national and international artists. In addition, CHRP continues its Thanks 4 Giving program, which gives patrons a 10-percent discount by mentioning one of more than 50 participating Chicago nonprofit organizations. CHRP will share 50 percent of the revenue from that sale with the selected organization, which has produced as much as \$32,000 for Chicago-based nonprofits in previous years.

The artists participating in Global Rhythms provide an eclectic mix of movement and music. French medieval ensemble *Diabolus in Musica* will be making its Chicago debut Nov. 26, with a program exploring the feminine presence in 13th-century *trouvères*. The first professional company dedicated to stepping, Step Afrika!, returns to Global Rhythms with contemporary stepping and hip-hop alongside ancient Zulu dances. CHRP's resident performing ensemble, BAM!, will present a series of premieres of tap dance. Also included in the event is Asian-American musical fusion The Miyumi Project, and the Fulcrum Point New Music Project. Chicago ensembles Jump Rhythm Jazz Project, Ensemble Espanol Spanish Dance Theater, and Be the Grove will also perform.

CHRP will present Global Rhythms at The Harris Theater for Music and Dance, 205 E. Randolph, 8 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 26, 3 and 8 p.m. on Saturday, November 27, and 3 p.m. on Sunday, Nov.



28; \$15-\$55. For tickets or more information, call 312-334-7777 or visit [www.harristheater-chicago.org](http://www.harristheater-chicago.org)

**River North Dance Theater** celebrates 21 years of dance this season with a return to the Harris Theater for one night only Nov. 13. The program, entitled "River North Contemporary," features several choreographers from varying backgrounds in the contemporary genre of dance. River North Artistic Director Frank Chaves will show a full company piece as well as an intimate duet. Also on the program are choreographer Lauri Stallings, Deeply Rooted Productions Artistic Director Kevin Iega Jeff and Robert Battle, newly appointed artistic director-designate of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater.

Part of the celebration is a world-premiere piece by sought-after contemporary choreographer Sidra Bell. The new work, entitled *Risoluta*, illustrates an atmosphere resembling a subterranean ball. Bell's signature movement vocabulary and intertwining duets are set to an original score composed by her father, Dennis Bell. Sidra Bell is the artistic director of Sidra Bell Dance New York, and her choreography has been commissioned for many companies including Ailey II, Sacramento Ballet, Dance Theater Workshop and The Julliard School. Windy City Times sat down with Bell to look into the person behind the choreography:

**Windy City Times: What was the process like creating a new piece on the River North dancers?**

Sidra Bell: I spent three weeks with the dancers in August working on a brand new work. the first week and a half we did a lot of workshoping material, developing vocabulary, and we also did a lot of improvisation. My process is generally collaborative and organic, whenever I am visiting a group of dancers I like to tap into their community, and let the texture of the piece come from who they are.

**WCT: Can you speak more about the collaboration with your father in your choreography?**

SB: My collaboration with my father [Dennis Bell] is lifelong. Specifically when I started choreographing, I began to work with him on music. Some of my first shows I put on in New York City used live music, orchestrated by my father, and now that I am being commissioned to create works for larger companies I like to bring him in to create original music for the pieces. It's really important in the dance world to introduce not only new aesthetics but also new music, and really pushing the envelope on sound. The music we often collaborate on is kind of mixing jazz and electronic, and mixing voice and classical voice. We like to play with textures in sound, and I thought that bringing in this type of music to the River North piece would add to the direc-

tion of the work.

**WCT: Who have been some inspirational choreographers to your work as an artist?**

SB: Growing up I was really influenced by Alvin Ailey; I studied there, so from early on my biggest fascination was Ulysses Dove. He made really extreme movements, and also had a lot of conviction in those movements. I used to watch videos of his pieces all the time growing up. Now, I look to my peers. When I was visiting Montreal I attended a show with work from Sasha Waltz, a German choreographer. She is just so comprehensive; the movement is very physical but also contains had theatrical elements to it. I think with my own work I try to push the visual element. Not necessarily following a narrative, but definitely visual and very physical, showcasing the body and what it can do.

**WCT: How do you feel you fit into the genre of "contemporary dance?" Is that an appropriate term for your work?**

SB: Well, "contemporary" is kind of this big umbrella of a term. We are so much in a time of change with art, a fusion period of sorts, so I feel comfortable under the term contemporary because I feel I am also constantly changing and trying to push envelopes physically.

I was trained in ballet, modern and jazz, and all of that comes together for me in a way that feels like a hybrid. Also, my exposure to music in my family has influenced me with improvisation elements and call and response in my work. I think a hallmark of contemporary is the physical interplay; it is not necessarily presentational, but has this life to it that is the conversation in the movement with the dancers. I think the piece I created for River North speaks to that, with the duet work and the story element that is contained in the movement.

**River North Dance Theater will present "River North Contemporary" at The Harris Theater for Music and Dance, 205 E. Randolph, 8 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 13; tickets are \$30-\$65. Call 312-334-7777 or visit <http://www.harristheaterchicago.org>.**

Ensemble Espanol.  
Photo by Joe Davis



Patrick Cannon and Jenifer Henry in *The War Plays*. Photo by Tyler Core

## THEATER REVIEW

### The War Plays

Playwright: Emily Schwartz

At: Strange Tree Group at

the Athenaeum, 2935 N. Southport

Tickets: 800-982-2787; <http://www.ticketmaster.com>; \$25

Runs through: Nov. 20

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

Over the last five years Strange Tree Group has created imaginative, engaging theater pieces exploring myth, fable, fairy tale and the nature of narrative storytelling itself. Under artistic director and chief playwright Emily Schwartz, their work has been visually and aurally complex. This time, *The War Plays* explores a narrative voice much closer to realistic drama than previous Strange Tree work I've seen. To be blunt, it's the first Strange Tree effort I'd rate a failure. The lighting is spotty and dark, some of the acting is bad and fundamental creative decisions seem odd, at best. Is director Kate Nawrocki entirely to blame? It's hard to say when the playwright also leads the theater troupe.

Set in 1940, *The War Plays* relates how three couples in London and in the States connect or reconnect as World War II rages: British boy meets U.S. girl during a London air raid; a G.I. about to ship out falls for a taxi dancer and vice versa; and a war-wounded vet cautiously reconnects with the woman he left behind. None of the situations is entirely original, which is OK, but all feel unfinished at the play's end, which isn't OK. In 75 minutes we get one scene from each story, and then the actors take curtain calls where one expects intermission. I sat unsure for two minutes. "It *can't* be over," I said to myself.

*The War Plays* arouses my interest but doesn't satisfy my curiosity.

A five-piece band and a singer are integral to the production, providing flavor and commentary through song on the wartime setting and stories. But only a few of the period songs the band performs are specifically identified with World War II, and there's no effort to reproduce an early 1940s musical style. It's difficult to guess if the amateurish quality of playing is intentionally metatheatrical.

Of the three plays, only the third and longest develops any critical mass. It's set in East Coast upper-crust society at a tennis party that reunites war-shocked Elliott and his fiancée of a year earlier. It smacks a bit of Oscar Wilde and a great deal of Noel Coward, proving that Emily Schwartz can talk the talk of this sort of play. But it requires—and doesn't have—elegant comedy-of-manners style, especially since the production's framing device is a British theater troupe performing during The Blitz (thus accounting for the war-torn scenery and, perhaps, the dingy lighting). Also: The show's press release gives a 1940 setting for *The War Plays* ... but the United States had not yet entered the war, so how could Elliott have been fighting in Italy, or a taxi-dancing G.I. be shipping out? Yeah, picky-picky, but that's why they pay me the big bucks.

Online this week:  
—To Master the Art  
—Peter Pan (A Play)

## THEATER REVIEW

### Traces

Playwright: Shana Carroll, Gypsy Snider and the 7 Fingers Ensemble

At: 7 Finger Productions at the

Broadway Playhouse (fka Drury Lane) at

Water Tower Place, 175 E. Chestnut

Phone: 800-775-2000; \$50-\$71.50

Runs through: Dec. 19

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

The aesthetic of traditional circus aerialists is analogous to ballet, but the universe conveyed by the six men and one woman who make up the 7 Fingers acrobat troupe is that of the Afro-Brazilian art form *capoiera*, with gravity always exerting its power over those upstarts who would defy it. At one point, the performers disclose to us their individual heights and weights, making us aware of just how much muscle—not the bulk-and-bulge kind, but the invisible steel-cable variety—is required to do what they do.

