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WINDY CITY TIMES

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BI AND TRANS COMMUNITY SINCE 1985

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MICHAEL FEINSTEIN**

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MCPHEE INTERVIEW**

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DADT repealed: Ban to be history

BY REX WOCKNER

"Don't Ask, Don't Tell," the military's ban on open gays, is headed for the dustbin of history.

The Senate voted 65-31 on Dec. 18 to authorize the policy's repeal and sent the measure to President Barack Obama for his signature.

Eight Republicans joined all but one Democrat in voting to repeal the ban. They were Susan Collins and Olympia Snowe of Maine, Scott Brown of Massachusetts, Richard Burr of North Carolina, John Ensign of Nevada, Mark Kirk of Illinois, Lisa Murkowski of Alaska and George Voinovich of Ohio. Democrat Joe Manchin of West Virginia did not vote.

Obama plans to sign the bill quickly, but that will not end the ban. Gay servicemembers will need to stay in the closet for a few more months.

After Obama signs the measure, he and the secretary of defense and the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff must certify that the military is ready for the change and that it will not harm military readiness or effectiveness, unit cohesion, recruiting or member retention.

Then, after that, DADT repeal will take effect 60 days later. The process is expected to proceed relatively smoothly.

"No longer will patriots be forced to lie in order to serve the country they love and are willing to die for," said Human Rights Campaign President Joe Solmonese. "This vote by the United States Senate will have extremely positive ripple effects well beyond Don't Ask, Don't Tell."

"Our government has sent a powerful message that discrimination, on any level, should not be tolerated."

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President Obama makes Congressional calls before the Dec. 18 Senate DADT-repeal vote. White House photo by Pete Souza

Rick Garcia's bitter split from Equality Illinois

BY YASMIN NAIR

Rick Garcia was let go from his post as political director of Equality Illinois last week. He is fighting back against the termination.

Equality Illinois Executive Director Bernard Cherkasov announced Dec. 17 that Garcia, a co-founder of the agency, was no longer working with the organization.

Coming on the heels of the civil-unions bill and in the midst of the holiday season, the news has caused ripples of shock as well as a great many questions on many sides. Garcia has had a long career in the arena of gay rights and has, over the years, engendered as much support as criticism due to his style of advocacy. He has not been known to mince his words, a trait that was in evidence in an initial interview he did with Windy City Times immediately following the announcement.

In the intervening few days, Windy City Times

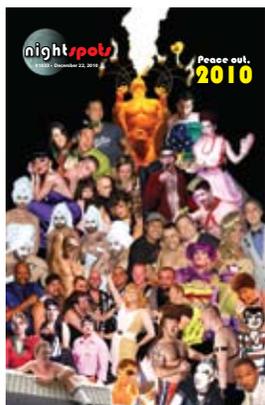


Rick Garcia. Photo by Kat Fitzgerald

has been speaking to a number of people about the controversy in order to get a fuller sense of the events that led to the decision; the following is a compendium of initial responses. In the following weeks, we will continue to gather more responses, information and analysis on an ongoing basis.

June LaTrobe is a longtime friend and political associate of Garcia. The two have worked together on numerous campaigns. Asked what she thought might be the reasons for the ouster, she said, "I don't know. I can't imagine that whatever the executive director's motivation was, he would not have anticipated the firestorm that it would cause. I've gotten the impression that the morale among staff is not what it could have been and part of that." She said that was the impression she got from staff members, but she

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Photos on cover (left, from top): Photograph of Gery Chico from Brooke Anderson; Michael Feinstein PR photo; Katharine McPhee PR image

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A MORE PERFECT UNION
Equality Illinois and Lambda Legal held an informative civil-unions forum Dec. 15. Read about what happened.

Photo of panelist Simon Aronoff by Kate Sosin



Bent Nights looks at shows by Old Comiskey's and The Homoticons; also see photos from John Legend's show in Hammond, Ind.

Photo by Jerry Nunn



Dane Tidwell talked with WCT about how his local company may revolutionize politics—and much more.

Photo from D. Tidwell

AVE MARIA

See City Treasurer Maria Pappas exhibit holiday spirit at a recent gathering.

PARTY TIME

Find out what went on during Bisexual Queer Alliance Chicago's holiday party.

THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT

This week's entertainment round-up includes bits on Carrie Fisher, George Michael and Neil Patrick Harris.

plus
DAILY BREAKING NEWS

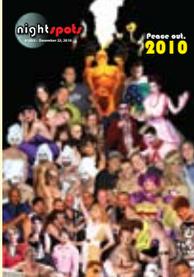
STEAK 'N SHAKE



Dish List returns with a look at two steakhouses: Chicago Cut Steakhouse and Grotto Oak Brook.

Photo courtesy of Megan Osterhout

A look back at THE BEST photos from 2010, plus all your New Year's eve events!



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DADT repeal passes Senate

BY LISA KEEN
KEEN NEWS SERVICE

The U.S. Senate approved a bill Saturday, Dec. 18, to repeal "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" (DADT), the 17-year-old law banning openly gay people from serving in the military. The roll-call vote on the measure, which came to the Senate Dec. 15 from the House, was 65 to 31. It had passed the House 250 to 175. Because both bills are identical, it now moves to the president's desk for his signature. The White House issued a statement, calling the vote "an historic step toward ending a policy that undermines our national security."

The Senate vote to repeal the DADT, which came at about 3:20 p.m. ET on Dec. 18, seemed almost anti-climactic. It came three hours after a procedural vote (known as cloture) to send the bill to the Senate floor. The procedural vote was 63 to 33, with one senator not voting.

Two previous motions on cloture—one in September and one last week—had failed. But this time, six moderate Republicans voted for sending the bill to the floor and for repeal: Sens. Scott Brown of Massachusetts; Susan Collins and Olympia Snowe of Maine; Mark Kirk of Illinois; Lisa Murkowski of Alaska; and George Voinovich of Ohio. On previous cloture votes, they had stood by a Republican Party demand that the Senate not consider "any legislative item until the Senate has acted to fund the government and we have prevented the tax increase...." Both the House and Senate passed a Republican-sought tax cut extension earlier in the week have passed a continuing resolution to fund the government until final appropriations bills can be approved.

Aubrey Sarvis, head of Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, issued a statement immediately after the cloture motion passed, praising the vote and asking that Defense Secretary Robert Gates "use his authority to suspend" the ban until such time as the repeal can be certified and implemented, as called for in the legislation.

The first of two votes on DADT repeal came after more than an hour of vigorous and sometimes emotional debate Saturday morning. Democrats urged their colleagues to "do the right thing" and repeal the policy, and Republicans chided Democrats for not allowing for any amendments and bringing up the issue at a bad time.

Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., went to the Senate floor around 9:30 Saturday morning, acknowledging that his ability to vote had received a lot of attention in the previous 48 hours because he is scheduled to have prostate surgery on Monday. Some political observers had speculated Wyden might not be available for the repeal vote if it was postponed until Monday, Dec. 20.

Wyden spoke strongly for repeal of DADT, saying it was forcing the military to turn away and discharge many experts in such crucial languages as Arabic, Farsi, and Chinese. But more importantly, said Wyden, the ban is "wrong" and "never should have been perpetuated" against gay servicemembers in the first place.

Sen. Mark Udall, D-Colo., spoke in favor of ending the policy and quoted the words of a letter published Dec. 16 in the Washington Post by an active duty infantry Marine Corps captain, Nathan Cox. Cox said he is not gay but that, in his experience, "the things that separate Marines in civilian life fade into obscurity on the battlefield."

"There, only one thing matters," wrote Cox. "Can you do your job?"

"It is time for 'don't ask, don't tell' to join our other mistakes in the dog-eared chapters of history textbooks," read Udall from the letter. "We all bleed red, we all love our country, we are all Marines. In the end, that's all that matters."

Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., said the policy is unconstitutional and "does more harm than good."



Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., who led the filibuster against repeal of DADT, claimed repeal would cause harm, and he repeatedly suggested it would lead to more soldiers losing limbs and lives.

"This debate is not about the broader social issues that are being discussed in our society," said McCain, "but what is in the best interest in our national security and our military during a time of war."

The primary objections of Republicans were about timing and their inability to amend the bill.

Democrats "know they can't get [passage] next January 5 ... that's why they're jamming this through now," said McCain, referring to the fact that Republicans last month won a majority in the House and an increased number of Republicans in the Senate.

McCain also said he filed two amendments to the DADT-repeal bill but that, because Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid had closed out any amendments beyond those he wished to consider, McCain's amendments could not be heard.

Sen. Minority Leader Mitch McConnell also criticized Reid's blocking of amendments, even while acknowledging that, years ago, it was Democrats who were criticizing Republicans for doing the same thing.

McConnell said "liberal interest groups have more influence over military personnel policy than the senior enlisted leaders of the Army and Marine Corps." He said he wanted to amend the bill to enable service chiefs to participate in the bill's certification process.

The process for implementation of repeal calls for the President, the Secretary of Defense, and the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff to certify the repeal can be implemented without harming military readiness. After that, there is a 60-day waiting period during which time Congress could presumably "review" the implementation plan. Legal scholar Nan Hunter said the 60-day period is essentially "just a countdown"



DADT from cover

Servicemembers Legal Defense Network Executive Director Aubrey Sarvis called on the Pentagon to cease DADT discharges during the months between now and when repeal is finalized.

"I respectfully ask Defense Secretary Robert Gates to use his authority to suspend all Don't Ask, Don't Tell investigations during this interim period," Sarvis said. "Until the president signs the bill, until there is certification and until the 60-day congressional period is over, no one should be investigated or discharged under this discriminatory law. ... Certification and the 60-day congressional requirement must be wrapped up no later than the first quarter of 2011."

Sarvis called the repeal of the ban "the defining civil rights initiative of this decade."

Lambda Legal Executive Director Kevin Cathcart called the 17-year fight to overturn the ban "a heroic political battle by LGBT advocates who refused to give up."

In a statement, Defense Secretary Robert Gates said: "Once this legislation is signed into law by the president, the Department of Defense will immediately proceed with the planning necessary to carry out this change carefully and methodically, but purposefully. This effort will be led by Dr. Clifford Stanley, under secretary of defense for personnel and readiness. ... The legislation provides that repeal will take effect once the president, the secretary of defense and the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff certify that implementation of the new policies and regulations written by the department is consistent with the standards of military readiness, military effectiveness, unit cohesion, and recruiting and retention of the armed forces. ... I will approach this process deliberately and will make such certification only after careful consultation with the military ser-

period, though "Congress could always re-enter the picture." But Hunter noted that an effort to undo repeal "obviously" does not have the votes.

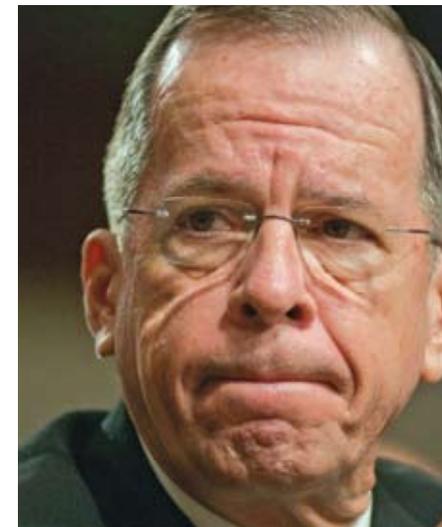
Reid, reacting to McConnell's complaints, smiled and shook his head, and reminded listeners that the Senate has been "stymied, stopped, and stunned by the procedural roadblocks of this Republican minority."

But McCain essentially conceded defeat during his remarks, saying he believed repeal would pass Saturday and that "there will be high fives all over the liberal bastions around the country."

"But don't think it won't be at great cost," said McCain. "...We are doing great damage."

Sen. Saxby Chambliss, R-Ga., said it's "a given" that gays and lesbians serve admirably in the military, but he said allowing them to serve openly now "has the potential for increasing the risk of harm and death to our men and women who are serving in combat today."

"Should it be done at some point in time?"



Defense Secretary Robert Gates (left) and Adm. Mike Mullen, chair of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, testified at a recent congressional hearing on "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." Photos by Patsy Lynch

vice chiefs and our combatant commanders and when I am satisfied that those conditions have been met for all the Services, commands and units. It is therefore important that our men and women in uniform understand that while today's historic vote means that this policy will change, the implementation and certification process will take an additional period of time. In the meantime, the current law and policy will remain in effect."

Obama issued a statement that said: "Today, the Senate has taken an historic step toward ending a policy that undermines our national security while violating the very ideals that our brave men and women in uniform risk their lives to defend. By ending Don't Ask, Don't Tell, no longer will our nation be denied the service of thousands of patriotic Americans forced to leave the military, despite years of exemplary performance, because they happen to be gay. And no longer will many thousands more be asked to live a lie in order to serve the country they love. As commander-in-chief, I am also absolutely convinced that making this change will only underscore the professionalism of our troops as the best led and best trained fighting force the world has ever known. And I join the secretary of defense and the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, as well as the overwhelming majority of service members asked by the Pentagon, in knowing that we can responsibly transition to a new policy while ensuring our military strength and readiness. ... It is time to close this chapter in our history. It is time to recognize that sacrifice, valor and integrity are no more defined by sexual orientation than they are by race or gender, religion or creed. It is time to allow gay and lesbian Americans to serve their country openly."