And what do choreographer Gypsy Snider and director Shana Carroll have them do? Well, they dangle upside-down by their feet from vertical poles, then suddenly plummet to halt only inches away from a fatal concussion. They do asymmetrical hand- and head-stands on flimsy mass-produced furniture. They dive through hoops so high that the spotters must climb one another's shoulders to set them up. They extend their entire bodies at 90 degrees horizontal, anchored only by their grip on the aforementioned vertical pole. Oh, and they also juggle chairs and *diabolo* spools, clown *à la* the Three Stooges, play the piano, break-dance and draw pictures on the floor and on each other.

They perform these amazing feats dressed in ordinary street clothes, backed by a score of hard-edged pop-synth music so contemporary that



Traces.

## CRITICS' PICKS

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

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

**She Loves Me**, Writers' Theatre, through Nov. 21. Luxury casting abounds in director Michael Halberstam's lovely and intimate take on the critically acclaimed 1963 musical comedy romance. Catching this beloved show is also a wonderful way to remember its composer, Jerry Bock, who passed away at age 81 on Nov. 3. SCM

**To Kill A Mockingbird**, Steppenwolf Theatre, through Nov. 18. Fifty years after its publication, Harper Lee's lesson in courageous humanity exercised—at great risk—within an unjust society retains its wisdom and power in this flawless page-to-stage adaptation. MSB

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge and Morgan

geezers like me will be unable to list its titles (with the exception of the gentle "Paper Moon" that accompanies some Moiseyev-meets-Busby-Berkeley-style skateboarding). The intimacy of the newly renovated auditorium at Water Tower Place allows for individual characterizations and contextual development, too, generating a rapport between performer and audience that has us quickly cheering for our favorites.

Spoilsports may grumble about resemblances to *Stomp!*, *Blue Man Group* or the *Flying Karamazov Brothers*. (The program also encompasses a standard-repertoire *adagio* or two, featuring the lightest members of the company tossed about like beanbags.) But Broadway in Chicago offers a generous Rush discount, there's a Hot Tix outlet at the Visitors' Center in the Water Tower on Pearson Street and for a break from holiday shopping—an athletic event in itself—what better escape than 90 minutes of PG-wholesome gymnasts (whose playbill boasts "No net! No wires! All heart!") flying higher on sheer cardiocentric energy than all your sequined big-top tinkerbells?

## CULTURE CLUB

### Float



A New Play by  
Patricia Kane

Love,  
About Face Theatre

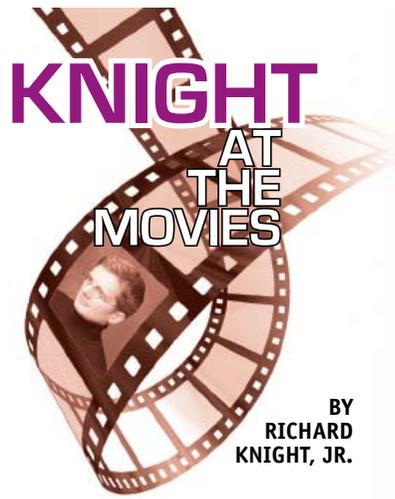
Nov 11-Dec 12  
@ Theater Wit  
(1229 W. Belmont)

## SPOTLIGHT



Gay playwright Robert Patrick's Broadway drama **Kennedy's Children** is famed for capturing a generation's depression and malaise after so much initial hope and promise with the start of the Kennedy Administration in the early 1960s. Promethean Theatre Ensemble offers another chance to catch up with this popular series of monologues from the 1970s. Kennedy's Children plays until Dec. 5 at City Lit Theater, 1020 W. Bryn Mawr. Performances are 8 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays and 3 p.m. Sundays. Tickets are \$20; call 800-838-3006 or visit <http://www.prometheantheatre.org>. Photo by Tom McGrath





BY  
RICHARD  
KNIGHT, JR.

## 127 Hours; Room in Rome

That bizarre macho disease—the inability of guys (straight and gay, if anecdotal evidence serves) to ask for directions, take advice, listen to common wisdom and, worse, learn to ask for help—finds its zenith in director Danny Boyle's **127 Hours**, the stunning true story of Aron Ralston.

In 2003, Ralston set out on his own, trekking over rough terrain and through canyons in Utah and found himself stuck—literally—between a rock and a hard place for the aforesaid, jaw-dropping amount of time. (That's well over five days.)

Before Aron (who is played by James Franco) falls into the deep crevice and the boulder traps his right arm, director Boyle, following up on his Oscar-winning *Slumdog Millionaire*, gives us a good sense of Aron's irresistibility, his upstanding character and his independence, which, unfortunately, is mixed with a healthy dose of pride. Setting out for the weekend, Aron doesn't tell anyone where he's going or bother to take along a cell phone (though he's well stocked in about every other area). During the weekend Aron meets up with two smitten female hikers and he and the ladies go for a swim (a fun, diverting montage). When the trio goes their separate ways he agrees to show up at a party the ladies are throwing later that weekend but soon after, Aron's accident occurs.

At first, the audience takes stock of Aron's situation along with him. He looks over his provisions, calculates how much food and water he's got, etc.—and though his arm has been crushed, he doesn't panic. Small triumphs—the retrieval of a pocket knife dropped just out of reach, for example—become palpable. But slowly, his strength ebbing, the gravity of Aron's situation, which has been terrifyingly clear to us, finally seems to dawn on him.

At this point Boyle's creative sensibilities—aided by the road map provided by Ralston's page turner of a memoir, adapted by Boyle and his co-screenwriter Simon Beaufoy—come into play. Aron's memories and fantasies (playful and draconian) trigger a whole panorama of Aron's emotions as he looks back on his life are ingeniously enacted by Boyle. Ironically, as the trapped, stationary Aron's situation becomes increasingly desperate, the more fanciful and filled with movement Boyle's camera becomes. Despite Aron's life-threatening circumstances, there's a lightness and buoyancy here that lifts it far beyond the usual "man vs. the elements" movie. (Sunlight also plays a big part in elevating the mood of the movie.)

But without a compelling screen presence—an obvious necessity for such a story—Boyle's creative solutions would be for naught and with Franco, who continues the creative winning streak he began this year in the artsy *Howl*, he's got just the right combination of actor and personality for the tricky role—a "regular guy" who must somehow mesmerize an audience while pinned to a rock. James "I'm not gay/I just like playing gay characters" Franco—with

his high wattage, confident smile, smoky eyes, take-charge attitude and irresistible vulnerability when he realizes his foolishness—makes Aron (who is straight), most importantly, someone whose fate becomes a matter of concern to the viewer.

That's the small but very real triumph of 127 Hours. We know the beginning and the end of the story going in (and, yes, be prepared for some gore when Aron makes his Big Decision) but working in tandem, a wonderfully inventive writer-director and his star have interested us in what happened in between.

"Would you like to see me naked?" the gorgeous blonde Natasha asks the dark-haired Alba with a teasing smile. "I would love to!" comes the horny reply. Less than 10 minutes in and the sexy stuff is on in **Room In Rome**, writer-director Julio Medem's artistic homage to the one-night stand, lesbian style, which is playing an exclusive engagement (in its Chicago premiere) at the Gene Siskel Film Center, 164 N. State.

On their last night in Rome, strangers Alba (Elena Anaya) and Natasha (Natasha Yarovenko) meet in a lesbian bar and the temptress Alba brings Natasha back to her room. Learning that Natasha hasn't been with a woman before doesn't deter Alba and, soon, the two are locked in a passionate embrace. Between bouts of lovemaking (and there are copious amounts of it throughout the movie—in the double bed of Alba's hotel room, in the tub, against the wall, etc.), Alba and Natasha, after baring it all (both Anaya and Yarovenko are naked throughout pretty much the entire film) go through their personal histories, exposing their vulnerabilities, becoming more intensely emotional as the night progresses. As dawn and check-out time approaches, the question is not whether these two beauties are simply infatuated or have fallen in love, but whether they will dare to risk continuing what they've shared together in the *Real World* once the one night stand is over.

Moody cinematography; the gorgeous hotel room with its attendant accoutrements; offbeat, original songs by Jocelyn Pook that act as a musical Greek chorus; and, of course, nicely shaded performances from Anaya and Yarovenko add up to an intensely erotic cinema experience. All of which makes *Room In Rome* nothing less than a seductive tour-de-force. See <http://www.siskelfilmcenter.org>.