—Assistance: Bill Kelley

asked Chambliss. "Maybe so. But in the middle of a military conflict is not the time to do it."

Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., seemed uncomfortable with the couching of repeal in terms of civil rights.

"Some will say this is a civil rights issue of our time, the day has come, we need to move forward as a nation," said Graham. "The Marine Corps does not have that view."

Graham, and others, accused Democrats as simply playing politics with both DADT repeal and the DREAM immigration act, trying to pacify specific constituencies.

Senator Dick Durbin, D-Ill., the majority whip of the Senate, said, referring to both the DREAM Act vote and the DADT repeal bill, "This is our moment in history to show our courage."

And Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, rejected claims that the repeal has come as a political ploy to court gay votes.

"We cannot let these patriots down," said Levin. "Their suffering should end. It will end with the passage of this bill."

In his statement, President Obama said he is "absolutely convinced" that repeal will "underscore the professionalism of our troops as the best led and best trained fighting force the world has ever known."

In a bit of historic irony, the procedural vote was the same as in 1993, when Sen. Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., sought to head off passage of the DADT ban by offering an amendment to delete it from the defense-authorization bill to which it had been attached. Boxer's amendment failed 33 to 63.

Senators who did not vote on the procedural roll call Dec. 18 were Democrat Joe Manchin of West Virginia and three Republicans: Jim Bunning of Kentucky, Judd Gregg of New Hampshire and Orrin Hatch of Utah. With four senators not voting, the motion would have passed with only 58 votes.

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Advocates on DADT-repeal passage

With the repeal to "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" passing through the U.S. Senate Dec. 18, gay-rights organizations, as expected, praised the development. Here is what a few organizations and individuals had to say:

—**U.S. Congressman Mike Quigley, D-Ill.:** "Today, we have righted a wrong. We have repealed a policy that was both morally repugnant and counter-productive to our national security. We have taken an extraordinary step toward equal rights for all Americans. Today, we have done the right thing."

—**Robin McGehee, GetEQUAL:** "Repeal of DADT is just one of the things that GetEQUAL sees as a priority in order to work toward full legal and social equality. Far from being a lobbying group or political insiders, we are committed to doing whatever it takes to smash down the walls of discrimination and inequality that surround us. Yes, that includes military discrimination—but it includes so many other things, as well."

"Today, we honor those who have taken action with GetEQUAL over the past nine months, knowing that we need many more to join them. Please join us in honoring them—and by reaffirming your own commitment to work toward a day in which we are all equal."

—**Mitchell Gold, founder of Faith in America:** "Today's vote in the U.S. Senate is a monumental achievement in the annals of the LGBT civil rights movements. First, it means our gay service men and women can live their lives with the same human dignity as others. An incredible burden of inequality has been lifted from these men and women."

"Second, this effort signals the end of religion-based bigotry within one of the largest and most revered institutions in our society. That is historic as well."

"Most importantly, today's vote sends a message to our gay youth that one of the largest institutions in our society considers them fully

deserving of human dignity and equality. That is a powerful message, and one that all youth and their families need to hear."

—**JD Smith (pseudonym), the active-duty co-director of OutServe:** "OutServe looks forward to the day that repeal of this law is signed by our commander in chief and the certification process is complete so we can all begin to serve openly and honestly. Certification must take place as soon as possible as gay and lesbian service members will be in limbo over the next few months. As the troops will interpret today's actions as an end in the policy, only a delay in certification will increase the lack of clarity among the ranks."

—**U.S. Rep. Tammy Baldwin, D-Wis.:** "The Senate vote today finally marks the end of a sad chapter in American history. Since its inception, the 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' policy has been an un-American assault on our most fundamental tenet—that 'all men are created equal.' The policy discriminates against gays and lesbians who currently serve or wish to serve in the military, including those previously discharged who wish to rejoin. ... The repeal of 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell,' is long overdue, but no less welcome."

—**American Psychological Association President Carol D. Goodheart, Ed.D.:** "This long-awaited action is an important step toward allowing gays, lesbians, and bisexuals to serve openly and honorably in the armed forces. Repeal of the 'don't ask, don't tell' policy will lift a heavy psychological burden of secrecy from gay, lesbian and bisexual military personnel."

—**GLAAD President Jarrett Barrios:** "To deny brave men and women the ability to serve their country openly and honestly is to reject the fundamental American principles of fairness and equality for all. Today's vote, a reflection of the overwhelming majority of Americans who support the repeal, moves us one step closer to ending a ban which undermines our national security and has resulted in the loss of critical and skilled service members."

—**American Foundation for Equal Rights:** "Today's vote to end the egregious and discriminatory 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' law is a major victory for the millions of patriotic gay and lesbian Americans who have and who continue to serve their country honorably. This historic vote is also a victory for the principles on which our nation was founded: all Americans are equal under the law and no one should be subject to discrimination."

"Today it further evidence that the fight for equal rights for gay and lesbian Americans, which has historically been seen as a partisan issue is increasingly becoming bipartisan."

—**Secretary of Defense Robert Gates:** "I welcome today's vote by the Senate clearing the way for a legislative repeal of the 'Don't Ask Don't Tell' law."

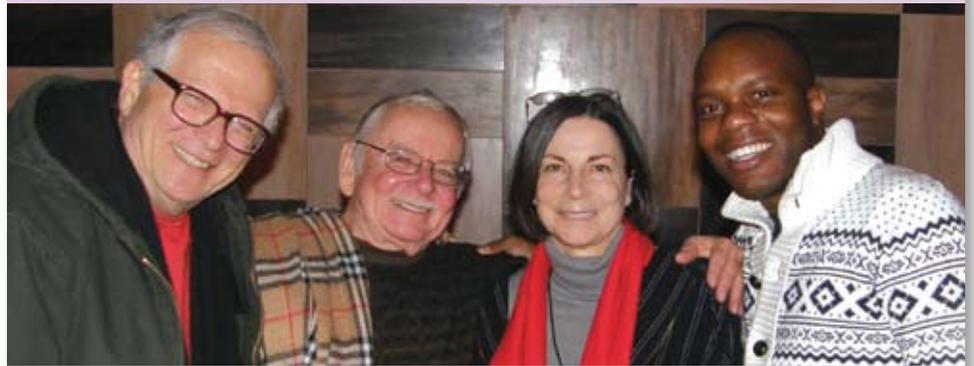
"It is ... important that our men and women in uniform understand that while today's historic vote means that this policy will change, the implementation and certification process will take an additional period of time. In the meantime, the current law and policy will remain in effect."

"Successful implementation will depend upon strong leadership, a clear message and proactive education throughout the force. With a continued and sustained commitment to core values of leadership, professionalism and respect for all, I am convinced that the U.S. military can successfully accommodate and implement this change, as it has others in history."

—**Chicago mayoral candidate Miguel del Valle:** "I applaud the Senate for moving the United States one step closer to full repeal of the obsolete and unjust Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy."

"This passage marks a shift in the country's military culture, where now individuals will be able to serve proudly and openly, regardless of their sexual orientation."

Gay vets muse on DADT repeal



At a spontaneous gathering of gay veterans and supporters at Minibar on the night of the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," Jim Darby said, "We're grateful to all the people and organizations that have been pushing, knocking on doors on Capitol Hill, from the very beginning, over the 17 years of the policy and in the last few years leading up to repeal. We've had a lot of heroes and a lot of mentors who helped us at the very beginning understand how to approach our elected representatives. And then we went, over and over and over. I can't believe it; I still can't believe that it's happened, that it's real."

Darby, a Navy veteran, and his partner, Patrick Bova, are founders of the Chicago chapter of the American Veterans for Equal Rights. The national group has been involved in working for the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" since the policy was signed into law. Top photo of William Weeks (HRC) and local supporters at Minibar by Jean Albright; bottom photo of (from left) AVER members Patrick Bova (former ROTC), Jim Darby (former Navy), Jean Albright (retired Air Force), and Marquell Smith (former Marine) by an unidentified photographer

Locals respond to DADT repeal

COMPILED BY KATE SOSIN

—**Lee Reinhart, member of American Veterans for Equal Rights:** "Today my country now sees and treats me equal to every other man who wishes to put on the uniform and serve this country. This victory is a long time coming. The battle has been fought and so many people and organizations did their part to make it happen we must always be thankful to them. I also think it is very important we remember our straight brothers and sisters who stood alongside us for years and kept our secrets so we would be able to serve. They no longer have a burden to bear now. Our military is stronger today than it was yesterday morning when we woke up."

—**Bridget Altenburg, a Chicagoan who is the**

founding member of Knights Out, a pro-LGBT organization at West Point: "[The] vote was the beginning of the end to the only law [that I know of] that mandates discrimination. [Seventeen] years and 13,000 service members later we will finally allow our brave men and women to serve their country openly. I served from 1995-2000 and remember coming back from deployment and walking past the celebrating family members so I could celebrate quietly with my girlfriend. Next year soldiers coming back from war will be welcomed home by their partners. They will be able to notify their partners when they are wounded. They will be able to live together and care for their families without lying. If this law had been repealed 10 years

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U.S. Senate fails to advance DREAM Act

U.S. Senate voted 55-41 Dec. 18 to not advance a vote on the Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act to the floor.

The DREAM Act would have provided affordable post-secondary education and military service opportunities for undocumented immigrants who came to the U.S. as children, have lived here for at least five years and have graduated from high school. The U.S. House passed the DREAM Act.

Joanne Lin, ACLU legislative counsel, said in a press release, "It's extremely disappointing, as well as contrary to American values of fairness and equality, that young people will be deprived of opportunities for education, growth and service because the Senate failed to pass this bill."

Chicago mayoral candidate Miguel del Valle said, "I am deeply disappointed in the Senate's failure to pass the DREAM Act today. The piece of legislation, which proposed to create a path to citizenship for undocumented students who go to college or enter the military, would have been life changing for the countless Chicagoans who are not yet citizens."

"I commend Sen. Dick Durbin (D-IL), for his leadership and tireless efforts to pass the DREAM Act. And we should all be proud of the courageous young DREAM activists who fought so hard to advance this bill."

"I cannot say the same for Sen. Mark Kirk (D-IL), who, in voting to block this bill, has failed thousands of his own constituents."

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Do not take REYATAZ with the following medicines due to potential for serious side effects: Camptosar® (irinotecan), Crixivan® (indinavir), Mevacor® (lovastatin), Zocor® (simvastatin), Uroxatral® (alfuzosin), or Revatio® (sildenafil).

Do not take REYATAZ with the following medicines as they may lower the amount of REYATAZ in your blood, which may lead to increased HIV viral load and resistance to REYATAZ or other anti-HIV medicines: rifampin (also known as Rimactane®, Rifadin®, Rifater®, or Rifamate®), St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*)-containing products, or Viramune® (nevirapine).

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The above lists of medicines are not complete. **Taking REYATAZ with some other medicines may require your therapy to be monitored more closely or may require a change in dose or dose schedule of REYATAZ or the other medicine.** Discuss with your healthcare provider all prescription and non-prescription medicines, vitamin and herbal supplements, or other health preparations you are taking or plan to take.

Tell your healthcare provider if you are **pregnant, breast-feeding**, planning to become pregnant or breast-feed, or if you have **end-stage kidney disease** managed with hemodialysis or **severe liver dysfunction.**

Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any side effects, symptoms, or conditions, including the following:

- **Mild rash** (redness and itching) without other symptoms sometimes occurs in patients taking REYATAZ, most often in the first few weeks after the medicine is started, and usually goes away within 2 weeks with no change in treatment.

- **Severe rash** has occurred in a small number of patients taking REYATAZ. This type of rash is associated with other symptoms that could be serious and potentially cause death. **If you develop a rash with any of the following symptoms, stop using REYATAZ and call your healthcare provider right away:**

- | | |
|--|--|
| – Shortness of breath | – Conjunctivitis (red or inflamed eyes, like “pink-eye”) |
| – General ill-feeling or “flu-like” symptoms | – Blisters |
| – Fever | – Mouth sores |
| – Muscle or joint aches | – Swelling of your face |

- **Yellowing of the skin and/or eyes** may occur due to increases in bilirubin levels in the blood (bilirubin is made by the liver).

- **A change in the way your heart beats** may occur. You may feel dizzy or lightheaded. These could be symptoms of a heart problem.

- **Diabetes and high blood sugar** may occur in patients taking protease inhibitor medicines like REYATAZ. Some patients may need changes in their diabetes medicine.

- **If you have liver disease**, including hepatitis B or C, it may get worse when you take anti-HIV medicines like REYATAZ.

- **Kidney stones** have been reported in patients taking REYATAZ. Signs or symptoms of kidney stones include pain in your side, blood in your urine, and pain when you urinate.

- **Some patients with hemophilia** have increased bleeding problems with protease inhibitor medicines like REYATAZ.