**Of related interest:** One of the year's most delightful, moving films, **The Kids Are All Right**, from out director and co-writer Lisa Cholodenko, has just been released on DVD. Annette Bening and Julianne Moore play a lesbian couple who suddenly find themselves in the midst of a relationship crisis when their two teenage children decide that they want to meet their biological father—the sperm donor who inadvertently creates tremendous havoc when he enters their lives. A sharp, insightful script, tremendous performances and Cholodenko's assured direction will see this on many of the year's top 10 lists (mine included). The DVD includes a batch of behind-the-scenes featurettes and a director's commentary.

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



Room  
in Rome.

## Reeling 2010: Second-week overview

BY RICHARD KNIGHT, JR.

As you read this Reeling 2010, Chicago's LGBT film festival that is almost 30 years old, has been going on for nearly a week. But a host of delightful LGBT-themed cinematic experiences and after-parties still await as the fest goes into its second and final week.

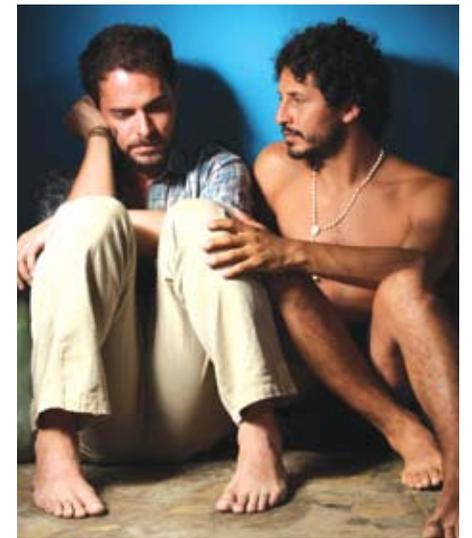
Complete festival information, tickets, theatres and locations by calling 773-293-1447 or at <http://www.reelingfilmfestival.org>. Highlights of Reeling's second-week schedule will run in next week's Windy City Times.

Here's a brief overview of some second-week Reeling films as reviewed by Richard Knight, Jr. (RKJ), Andrew Davis (AD) and Steve Warren (SW):

**Saturday, Nov. 13:**

—**Fit (AD):** In this British drama, Loris (played by writer-director Rikki Beadle-Blair) teaches a group of delinquents in his dance class. The ambitious movie tackles what seems like a thousand issues, and the classmates seem to be of every sexual orientation possible (which is laudable)—but, at 108 minutes, the movie could have been tightened a bit. Also, here's hoping subtitles are used during the screening, because the characters speak at a frenetic pace and use a lot of local slang.

—**The Topp Twins: Untouchable Girls (RKJ):** Who wouldn't fall hard for a movie that documents the extraordinary life of former farm girls turned country western-folk superstars Down Under who just happen to be twins—and lesbian, to boot? Though a tad on the long side, this chronicle of Jools and Lynn—a winning duo that call to mind the Roches and when in full voice, dueling k.d. lang—is ef-



Undertow (*Contracorriente*).

fervescent and just about irresistible. It's the feel-good film of the fest and another reason why 2010 has been the year of the lesbian movie. See it and get happy.

—**Undertow (Contracorriente) (RKJ):** This standout closing-night feature from Peru is a standout entry in this week's line-up. The film follows a hunky fisherman in a tiny village awaiting the birth of his first child with his anxious wife while carrying on a simultaneous affair with a male painter who sketches him in the nude. When the artist mysteriously drowns, the fisherman is literally haunted by him and is forced to confront his true feelings—just as the sketches are found by his gossiping, homophobic neighbors. A gay variation on *Truly, Madly Deeply* and any number of "on the down low" queer-themed indies, *Undertow* is a complicated, sexy relationship drama beautifully filmed and acted by its fetching cast.

Read the entire slate of reviews online at <http://www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com>.

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## BOOKS

# 'Henrietta Lacks' author Skloot in Chicago

BY TRACY BAIM

The *Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* is a book most journalists wish they could write. It is an amazing accomplishment that took years of sacrifice, gumption, credit-card debt, curiosity and the taking of the slightest hint of a story and molding it into one fantastic book. Call it the *Incredible Journey of Author Rebecca Skloot*.

Fortunately for Chicagoans, you will have a chance to hear Skloot in two upcoming events, and possibly more, as the young writer has moved to Chicago, because her boyfriend is returning to theatrical directing school in the area.

Skloot is participating in a public discussion about science writing with E.O. Wilson as part of the Chicago Humanities Festival Saturday, Nov. 13, 2-3:30 p.m. at Northwestern University School of Law, Thorne Auditorium, 375 E. Chicago. (See <http://www.chicagohumanities.org>.) This will be a discussion about science writing.

She will be giving an in-depth discussion about her book at a lecture, booksigning and dinner with special guests Bill Kurtis and John Garcia Tuesday, Nov. 16. The event is presented by The Chicago Council on Science and Technology and Children's Memorial Research Center and will also be at Thorne Auditorium at Northwestern. A members-only cocktail reception will be held at 5 p.m., followed by a 6 p.m. presentation and Q & A. See <http://www.c2st.org>, call 312-567-5829 or e-mail [rhodes@c2st.org](mailto:rhodes@c2st.org).

The *Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* reads like a sci-fi/mystery story, but it's all true. It tells the extraordinary tale of one African-American woman, Henrietta Lacks, and how her cells became the basis for a revolution in medicine. Lacks died young of an aggressive form of cancer, but her cells lived on, known to the world as HeLa, the first "immortal" human cells. These cells have helped in developing the polio vaccine; helped in cancer research; assisted in research on the atom bomb's effects; were part of key studies on *in vitro* fertilization, cloning and gene mapping; and they have even been to the moon.

Yet Lacks' cells were taken without her consent, and her family was unaware a "part of her" was still alive decades after her death. Little was explained to them, and they never benefited in any way from the contributions their relative's cells made to medicine. In fact, many of her family members never had their own proper healthcare.

Rebecca Skloot came to the story as any curious person would: She heard about these remarkable cells, and decided to dig further. She wanted to know why this one woman was unique, and if her background was relevant. What Skloot uncovered over 10 years of research was that while there were tragic circumstances that lead to Lacks' situation in life, and the exploitation of her cells, there were no actual initial medical violations, as what happened was common practice in the 1950s, especially to poor Black people in need of medical care.

But the story behind the writing of this book is just as interesting as the HeLa cells themselves. Skloot did not have a book deal in place, and no one was underwriting her expenses, as she traveled the country finding Lacks' surviving children and other relatives. They had been lied to and misled about Henrietta, so it took some time for Skloot to build their trust. In fact, Henrietta's daughter, Deborah, often traveled with Skloot on research treks and interviews, wanting to know more about the science, and religion, related to the cells of her mother.

The story is so compelling that Oprah Winfrey and Alan Ball will be producing a film version for HBO.

What I found most amazing about Skloot's journey was how it ended. She was not going to be in the same place as previous people who "took" from the Lacks family. She has set up a scholarship fund for Lacks' relatives, to send them to school. So far, the foundation has been able to cover tuition and books for five of Henrietta Lacks' descendants. See more details at <http://www.rebeccaskloot.com>.

"When it came to money, I didn't want to be another person who came along and potentially benefited from the family and their story with-

out doing something in return," Skloot writes on her Web site. "So I set up The Henrietta Lacks Foundation. I'm donating a portion of the book's proceeds to the foundation (which will also receive money from the creation of the movie, which Lacks family members will be paid consultants on). The foundation is open for anyone else to donate to."

Since first reading the book earlier this year, I have been telling everyone I know about *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*. It is my favorite book of the year, and among my top 10 of all time. Not just because, as a journalist, I admire the work, but because this book represents and discusses so many of the issues facing us still today, including medical ethics, access to healthcare, racism in scientific research and much more.

Skloot was kind enough to spend time with Windy City Times discussing her research and journey with Henrietta Lacks. She's currently working adapting the story for a children's book.

**Tracy Baim: Please tell me how you were able to do this book on your own for 10 years, and was it something you were consistently working on?**

Rebecca Skloot: Logistically, during the first several years, I did it on student loans, credit cards, and I went into a lot of debt. It was a pretty constant thing. I was also building my career as a writer—trying to break into national publications. I funded the book, sometimes by doing other stories in Baltimore and Virginia—I would then spend all day working on other stories, then at nights and weekends and extra days I would spend time with the Lacks family. I was moonlighting.

**TB: How soon did you get a book deal?**

RS: In the end, the publisher and editor who worked on the final version, was the third publishing house and fifth editor. I went through a lot of things with publishing houses. I did write a book proposal and sold it in 2001; and that itty bitty advance didn't touch a fraction of the debt. I was a grad student, it was a reputable publishing house and I had been rejected by a lot of publishers at that point. I didn't have the credentials. That publisher went out of business, and the book was sucked into the parent company, and the editor wanted to take the Lacks family out of the book, which started a bit of a battle, because I wasn't going to leave them out of the story. That lasted a year and a half. When I finally got it away from them, I went out with the same book proposal, and sold it again. In between those two times, I had been working on my freelance bio so much and I was a more experienced writer the second time. But nothing had changed about the proposal, just that I was more professionally established.

I went with Crown, in 2004, and I went through a few editors there as well. But it all worked out for the best—I ended up with an incredible editor at Crown. Deborah and her family would follow this [process], and she believed Henrietta was guiding me to the perfect editor.

**TB: How did you handle the complicated scientific aspects of this story?**

RS: I have an undergraduate degree in biology; I had a basic knowledge and textbooks. I also spent years, and paid my way through school and grad school, as a veterinary technician, so I was really immersed in science and medicine. I still had to do a lot of research, but I had enough of a foundation, so the research was pretty natural for me. I interviewed a lot of experts to get a sense, what was the most important thing? What was the most important contribution these cells made?

**TB: In the book, Henrietta's daughter, Deborah, is concerned about the cells from a religious perspective. Was her mother's soul "in" the cells still, feeling pain or somehow alive?**



Above: Rebecca Skloot.

Below: Deborah Lacks with cousin Gary Lacks. Photos courtesy of Rebecca Skloot



**How did you grapple with those issues?**

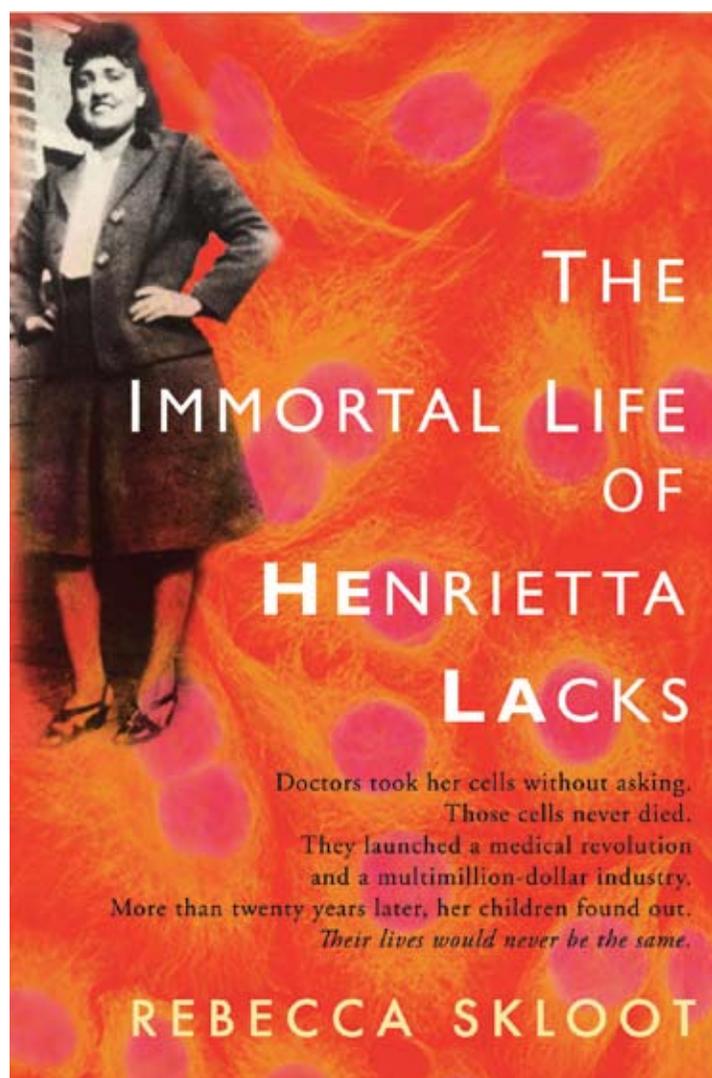
RS: I was very worried that my vastly different beliefs and lack of religious background was going to be a problem for the Lacks family. I was not raised in a religious family. I came at this as a scientist—I saw cells as cells, not an extension of Henrietta's soul as her family did. But that wasn't a problem at all. I worked very hard to learn where her family was coming from, to understand their beliefs. In the end, the experience really transformed my understanding of faith and the important role it can play in people's lives—I hadn't been exposed to that. It helped teach me how healthy faith can be for people.

Did they convert me? No. Did they change my understanding of religion as a whole and the role religion can play in science? Yes. People talk science vs. religion, as always being at odds with each other. I saw how religion and faith helped the family open to the science—they saw her as an angel who came back and takes care of people. The Bible talks about immortal life being granted to followers and says you never know what form that life will take. Some members of the Lacks family believed Henrietta had been brought back to life as an angel in these cells, to take care of people. That allowed them to feel good about the cells, to view them as something positive, and also be open to learning about the science behind them.

On the book tour, I talk to thousands of people weekly. One question frequently asked is "Were you able to straighten the family out about her soul being in the cells?" I respond to that by saying that they definitely learned what a cell is. But the question of whether her soul is alive in there is really a personal one for people—it depends on how you define life and soul, and what it means to have your DNA living on in a cell. There is no definitive answer for some of those things—it depends on personal belief, which is part of the beauty of the story.

**TB: This country has a horrific past of using poor people, and particularly African-Americans, in research, such as the Tuskegee experiment. Your book details much of this as relevant to the Lacks story. Can you see why some African-Americans believe AIDS is also part of this scientific conspiracy?**

Turn to page 27



## CLASSIFIEDS

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HOURS:  
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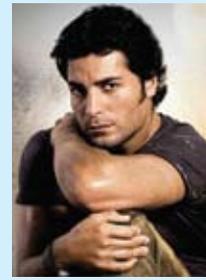
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## What? No Crystal Ball?

One of the most common questions I get asked is, "How do you do what you do?," or, more specifically, "You don't use cards or read palms. How do you do it?" The answer is simple: I read energy.

Our lives are a kaleidoscope of different vibrational patterns of energy. Our physical bodies, emotions, and thoughts all create, send, and attract energy vibrations. And our experiences, perceptions and thoughts determine the type of energy that we create, send, and attract. Like our fingerprints, our energy fields—or auras—are unique to us. And like our physical bodies, we must maintain, cleanse, and renew our auras.

The law of conservation of energy states

that energy cannot be created or destroyed; it simply changes form. Every living thing has its own unique energetic vibration that lives on in successive forms through eternity.

So, how do I do what I do? When I work with clients, I access or "read" their energy, which allows me to see situations occurring in their personal, work, love, or businesses lives. Once I tune into their specific vibration, I start to get impressions. They can range from specific words and emotions to pictures and sounds. These impressions help paint a picture of what's going on in their lives. Often, I am able to help my clients discover and remove energetic or situational blocks in their energy field that are not serving their highest good.

Think of your energy field as you do headlights on a car. If your headlights are dirty, your light does not shine brightly. But with a clean energy field and a little practice, you can learn how to control your aura settings as you do your car headlights. And when needed, you can easily turn on your bright lights. With our energy fields shining brightly, the power we have for positive change is limitless!