- **Changes in body fat** have been seen in some patients taking anti-HIV medicines. The cause and long-term effects are not known at this time.

- **Gallbladder disorders** (including gallstones and gallbladder inflammation) have been reported in patients taking REYATAZ.

Other common side effects of REYATAZ taken with other anti-HIV medicines include: nausea; headache; stomach pain; vomiting; diarrhea; depression; fever; dizziness; trouble sleeping; numbness, tingling, or burning of hands or feet; and muscle pain.

You should take REYATAZ once daily with food (a meal or snack). Swallow the capsules whole; do not open the capsules. You should take REYATAZ and your other anti-HIV medicines exactly as instructed by your healthcare provider.

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

On REYATAZ,

Wednesday
Mary's
birthday
party

Thursday
5:30
Choir
practice

Buy new
shoes
for Latisha


REYATAZ®
(atazanavir sulfate) 200 mg/300 mg
capsules

Fight HIV your way.

**Please see Important Patient Information
about REYATAZ on the adjacent pages.**

how you spend your time is up to you.



Individual results may vary.

Once-daily REYATAZ can help fight your HIV.

REYATAZ, a protease inhibitor (PI), in HIV combination therapy:

- ◆ Can help lower your viral load and raise your T-cell (CD4+ cell) count
- ◆ Has a low chance of diarrhea (shown in clinical trials)
 - REYATAZ in combination therapy had a 1%-3% rate of moderate-to-severe diarrhea in adults
- ◆ Is taken once a day with a snack or meal

REYATAZ is one of several treatment options your doctor may consider.

Do not take REYATAZ if you are allergic to REYATAZ or to any of its ingredients.

Ask your healthcare team about REYATAZ www.REYATAZ.com

REYATAZ does not cure HIV and has not been shown to reduce the risk of passing HIV to others.

Find out if you can save on REYATAZ.
Call 1-888-281-8981 or visit
ReyatazSavings.com for details.

Subject to terms and conditions. Restrictions apply.

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687US10AB06416 06/10

If you or someone you know needs help paying for medicine,
call 1-888-4PPA-NOW (1-888-477-2669). Or go to www.pparx.org



Partnership for
Prescription Assistance

**FDA-Approved Patient Labeling
Patient Information**

Rx ONLY

**REYATAZ® (RAY-ah-taz)
(generic name = atazanavir sulfate)
Capsules**

ALERT: Find out about medicines that should NOT be taken with REYATAZ. Read the section "What important information should I know about taking REYATAZ with other medicines?"

Read the Patient Information that comes with REYATAZ before you start using it and each time you get a refill. There may be new information. This leaflet provides a summary about REYATAZ and does not include everything there is to know about your medicine. This information does not take the place of talking with your healthcare provider about your medical condition or treatment.

What is REYATAZ?

REYATAZ is a prescription medicine used with other anti-HIV medicines to treat people who are infected with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). HIV is the virus that causes acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS). REYATAZ is a type of anti-HIV medicine called a protease inhibitor. HIV infection destroys CD4+ (T) cells, which are important to the immune system. The immune system helps fight infection. After a large number of (T) cells are destroyed, AIDS develops. REYATAZ helps to block HIV protease, an enzyme that is needed for the HIV virus to multiply. REYATAZ may lower the amount of HIV in your blood, help your body keep its supply of CD4+ (T) cells, and reduce the risk of death and illness associated with HIV.

Does REYATAZ cure HIV or AIDS?

REYATAZ does not cure HIV infection or AIDS. At present there is no cure for HIV infection. People taking REYATAZ may still get opportunistic infections or other conditions that happen with HIV infection. Opportunistic infections are infections that develop because the immune system is weak. Some of these conditions are pneumonia, herpes virus infections, and *Mycobacterium avium* complex (MAC) infections. **It is very important that you see your healthcare provider regularly while taking REYATAZ.**

REYATAZ does not lower your chance of passing HIV to other people through sexual contact, sharing needles, or being exposed to your blood. For your health and the health of others, it is important to always practice safer sex by using a latex or polyurethane condom or other barrier to lower the chance of sexual contact with semen, vaginal secretions, or blood. Never use or share dirty needles.

Who should not take REYATAZ?

Do not take REYATAZ if you:

- **are taking certain medicines.** (See "What important information should I know about taking REYATAZ with other medicines?") Serious life-threatening side effects or death may happen. Before you take REYATAZ, tell your healthcare provider about all medicines you are taking or planning to take. These include other prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements.
- **are allergic to REYATAZ or to any of its ingredients.** The active ingredient is atazanavir sulfate. See the end of this leaflet for a complete list of ingredients in REYATAZ. Tell your healthcare provider if you think you have had an allergic reaction to any of these ingredients.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before I take REYATAZ?

Tell your healthcare provider:

- **If you are pregnant or planning to become pregnant.** It is not known if REYATAZ can harm your unborn baby. Pregnant women have experienced serious side effects when taking REYATAZ with other HIV medicines called nucleoside analogues. You and your healthcare provider will need to decide if REYATAZ is right for you. If you use REYATAZ while you are pregnant, talk to your healthcare provider about the Antiretroviral Pregnancy Registry.
- **If you are breast-feeding.** You should not breast-feed if you are HIV-positive because of the chance of passing HIV to your baby. Also, it is not known if REYATAZ can pass into your breast milk and if it can harm your baby. If you are a woman who has or will have a baby, talk with your healthcare provider about the best way to feed your baby.
- **If you have liver problems or are infected with the hepatitis B or C virus.** See "What are the possible side effects of REYATAZ?"
- **If you have end stage kidney disease** managed with hemodialysis.
- **If you have diabetes.** See "What are the possible side effects of REYATAZ?"
- **If you have hemophilia.** See "What are the possible side effects of REYATAZ?"
- **About all the medicines you take** including prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. Keep a list of your medicines with you to show your healthcare provider. For more information, see "What important information should I know about taking REYATAZ with other medicines?" and "Who should not take REYATAZ?" Some medicines can cause serious side effects if taken with REYATAZ.

REYATAZ® (atazanavir sulfate)

How should I take REYATAZ?