*Delphina, a Chicago-based psychic medium, is a columnist for Windy City Times.*

*See [Spiritguiding.com](http://Spiritguiding.com) or email questions to [spiritguiding@gmail.com](mailto:spiritguiding@gmail.com).*

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# calendar

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WINDY CITY TIMES



## Wed., Nov. 10

**Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame** The only known government-sponsored hall of fame that honors members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community this year honors 11 individuals and four organizations; the event is free and open to the public; Mayor Richard M. Daley to speak. 5:30 p.m., Chicago Cultural Center, 78 E Washington, <http://www.windycitymediagroup.com/gay/lesbian/news/article.php?aid=28620>

**BISEXUAL Panel Discussion** is a casual, peer-lead conversation group. This is an event for bisexuals, bi-curious, and bi-alleys to form community, share ideas, and connect with peers. Come check us out and help build the bisexual community! 7 p.m., Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted

**Reeling 2010: I Love You Phillip Morris** stars Jim Carrey and Ewan McGregor (as the title character). From directors Glenn Ficarra and John Requa (Bad Santa), I Love You Phillip Morris is a hysterical comedy, grounded in an emotionally honest (and true!) love story. 9 p.m., Landmark Century Centre Cinema, 2828 N Clark, <http://reelingfilmfestival.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-pooohs! 9 p.m., Rehab Lounge, 3641 N. Halsted, <http://www.amyfreddy.com>

## Thursday, Nov. 11

**American Veterans for Equal Rights (GLBT veterans) Veterans Day dinner** Annual dinner, silent auction. More information

## BIG 'VALLEY' Saturday, Nov. 20

A Valley of the Dolls screening with Patty Duke (right) will take place at the Music Box Theatre, 3733 N. Southport.



to come. 6:30 p.m., 773-752-0058, Ann Sather - Lakeview, 909 W Belmont Avenue, <http://www.averchicago.org/>

**Speed Dating with Amy Armstrong** Speed dating even for young, gay male professionals 25-35. Check in at 6:30. Dating begins at 7. Hosted by the bawdy and bodacious Amy Armstrong. 1/2 off wine bottles with food purchase, 6 PBRs for \$6, \$12 carafes of Absolut cocktails. Register now at [demodating.com](http://demodating.com). 6:30 p.m., Cocktail Chicago, 3359 N Halsted Street, <http://www.cocktailbarchicago.com>

**Gay Bar: The Fabulous, True Story of a Daring Woman & Her Boys in the 1950s** Gray-haired grandmother Helen P. Branson was about the last person you'd expect to run a gay bar in 1950s Hollywood, yet for the better part of a decade she cheerfully served up beer and sympathy to the men she affectionately referred to as her boys. Sixty years later, when writer and anthropologist Will Fellows (Farm Boys) discovered a copy of her long out-of-print memoir, he knew Helen's was a story worth telling.

Combining her original text with his own biographical sleuthing, cultural criticism and historical research, Fellows brings those pre-Stonewall days roaring back to life. 7:30 p.m., Women & Children First, 5233 N. Clark, <http://www.womenandchildrenfirst.com>

**Mark Ortega and Friends** Sofo Entertainment kicks off its fall live music showcase with Mark Ortega and Friends. Inspired by Chicago's wealth of vocal talent, Sofo's 2010 Gay Idol Mark Ortega will showcase his artistry along with 2010 Gays Got Talent and Gay Idol Finalist Michael McBride, 2010 Gay Idol Finalist James Gavin, and talented singer/songwriter extraordinaire Stephen Leonard. The group will also come together to sing a moving tribute to the Trevor Project. No cover! 9 p.m., Sofo, 4923 N Clark, <http://www.sofobar-chicago.com>

## Friday, Nov. 12

**OUT & Greek National LGBT & Ally Fraternity & Sorority Leadership Conference** Early-Bird registration available until Nov. 1: national speakers, featured workshops and roundtable discussions train fraternity and sorority members, advisors and staff on LGBT issues. 10am, Indiana University, <http://www.lambda10.org/outandgreek>

**Fine Arts Building, Open Studios** Visit the historic building and meet the artists, musicians, and other creative types who make up our community and get a head-start on your holiday shopping while you're here and enjoy a closing reception for the Annual Members' Show, in the Second Floor Gallery from 5:30 - 8:30. Open Studios are held the second Friday of every month. 5 p.m., 708-822-0063, The Fine Arts Building 410 S Michigan Ave., Chicago

**Affinity/Zuna Institute Reception** Also see online for Affinity/Zuna Institute Panel Discussion & Town Hall Meeting, Saturday, Nov. 13, 2010, 10 am - 1 p.m.; 5 p.m., Club Quarters, 75 E. Wacker, <http://www.affinity95.org>

**Sixer Mixer** A happy-hour event with LCCP and the amazing providers of Howard Brown Health Center. Come meet the great team behind LCCP's amazing services! Enjoy drinks & light appetizers with 6 of our providers. Created by LCCP, Howard Brown Health Center, Ticia Smith. \$20 at the door=Drink tickets, appetizers. All proceeds benefit LCCP. 6 p.m., The Glenwood, 6962 N Glenwood, <http://www.lccp.org>

**Savage Love with Dan and Bill Savage** Dan and Bill Savage share an interest in sex education. And they want to share it with you, too. Dan's enormously popular weekly column, "Savage Love," and podcast, the Savage Lovecast, address questions

pertaining to love and sex from all walks of life. In this live edition of the Savage Lovecast, Dan invites questions from the audience, and Bill, a senior lecturer in English at Northwestern University, moderates. This program is not recommended for children under 13. General: \$15.00. Teachers & Students: \$5.00; 8 p.m., Francis W. Parker School, Heller Auditorium, 2233 N Clark St., Chicago, <http://www.chicagohumanities.org>

**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, <http://www.facebook.com/pjproductions>

**Chicago Rowing Union fifth anniversary benefit** Beer, wine, and hors d'oeuvres, along with a silent auction and door prizes. \$40 advance, \$50 at door; 7 p.m., Classic Kids Photography, 917 W. Armitage, <http://www.chicagorowingunion.org/benefit>

## Saturday, Nov. 13

**Vikki Carr and her all-star band** Vikki Carr is one of the best-loved and most accomplished entertainers in the United States, Latin America and Europe. This year marks the fifth decade of a career in which she has won three Grammy Awards and has released over 60 best-selling recordings. 1 p.m., 847-877-3915, Olympic Theater, 6134 W. Cermak, Cicero, <http://www.reventionpromotions.com>

**Notre Dame Parish Gay and Lesbian Ministry monthly discussion group** This month we will view the documentary No Dumb Questions by Melissa Regan. In light of the recent teen suicides we will also be providing the pamphlet "What Does Gay Mean?" How to Talk with Kids about Sexual Orientation and Prejudice. Inf Jackie Frett: [jackiekf@aol.com](mailto:jackiekf@aol.com); 1 p.m., 630-915-1870, Notre Dame Parish, Marian Room, 64 Norfolk, Clarendon Hills

**Transgender Community Social** Please join Equality Illinois for a Transgender Community Social at The Glenwood. This fun event will include live entertainment and door prizes. Sponsored in part by ChicagoPride.com's "What's The T?" Transgender Community Channel. All are welcome, including those who are under 21 years of age! 4 p.m., 773-477-7173, The Glenwood, 6962 N. Glenwood

**OPALGA's 14th Annual OPAL Gala** Oak Park Area Lesbian and Gay Association will hold its annual fund raiser; Cucina Paradiso will host with many changes to this highly anticipated event. \$85, cash bar. 6:30 p.m., 708-848-0273, Century Club, 178 Forest, Oak Park, <http://www.opalga.org>

**Chicago Gay Men's Chorus Lipstick and Lyrics** "Bad Romance": Back bigger and more glamorous than ever, the "girls" of CGMC strut their stuff and sing of love, relationships and dating. 7 p.m., 773-296-0541, Temptations Nightclub, 10235 W Grand, <http://www.cgmc.org>

## Sunday, Nov. 14

**Queer Dharma Chicago** Queer Dharma meets every Sunday from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. at the Shambhala Meditation center for sitting meditation, discussion & socializing. Free meditation instruction. [www.queerdharmachicago@googlegroups.com](http://www.queerdharmachicago@googlegroups.com). 6:30 p.m., (773) 230-3886, Shambhala Meditation Center, 7331 N. Sheridan, <http://chicago.shambhala.org/programs.php?cid=170>

**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,



## CARREY ON Wed., Nov. 10

Jim Carrey (right) and Ewan McGregor star in I Love You Phillip Morris, showing at Landmark Century Centre Cinema, 2828 N. Clark.

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. 10:15 a.m., Urban Village Church, Spertus Institute, 610 S. Michigan, <http://www.newchicagochurch.com/>

## Monday, Nov. 15

**Out 46th Ward alderman candidate Don Nowotny fundraiser** RSVP to [ProgressiveSolutionsLLC@gmail.com](mailto:ProgressiveSolutionsLLC@gmail.com) or 773-772-4414; 6 p.m., 773-772-4414, T's Restaurant and Bar, 5025 N. Clark

**Essay Fiesta one-year anniversary** Essay Fiesta, a free monthly reading series to benefit Howard Brown Health Center celebrates with a line-up of Keith Ecker, stand-up comics Beth Stelling and Cameron Esposito, Neo-Futurist Andy Bayiates, This Much Is True host Deanna Moffitt and Stories at the Store host Jen Bosworth. In its first year, Essay Fiesta helped raise nearly \$1,500 for the community health center. 7 p.m., The Book Cellar, 4736 N. Lincoln, <http://essayfiesta.com>

## Tuesday, Nov. 16

**The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks lecture, book-signing and dinner** The Chicago Council on Science and Technology & Children's Memorial Research Center present best-selling Author Rebecca Skloot, featuring special guests, veteran journalist Bill Kurtis and WLS TV's John Garcia. Presentation tickets at door; 6 p.m., 312-567-5829, Northwestern University, Thorne Auditorium, 375 E. Chicago

## Wed., Nov. 17

**You're the Star Karaoke with Honey West** Take your place in the spotlight! There's not a bad seat in the house. 10 p.m., (773)281-3355, Roscoe's Tavern, 3356 N Halsted St, <http://www.roscoes.com>

## Saturday, Nov. 20

**Valley of the Dolls with PATTY DUKE!!!** Camp Midnight invites you to a one-of-a-kind screening event. Academy Award winner Patty Duke, star of the infamous 1967 film, will be present for the evening. Camp Midnight kicks off the evening with a wacky, fun-filled 7:00 p.m. prime time pre-show featuring the actors of Hell in a Handbag Productions as your favorite Valley girls! There will also be a costume parade, Valley of the Dolls sing-a-long at the Music Box organ and more. 7 p.m., Music Box Theatre, 3733 N. Southport, <http://www.musicboxtheatre.com>

## Monday, Nov. 22

**Mary Trew swearing-in ceremony** Trew will be sworn in as a Cook County judge. Reception follows at Patterino's, Randolph and Dearborn; 3 p.m., The State of Illinois Building: 160 North LaSalle



## ON THE MARX

### Thursday, Nov. 18

The Jewish Council on Urban Affairs will present the Rabbi Robert J. Marx Social Justice Award to Esther Saks and daughters Ruth, Beth, Jane (above) and Naomi at the Millennium Knickerbocker Hotel Chicago, 163 E. Walton.

# BILLY MASTERS

"I always wanted to be a daddy."—Ricky Martin on The View. Get your minds out of the gutter—he's talking about being a father. BTW, do you know what his nickname is? "When I am onstage or in front of the cameras, I am 'Ricky'; but in private I am 'Kiki.'" Hard to call someone named Kiki a "daddy!"

With fall in the air—even in Los Angeles—I was overcome with the need to clean out my closets. I started with pants, which fall into three categories—things I can fit into; things I can look good in even if I'm 5-10 pounds overweight; and things I cannot zip up if my life depended on it, but hold onto because they're so cute. Sadly, the bulk of my closet was filled with clothes from that last category—clothes that I will NEVER fit again. After trying everything on, I got rid of 76 pairs of pants—many of which still had tags. Like the good, philanthropic person I try to be, I packed up all my petite gems and brought them to "Out of the Closet," the thrift shop that raises money for the AIDS Healthcare Foundation. (Did I ever tell you about running into Brad Pitt there? Remind me sometime—it's a funny story.) My fear is that some night I'll pick up a hot little number wearing one of my hot little numbers! He'll ask, "Do you want to get into my pants?" And I'll say, "No, I want my pants BACK!"

The fall also brings Halloween—a holiday taken VERY seriously in West Hollywood. When planning a look, most of our residents ask a question like, "What goes with a Speedo?" Or "Could one of those Chilean miners have been shirtless?" After Michael Phelps' Olympic win, we saw lots of boys in skimpy suits, bathing caps and goggles, because it is *de rigueur* to show as much skin as possible.



Oprah gets a leg up on Portia. Photo by Jerry Nunn

Rather than hit the street and deal with the throngs and multitudes (to say nothing of the multitude of thongs), I went to *the* Halloween party—Halloween at Palihouse. The party was thrown by my buddy Chad Hudson, who produces all the big swanky studio parties associated with premieres, award shows, etc. Chad knows how to provide any situation with the best possible experience, and this party was a perfect example of why he's so successful. Given Chad's status in the industry, there was quite a kerfuffle to get in—unless, of course, you're Billy Masters. Then you are greeted at the door and are escorted through the crowd by Corbett Harper, aka Speedo Boy. (Check out his blog at CorbettHarper.com.) Other luminaries included Lance Bass, Marc Cornelisen, JP Calderone, Adam Shankman, James Duke Mason, Kelly Osbourne, Jai Rodriguez, Kevin Williamson and assorted soap, porn and incognito actors. I had a blast, and will post some pics on BillyMasters.com.

One of the people cavorting in town was Trace Lehnhoff, who you may know as Jeff Lewis' cute assistant on Flipping Out. Trace happens to have a tight, well-defined body (and could probably have fit into the bulk of my discarded wardrobe). What did he wear for Halloween? Football shoulder pads, a jock strap and a smile! At one point, he planned on bringing a rape whistle—just in case! When I saw him, he had slipped on a pair of lace-up football pants that were ... well, unlaced! We'll run some hot pics on BillyMasters.com. Let me add that he has a penchant for

showing skin around the holidays. Check out our site for more mouthwatering seasonal gay apparel.

Let me make a confession—I don't really get into The Oprah. I like her, but she never gets anything really juicy out of celebrities because she coddles them too much. That said, I watched her interview with Portia De Rossi and noticed that Winfrey has enormous trouble crossing her legs. Throughout the chat, she actually had to hold her left knee in a death grip to keep it from flying off her right thigh! Portia's big reveal was that the shame of being a lesbian drove her to anorexia—at one point, she only weighed 82 pounds. When she said that, I was sure Oprah's leg was gonna take flight! Note to self—if I want to get back into my skinny jeans, start sleeping with women.

Lesbians are making news overseas as well. For the first time in the history of the Dancing With The Stars franchise, there will be a same-sex couple dancing—and it's in Israel!! And it's not some old handsome woman with whiskers and a hump like Golda Meir. This is a sexy TV sportscaster named Gili Shem-Tov. She's openly gay and when she was invited onto the show, she said she'd only do it if she could have a female partner—and the producers said yes. Bear in mind that while Israel can be old fashioned in some ways, gays can serve in the military. So why not dance on TV together? Maybe they could do the Gaza Strip—bada bing!

A month ago I told you that Kim Cattrall was in discussions to star opposite Bernadette Peters in Stephen Sondheim's musical, *Follies*, which will play a limited run at the Kennedy Center in D.C. next May. It is true that Cattrall was considered (and/or was considering it). After all, she is a thespian who is playing "Cleopatra" in Shakespeare's "Antony and Cleopatra" in the city of her birth—Liverpool, England. But that's neither hither nor yon (as the bard would say). Cattrall is out, and Jan Maxwell is in as Phyllis. Even more interesting is the list of legendary ladies who will take on the smaller character roles—people like Florence Lacey, Rosalind Elias, Linda Lavin, Regine and Elaine Paige. Wait a minute? Bernadette Peters and Elaine Paige in the same show? Musical theatre fans around the globe must be kvelling! Needless to say, Paige is playing Carlotta Campion, who gets to sing "I'm Still Here." But, just for a second, imagine Bernadette and Elaine as Sally and Phyllis" ... and throw in a LuPone as Carlotta—now THAT'S a show. (Have I mentioned that Glenn Close has still not called Patti?)

Our "Ask Billy" question comes from Christian in Miami: "What happened with that 'Philip Morris' movie with Jim Carrey and Ewan McGregor playing lovers? Is it ever coming out?"

I Love You Philip Morris has been on and off the shelf so many times, even I had to look up the latest news. Allegedly, it will open "in select cities" Dec. 3. But who do you think saw the movie six months ago? Billy Masters, that's who. So, since many of you clearly want to watch it, why don't I just point you in the right direction courtesy of BillyMasters.com and you can see it for yourself. Consider it an early holiday gift.