- **Take REYATAZ once every day exactly as instructed by your healthcare provider.** Your healthcare provider will prescribe the amount of REYATAZ that is right for you.
 - For adults who have never taken anti-HIV medicines before, the dose is 300 mg once daily with 100 mg of NORVIR® (ritonavir) once daily taken with food. For adults who are unable to tolerate ritonavir, 400 mg (two 200-mg capsules) once daily (without NORVIR®) taken with food is recommended.
 - For adults who have taken anti-HIV medicines in the past, the usual dose is 300 mg plus 100 mg of NORVIR® (ritonavir) once daily taken with food.
- Your dose will depend on your liver function and on the other anti-HIV medicines that you are taking. REYATAZ is always used with other anti-HIV medicines. If you are taking REYATAZ with SUSTIVA® (efavirenz) or with VIREAD® (tenofovir disoproxil fumarate), you should also be taking NORVIR® (ritonavir).
- **Always take REYATAZ with food** (a meal or snack) to help it work better. Swallow the capsules whole. **Do not open the capsules.** Take REYATAZ at the same time each day.
- **If you are taking antacids or didanosine (VIDEX® or VIDEX® EC),** take REYATAZ 2 hours before or 1 hour after these medicines.
- **If you are taking medicines for indigestion, heartburn, or ulcers such as AXID® (nizatidine), PEPCID AC® (famotidine), TAGAMET® (cimetidine), ZANTAC® (ranitidine), AcipHex® (rabeprazole), NEXIUM® (esomeprazole), PREVACID® (lansoprazole), PRILOSEC® (omeprazole), or PROTONIX® (pantoprazole),** talk to your healthcare provider.
- **Do not change your dose or stop taking REYATAZ without first talking with your healthcare provider.** It is important to stay under a healthcare provider's care while taking REYATAZ.
- **When your supply of REYATAZ starts to run low,** get more from your healthcare provider or pharmacy. It is important not to run out of REYATAZ. The amount of HIV in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time.
- **If you miss a dose of REYATAZ,** take it as soon as possible and then take your next scheduled dose at its regular time. If, however, it is within 6 hours of your next dose, do not take the missed dose. Wait and take the next dose at the regular time. Do not double the next dose. **It is important that you do not miss any doses of REYATAZ or your other anti-HIV medicines.**
- **If you take more than the prescribed dose of REYATAZ,** call your healthcare provider or poison control center right away.

Can children take REYATAZ?

Dosing recommendations are available for children 6 years of age and older for REYATAZ Capsules. Dosing recommendations are not available for children from 3 months to less than 6 years of age. REYATAZ should not be used in babies under the age of 3 months.

What are the possible side effects of REYATAZ?

The following list of side effects is **not** complete. Report any new or continuing symptoms to your healthcare provider. If you have questions about side effects, ask your healthcare provider. Your healthcare provider may be able to help you manage these side effects.

The following side effects have been reported with REYATAZ:

- **mild rash** (redness and itching) without other symptoms sometimes occurs in patients taking REYATAZ, most often in the first few weeks after the medicine is started. Rashes usually go away within 2 weeks with no change in treatment. Tell your healthcare provider if rash occurs.
- **severe rash:** In a small number of patients, a rash can develop that is associated with other symptoms which could be serious and potentially cause death.

If you develop a rash with any of the following symptoms stop using REYATAZ and call your healthcare provider right away:

 - shortness of breath
 - general ill feeling or "flu-like" symptoms
 - fever
 - muscle or joint aches
 - conjunctivitis (red or inflamed eyes, like "pink eye")
 - blisters
 - mouth sores
 - swelling of your face
- **yellowing of the skin or eyes.** These effects may be due to increases in bilirubin levels in the blood (bilirubin is made by the liver). Call your healthcare provider if your skin or the white part of your eyes turn yellow. Although these effects may not be damaging to your liver, skin, or eyes, it is important to tell your healthcare provider promptly if they occur.

REYATAZ® (atazanavir sulfate)

- **a change in the way your heart beats (heart rhythm change).** Call your healthcare provider right away if you get dizzy or lightheaded. These could be symptoms of a heart problem.
- **diabetes and high blood sugar (hyperglycemia)** sometimes happen in patients taking protease inhibitor medicines like REYATAZ. Some patients had diabetes before taking protease inhibitors while others did not. Some patients may need changes in their diabetes medicine.
- **if you have liver disease** including hepatitis B or C, your liver disease may get worse when you take anti-HIV medicines like REYATAZ.
- **kidney stones** have been reported in patients taking REYATAZ. If you develop signs or symptoms of kidney stones (pain in your side, blood in your urine, pain when you urinate) tell your healthcare provider promptly.
- **some patients with hemophilia** have increased bleeding problems with protease inhibitors like REYATAZ.
- **changes in body fat.** These changes may include an increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast, and around the trunk. Loss of fat from the legs, arms, and face may also happen. The cause and long-term health effects of these conditions are not known at this time.

Other common side effects of REYATAZ taken with other anti-HIV medicines include nausea; headache; stomach pain; vomiting; diarrhea; depression; fever; dizziness; trouble sleeping; numbness, tingling, or burning of hands or feet; and muscle pain.

Gallbladder disorders (which may include gallstones and gallbladder inflammation) have been reported in patients taking REYATAZ.

What important information should I know about taking REYATAZ with other medicines?

Do not take REYATAZ if you take the following medicines (not all brands may be listed; tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take). REYATAZ may cause serious, life-threatening side effects or death when used with these medicines.

- Ergot medicines: dihydroergotamine, ergonovine, ergotamine, and methylethergonovine such as CAFERGOT®, MIGRANAL®, D.H.E. 45®, ergotrate maleate, METHERGINE®, and others (used for migraine headaches).
- ORAP® (pimozide, used for Tourette's disorder).
- PROPULSID® (cisapride, used for certain stomach problems).
- Triazolam, also known as HALCION® (used for insomnia).
- Midazolam, also known as VERSED® (used for sedation), when taken by mouth.

Do not take the following medicines with REYATAZ because of possible serious side effects:

- CAMPTOSAR® (irinotecan, used for cancer).
- CRIXIVAN® (indinavir, used for HIV infection). Both REYATAZ and CRIXIVAN sometimes cause increased levels of bilirubin in the blood.
- Cholesterol-lowering medicines MEVACOR® (lovastatin) or ZOCOR® (simvastatin).
- UROXATRAL® (alfuzosin, used to treat benign enlargement of the prostate).
- REVATIO® (sildenafil, used to treat pulmonary arterial hypertension).

Do not take the following medicines with REYATAZ because they may lower the amount of REYATAZ in your blood. This may lead to an increased HIV viral load. Resistance to REYATAZ or cross-resistance to other HIV medicines may develop:

- Rifampin (also known as RIMACTANE®, RIFADIN®, RIFATER®, or RIFAMATE®, used for tuberculosis).
- St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*), an herbal product sold as a dietary supplement, or products containing St. John's wort.
- VIRAMUNE® (nevirapine, used for HIV infection).

The following medicines are not recommended with REYATAZ:

- SEREVENT DISKUS® (salmeterol) and ADVAIR® (salmeterol with fluticasone), used to treat asthma, emphysema/chronic obstructive pulmonary disease also known as COPD.

Do not take the following medicine if you are taking REYATAZ and NORVIR® together:

- VFEND® (voriconazole).

The following medicines may require your healthcare provider to monitor your therapy more closely (for some medicines a change in the dose or dose schedule may be needed):

- CIALIS® (tadalafil), LEVITRA® (vardenafil), or VIAGRA® (sildenafil), used to treat erectile dysfunction. REYATAZ may increase the chances of serious side effects that can happen with CIALIS, LEVITRA, or VIAGRA. Do not use CIALIS, LEVITRA, or VIAGRA while you are taking REYATAZ unless your healthcare provider tells you it is okay.
- ADCIRCA® (tadalafil) or TRACLEER® (bosentan), used to treat pulmonary arterial hypertension.
- LIPITOR® (atorvastatin) or CRESTOR® (rosuvastatin). There is an increased chance of serious side effects if you take REYATAZ with this cholesterol-lowering medicine.

REYATAZ® (atazanavir sulfate)

- Medicines for abnormal heart rhythm: CORDARONE® (amiodarone), lidocaine, quinidine (also known as CARDIOQUIN®, QUINIDEX®, and others).
- MYCOBUTIN® (rifabutin, an antibiotic used to treat tuberculosis).
- BUPRENEX®, SUBUTEX®, SUBOXONE®, (buprenorphine or buprenorphine/naloxone, used to treat pain and addiction to narcotic painkillers).
- VASCOR® (bepidil, used for chest pain).
- COUMADIN® (warfarin).
- Tricyclic antidepressants such as ELAVIL® (amitriptyline), NORPRAMIN® (desipramine), SINEQUAN® (doxepin), SURMONTIL® (trimipramine), TOFRANIL® (imipramine), or VIVACTIL® (protriptyline).
- Medicines to prevent organ transplant rejection: SANDIMMUNE® or NEORAL® (cyclosporin), RAPAMUNE® (sirolimus), or PROGRAF® (tacrolimus).
- The antidepressant trazodone (DESYREL® and others).
- Fluticasone propionate (FLONASE®, FLOVENT®), given by nose or inhaled to treat allergic symptoms or asthma. Your doctor may choose not to keep you on fluticasone, especially if you are also taking NORVIR®.
- Colchicine (COLCRYS®), used to prevent or treat gout or treat familial Mediterranean fever.

The following medicines may require a change in the dose or dose schedule of either REYATAZ or the other medicine:

- INVIRASE® (saquinavir).
- NORVIR® (ritonavir).
- SUSTIVA® (efavirenz).
- Antacids or buffered medicines.
- VIDEX® (didanosine).
- VIREAD® (tenofovir disoproxil fumarate).
- MYCOBUTIN® (rifabutin).
- Calcium channel blockers such as CARDIZEM® or TIAZAC® (diltiazem), COVERA-HS® or ISOPTIN SR® (verapamil) and others.
- BIAKIN® (clarithromycin).
- Medicines for indigestion, heartburn, or ulcers such as AXID® (nizatidine), PEPCID AC® (famotidine), TAGAMET® (cimetidine), or ZANTAC® (ranitidine).

Talk to your healthcare provider about choosing an effective method of contraception. REYATAZ may affect the safety and effectiveness of hormonal contraceptives such as birth control pills or the contraceptive patch. Hormonal contraceptives do not prevent the spread of HIV to others.

Remember:

1. **Know all the medicines you take.**
2. **Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take.**
3. **Do not start a new medicine without talking to your healthcare provider.**

How should I store REYATAZ?

- Store REYATAZ Capsules at room temperature, 59° to 86° F (15° to 30° C). Do **not** store this medicine in a damp place such as a bathroom medicine cabinet or near the kitchen sink.
- Keep your medicine in a tightly closed container.
- Keep all medicines out of the reach of children and pets at all times. Do not keep medicine that is out of date or that you no longer need. Dispose of unused medicines through community take-back disposal programs when available or place REYATAZ in an unrecognizable, closed container in the household trash.

General information about REYATAZ

This medicine was prescribed for your particular condition. Do not use REYATAZ for another condition. Do not give REYATAZ to other people, even if they have the same symptoms you have. It may harm them. **Keep REYATAZ and all medicines out of the reach of children and pets.**

This summary does not include everything there is to know about REYATAZ. Medicines are sometimes prescribed for conditions that are not mentioned in patient information leaflets. Remember no written summary can replace careful discussion with your healthcare provider. If you would like more information, talk with your healthcare provider or you can call 1-800-321-1335.

What are the ingredients in REYATAZ?

Active Ingredient: atazanavir sulfate

Inactive Ingredients: Crospovidone, lactose monohydrate (milk sugar), magnesium stearate, gelatin, FD&C Blue #2, and titanium dioxide.

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Rev April 2010



Chicago mayoral candidate Gery Chico (right) and campaign co-chair Todd Connor Dec. 19 at Center on Halsted. Photo by Carrie Maxwell

Chico holds town hall at Center on Halsted

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

Having already attended five town hall forums in the past two weeks, Chicago mayoral candidate Gery Chico continued his outreach efforts Dec. 19 at the Center on Halsted's Hoover-Leppen Theater, where he laid out his LGBT agenda as well as other issues to the voters.

The town hall, moderated by Todd Connor (Chico's campaign co-chair), began with him noting the recent progress in the LGBT community including the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" in the Senate the previous day as well as the passage of the civil-unions bill in Illinois earlier this month. Connor, while laying out the format for the afternoon, reminded the audience of Chico's accomplishments. Connor also reminded the audience of Chico's support for same-sex marriage over the years, most notably during the 2004 Democratic Primary for state Senate.

Chico came to the podium following Connor's introduction and thanked his supporters and campaign workers (mentioning Connor and Lauren Carter, who is the LGBT coordinator for his campaign, by name) before launching into his family background, noting that he is a grandchild of immigrants with his grandfather coming from Mexico in 1929. He talked about his multiethnic background (a mixture of Mexican, Greek and Lithuanian) and also said that he is a graduate of Kelly High School in Chicago.

Calling on that background he said he feels at home with any group of people, including the LGBT community. Recalling his support of same-sex marriage in 2004 he said he was taken aback when he was the only Democratic candidate for Illinois Senate who supported full marriage equality. Then he launched into his role in getting domestic-partner benefits for city and Chicago Public School (CPS) employees. Regarding the area of bullying, he said that while he was at CPS he spearheaded the curriculum that dealt with bullying issues but added that more work needs to be done. While laying out his past LGBT accomplishments he told the crowd about his press conference a few weeks ago at Lakeview's Ann Sather restaurant, where he announced his LGBT platform and reminded the audience how important LGBT issues and the community are to him and his campaign.