When I'm scheduling movie screenings, it's definitely time to end yet another column. See? One-stop shopping—that's what www.BillyMasters.com is all about. In fact, it's never too early to buy a stocking stuffer for that special someone. And with enough notice, I could personally stuff that stocking (in addition to other things). For all your needs, I'm just a mouse click away. Just send a note along to Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before Glenn calls Patti. (Like LuPone, I have no intention of letting this go.) So, until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible.

## Take it off Jason!

Through November, Jason (representing Sidetrack) will compete against contestants from 12 other community businesses for the title of "Chicago's Sexiest" to raise money for TPAN.

## Bar-lesque 3.0 COMPETITION

It's an online strip-a-thon! As people visit [bar-lesque.org](http://bar-lesque.org) and make donations the contestants will appear in various stages of undress. Over the 5 donation levels contestants go from fully dressed to "nature's best."

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## Amy Sedaris gets 'Craft'-y

BY JERRY NUNN

The comedian Amy Sedaris is bringing her funny to a new book, entitled *Simple Times: Crafts for Poor People!* Arriving in Chicago this week, Amy chatted Nunn on One before her appearance.

**Windy City Times:** Hello, Amy. I got your new book yesterday. It is really funny!

Amy Sedaris: You like it? Oh, that's good to hear.

**WCT:** I love that the cover turns into a hat. That's genius.

AS: I figure if you are going to have a craft book then you might as well be able to make something with it. Everything has got to be used for something.

**WCT:** When did you start crafting?

AS: I have always done things like that since I was a child with Girl Scouts and Junior Achievement. You make something and try to go door to door and sell it. Nothing has changed. I still do that. I just wanted to do a craft book. People who really craft are not going to learn anything but maybe visually they will be inspired by something.

**WCT:** It brought back memories to me. I grew up in the South so we craft done there, honey.

AS: Oh, there you go!

**WCT:** That shell picture was a classic.

AS: The bathing suit? We had a lot to choose from and that was a really hard decision. It was ridiculous! [Both laugh.]

**WCT:** Who did the photography?

AS: Jason Frank Rothenberg did the photography for the book.

**WCT:** Loved it.

AS: Yeah, he did a great job.

**WCT:** Are you a hoarder with your crafts? Are they all over your house?

AS: They were; I put them all in storage. Some things I have out but not too much. You just get tired of looking at it and it kind of just takes over your home. I couldn't wait to get it out of my apartment. We shot the whole book here in my apartment so I was constantly around it. It was too much.

**WCT:** The tin can stilts were great. Then you could use them as a telephone after.

AS: I wish I had thought of that! They are really dangerous especially if you use the can upside down. If you didn't use the proper can opener then you could really hurt yourself. They are hard to walk in. My friend, Adam, did it in bare feet. I couldn't believe it. It looked painful.

**WCT:** The Chianti candle is straight from my college days. Everyone has one in college.

AS: Yeah, I know. It is the nastiest thing. That is a nasty project.

**WCT:** And talk about *Strangers With Candy*, you have recipes for fudge and cookies.

AS: I asked different mothers for their recipes. Paul Dinello's mom gave me the fudge recipe. Neil Patrick Harris' mother gave me the ooglie googlie bars or something like that...

**WCT:** The ooey gooey bars. I will have to try that out.

AS: They are really good.

**WCT:** Is there anything that you wished had been in the book that you didn't put in there?

AS: It's funny. People ask me that and I can't really think of anything. The whole reason that the sausage chapter is in there is because I wanted to do a sausage link for a sausage curl wig and then we didn't put it in there. We wound up doing a sausage log cabin instead. Which is just as gross, so... That's the only thing I can think of; pretty much everything made it.

**WCT:** I think you should do a crafting-for-gays book.

AS: Okay. What would that be like?

**WCT:** Well, you could still do the sandwich-bag condom.

AS: Oh, yeah—big hit.

**WCT:** And then all the sausage stuff you could go to town with! [Sedaris laughs.] What do you think of crafters like Martha Stewart or Rosie O' Donnell?

AS: I met with Rosie O' Donnell and I got to see her craft room. It's great. We do different things. You know what I mean?

**WCT:** Sure.

AS: Martha's stuff is very complicated for me. I like really simple things. Again, what I learned in Girl Scouts I still like. Her crafts are over my head. I could never do them.

**WCT:** I can imagine it is intimidating for many people watching her show.

AS: Yes, oh my God. We did a pep-talk chapter in the book—"just slow down, if you are worried that your crafts don't look as good as the ones in this book." Yeah, rrrright.

**WCT:** So what projects do you have coming up? I heard about "The Drunk and On Drugs Happy Fun Time Hour."



Amy Sedaris.

AS: Oh, yeah; I did that in Canada. Those guys were fantastic to work with. I don't know when that starts to air but I really had a good time on it.

I have a movie coming out that I did with Neil Patrick Harris, *The Best and the Brightest*, and I think that comes out in the spring.

**WCT:** That will be great. I like him.

AS: Oh, I love him. He's the best. He inspired my whole chapter "Out of This World" because he does magic tricks. He showed me a bunch of them. There isn't anything that guy can't do.

**WCT:** Are you going on *David Letterman* to promote the book?

AS: I just did. I am running around all over the place.

**WCT:** Including Chicago this week. I will drop by and say hi.

AS: Oh, please do.

**Amy Sedaris will be at Borders, 830 N. Michigan, Saturday, Nov. 13, at 3 p.m. Her brother, David, will be at Borders, 2817 N. Clark, on Tuesday, Nov. 16, at 6 p.m. Visit <http://www.borders.com> for detail and future events.**

### SPORTS: FLAG FOOTBALL

## Teresa Schirrippa's 'World' view

BY ROSS FORMAN

Teresa Schirrippa had quite the "What I did over summer break" story to tell her students at Josephinum Academy, an all-girls Catholic school in Wicker Park.

T, as she is known, went to Canada in mid-August to play in the fifth-annual World Women's Senior Flag Football Championships, played in Ottawa. Participating teams included Sweden, Germany, Austria, Denmark, Israel, Japan, Mexico, the United States and Canada.

The U.S. women came in second, losing to Canada 31-18 in the championship game. Schirrippa was the lone Chicagoan on the team.

"It was such an incredible experience to play against such talented football teams; I'm not used to that much competition," said Schirrippa, a physical education/health teacher at Josephinum who also is the school's athletic director, basketball and softball coach.

"Also, meeting and playing against different countries was so much fun. Luckily, I knew most of the players on my team already, which was great. The only thing I didn't like was the style of play. I am used to 8 [against] 8 full contact flag. These rules were 5-5 [and] no contact. As the rusher, I had to stand seven yards from the line of scrimmage in order to rush the quarterback. It made it a lot more difficult to get sacks."

Schirrippa played two games this spring for the Chicago Force, a women's tackle football team, including the team's playoff game in Dallas. She previously played five seasons (2003-2007) for the New York Sharks tackle football team, and she's played on the New York TNT (contact flag-football) team for the past eight years.

Traditionally a running back in tackle football, the Force moved her to wide receiver. In flag football, she plays defensive end.

"It's funny. Of all the teams we played [against in the August tournament], I thought it was so much more difficult playing against Japan and Mexico," Schirrippa said. "After seeing them play, I was much more worried about playing them [than Canada]. They had trick plays in the backfield and tremendous speed. The team from Japan did so many handoffs in the back field you could never tell who had the ball. Luckily our defense was disciplined enough to just follow and stay tight on the girl we were guarding [so] we were able to get the flag before they got too many yards. The girls on the Mexican team were so fast and swivel their hips so quick. Those games were much more difficult. Canada didn't have the speed or trick plays; they just threw long passes on us for touchdowns."

"We'll get the gold next time for sure."

Schirrippa, 25, who lives in Bucktown, had her first interception on defense in the tournament.

"It was exciting," Schirrippa said of her interception. "Also, I don't ever play offense in flag football, but I played receiver in the tournament as well and scored a few touchdowns which, of course, is exciting."

"I played much better offensively than I did defensively, which is surprising for me to say about flag football. [Since] I am so used to playing defense, I've become very comfortable in that position. We play a lot of the same teams year round, so I've learned the best way to get to each specific quarterback. In this tournament, I didn't have many sacks because of how far I had to stand back. My coach said I played great because I put so much pressure on the quarterback, but I am not really satis-

fied unless I get the sack. I was able to make good plays on offense and score a few touchdowns and extra points. As long as I am able to contribute somehow that's all that matters."

Schirrippa said her tournament highlight was defeating Mexico in a close battle that easily could have gone either way.

"They were so good and it came down to the very last play," Schirrippa said. "Anytime you win a game at the last second, it is always more fun that blowing a team out."

Schirrippa knew most of her tournament teammates from her run with the Sharks and TNT.

"I was originally selected [to Team USA] for defense, but halfway through the summer, my coach told me I needed to learn the offense because I was going to be playing receiver," she said.

"It's funny ... I wasn't really that excited going into [the tournament] because it was my last week of summer vacation. But once I got there, it was great and I am really looking forward to playing again in two years."

Schirrippa was going to play for the Force in 2008, but was injured in a flag tournament in Florida. She had her cheek and orbital bones shattered and needed reconstructive surgery.

Force general manager Linda Bache ran into Schirrippa this past May at an NFL-sanctioned flag football clinic. "I had a group of players there to help run the clinic and I talked her into coming to a Force game the next day. She was geared up at practice the following Monday and she played in [the Force's next two games.]"

"T is a great addition to the team. It's unusual to pick up a player with that kind of experience. She has good hands and is also very quick. We threw her into the deep end last year—[during] her first practice, she was taking [repetitions] at running back and she played in [her first Force game] after having just one week to acclimate to the offense. She'll be used at running back and slot receiver again [in 2011]. She gives us a burst that we've been missing. Coach [John] Konecki and I are both very excited about having her on the field this coming season."

Schirrippa graduated from Elon University in 2007, where she played lacrosse as well as several intramural and club sports.

"I am starting a flag football intramural at my school this fall," she said. "The girls are really looking forward to playing and I am also am really excited to teach them how to play."



Teresa Schirrippa. Photo courtesy of Schirrippa

**SKLOOT from page 22**

RS: You can't separate AIDS from the long history of African-Americans being used without their consent. There is so much mistrust between African-Americans and science, with things happening behind their backs. Historically this has happened. Scientists are trying so hard to get beyond that. There are diversity outreach people whose jobs are to move beyond that so that African-Americans are not under-represented in studies, and because they need to see doctors for their health.

But there are a lot of people who don't know where that fear comes from. ... You can't separate race out from the story. She was Black and had to go to that hospital [Johns Hopkins], because if you were Black and poor you ended up in public wards. I wanted to show where race was and was not involved. To straighten out the myths, and show where that mistrust comes from. Why is it Black people believe there is a government plot? Because these things have happened.

It is interesting to me that I hear from scientists that understanding this story helps them understand where this mistrust is coming from. At one reading, a woman stood up, an AIDS researcher, and she said she spent a lot of her time trying to get African-Americans to participate in a study. She said, 'For years I have been hearing them say I was going to inject them with AIDS. I thought they were crazy, this conspiracy theory, how could they possibly think that.' She read the book, and saw it was based on fact. She said this has allowed her to go to patients and say 'I know where you are coming from,' to help start bridging that gap by knowing the full story.

I talk about where that mistrust comes from, for everybody to get beyond it. For African-Americans and the scientists.

**TB: The book notes that Henrietta Lacks did receive the standard of care for her time, and the scientists did not appear to violate any common practices. But in the 1970s, her medical records were released without her family's consent. Was that common or a violation?**

RS: People often focus on the HeLa cells as the big ethical issue, taken without asking, etc. That's the most ethnically uncomplicated part of story. Informed consent didn't exist then. It was more complicated in the 1970s when researchers went back to her children to do research on them without consent. We did have informed consent by that point, and many of the laws we have today that say you can't do research on people without consent were already in place. The same is true for the 1980s when her medical records were released to the press without the family's consent and published; that would not have been standard practice at that point. In 2009 when the book was going to press, more of her medical records were released and published, with pictures from her biopsies, etc.

**TB: How did you handle being a white woman negotiating this story with the Lacks family?**

RS: They had every reason to not trust another white person. It took a long time to win their trust, and that had some to do with race. But they weren't going to trust anybody, for many reasons, it wasn't just about race. Once they began to trust me, and I began doing the work, Deborah [Henrietta's daughter] ... said, yes, race was an important aspect of the story, but that the story wasn't just about race—it was also a story about class and education, and so much more, that it was an important story for everybody. In the end, she really felt it was important that I was white and that we were coming from such different backgrounds, approaching the story from different points of view.

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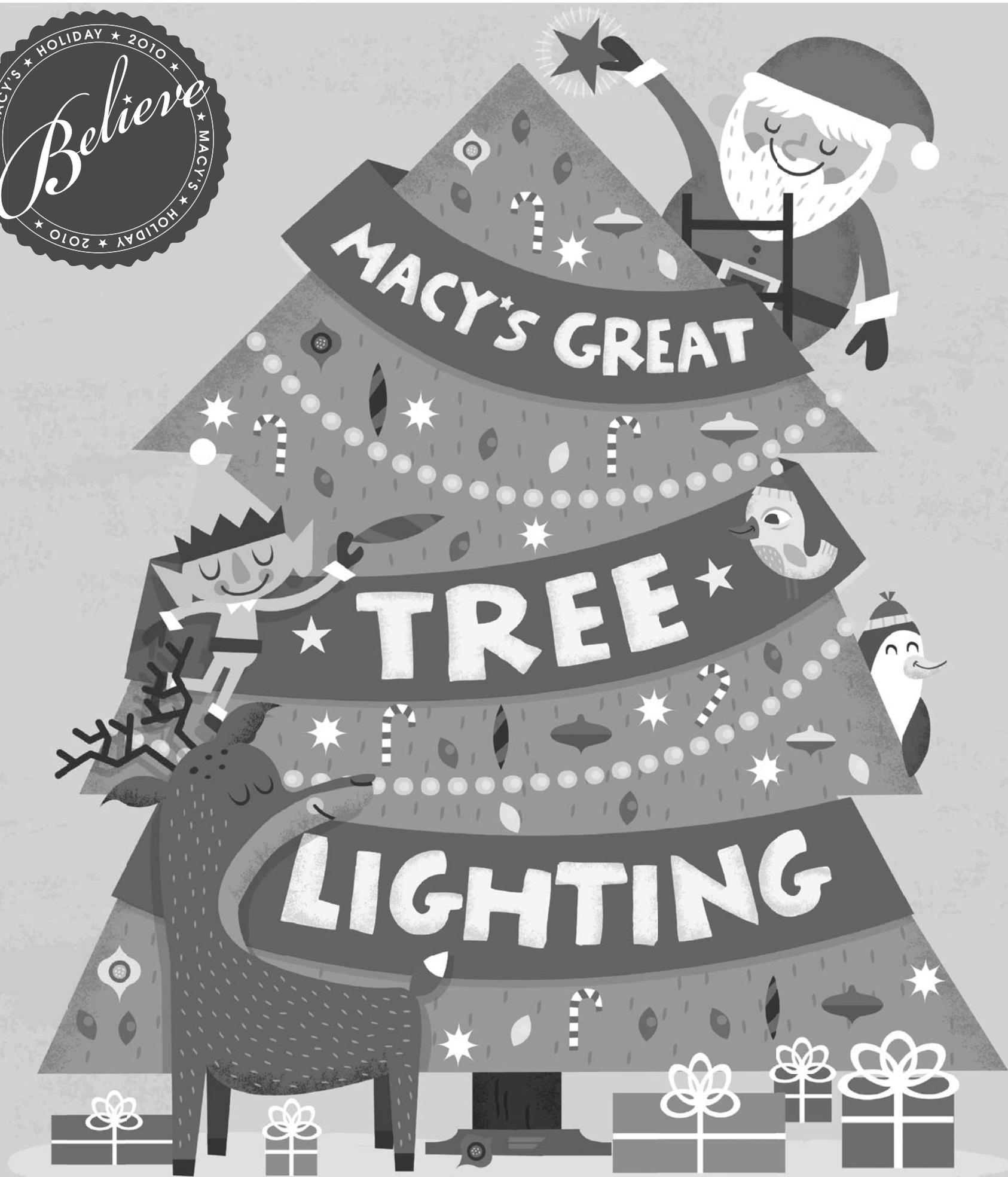
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