Before taking questions from the crowd of about 50 people he mentioned that his wife,

Sunny, was in attendance. Although it was a town hall on LGBT issues the audience asked questions ranging from LGBT issues to the budgetary crisis facing the city. Chico stated that some of the most important issues include crime and public safety, education, jobs and municipal finance.

Then a question was raised about coalition-building within the LGBT community and pulling the city around a common identity. Chico mentioned having a mayor who is a strong advocate who "leads by example and articulates the power of being one city no matter what community you come from and acting on this," hate crimes against LGBT people and the need to prosecute them to the fullest extent of the law and having a dedicated LGBT Liaison in the mayor's office.

One question mentioned opponent Rahm Emanuel and what sets him apart from Emanuel. Chico said that experience is the key and he has the longevity working in the city that Emanuel does not. He also challenged Emanuel to come out and debate him on the issues and stop hiding behind campaign ads. What he said was that he "believes in truth and public service" and emphasized his refusal to pander to any audience.

Then the questions moved back to some other LGBT issues. Chico talked about his role in getting the rainbow pylons erected on Halsted Street, his commitment to training the city's police officers about the LGBT community and appointing the next superintendent from within the ranks instead of someone outside of the police force.

Chico pledged to consolidate agencies, pointing out that the city clerk and the city treasurer should be one person, among other jobs that are redundant. He called out the selling of the parking meters to a private company noting that the revenue from that sale has been wasted when asked by an audience member. Then he reminded the audience that he is the only business owner in the race.

As for his governing style, Chico said he would be hands-on as mayor— similar to his style when he worked in city hall, at Chicago Public Schools, the park district and the City Colleges. He then told the story of how he held staff meetings in a van while driving around the city to check on the progress of the projects; he said that this tactic made his employees better workers. This got a laugh from the audience.

The town hall ended with Connor calling on attendees to volunteer with the campaign and directed them to Chico's website, <http://www.gerychicoformayor.com>, for more information. Connor then invited everyone to a fundraising social at the Kit Kat Lounge, where Chico would answer more questions.

Project PrEPare, AFC hold HIV-drug forum

BY TULLY SATRE

Project PrEPare and the AIDS Foundation of Chicago sponsored a community discussion about the potential risks/benefits of HIV medications as prevention. The forum follows the recent publication of the Pre-exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) Initiative—referred to as iPrex—a worldwide study that tested the efficacy of an HIV-prevention drug called Truvavda.

Jim Pickett, director of advocacy for the AIDS Foundation of Chicago and Keith Green, director for Project PrEPare, a Chicago-based version of the greater iPrex study, moderated the forum, held Dec. 15 at Center on Halsted.

Dr. Rob Garafolo of Howard Brown Health Center pointed out that this was the first study that showed that an HIV medication as prevention could work. "Now there are a lot of questions with answers unknown," he explained, "in terms of how often the drug may be taken, for example."

Dr. Sybil Hosek, a principal investigator for Project PrEPare, presented data recently published from the iPrex Initiative stating that "this is a very exciting time in HIV prevention." The study found that participants not taking the drug were 44 percent more likely to become infected with HIV, proving that taking a drug can work in preventing HIV infection.

"The folks at iPrex recognize that there is still a lot that needs to be understood," said Hosek, who reminded the audience that this

was the first study of its kind. iPrex recently started an open-label extension on the study. The 18-month extension allows participants who were on a placebo during the study to take the drug.

Hosek stated that "more work needs to be done, particularly with youth," pointing out that youth were at the epicenter of the HIV epidemic in the States. A third of new infections occur before the age of 30 within the U.S., with the highest-risk categories being Black and latino men who have sex with men. Project PrEPare's study was not so much focused on testing the efficacy of Truvavda, but to enroll high-risk men and explore the the acceptability and feasibility of a PrEP trial among a young MSM demographic. Sixty-eight participants were initially enrolled in the program with only twenty remaining upon writing; the results echoed that of the greater study published by iPrex.

The audience had an opportunity to ask questions to the panelists, who also included Dr. Lisa Henry-Reid and Dr. Margo Bell, both with Project PrEPare. Many seemed concerned with how long the drug had to be taken and whether or not the risks outweighed the benefits. Pickett pointed out that Truvavda is not meant to be taken throughout someone's entire life, but during specific times, such as periods of sexual activity. He also recognized that the detractors of being on the medication were much lower than the benefits.

"Even with all of this great data," said Hosek, "condoms are still more effective in preventing HIV infection."

More about Project PrEPare is at <http://www.projectpreparechicago.com>.

DADT from page 5

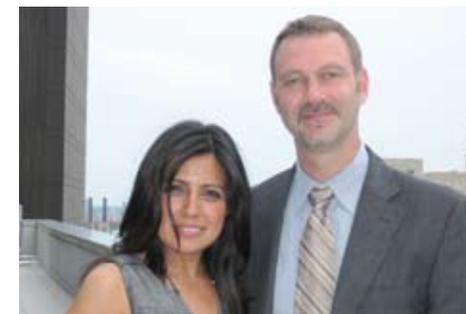
ago I might have stayed in the Army. I salute those dedicated men and women who are intent on continuing to serve or re-enlisting now that DADT has been repealed."

—**Andy Thayer of the Gay Liberation Network:** "...to talk only about DADT repeal in the narrow context of LGBT rights and ignore the devastating impact of the U.S. military on the peoples of the world would be arrogance in the extreme. There are over 1,000 American military bases outside of the U.S., mostly in countries whose peoples don't want them there, helping prop up scores of U.S.-allied thugs. For those naive enough to persist in thinking that those troops are there to help other peoples or to 'defend our freedom,' I need only point to the WikiLeaks revelations. The U.S. is responsible for half the world's military spending; that's not defense, that's empire. ... If LGBT people want solidarity from non-LGBT people for our struggles, we cannot fail to give solidarity to the justice struggles of 'others,' many of whom are themselves LGBT as well."

—**Civic leader Bob Zuley:** "As a U.S. Army veteran, I'm relieved that gays and lesbians will now be allowed to openly serve in our nations armed forces. Those in opposition to this initiative, despite multiple studies, endorsements, and public polls that support repealing "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" (DADT) persist in opposing full equality for LGBT people without any basis in fact."

"Gays and lesbians will now be eligible for the same benefits, opportunities and privileges accorded their straight counterparts in military service including promising career paths and educational, medical, travel, wage, and burial benefits. While gays and lesbians are presently serving and dying for our nation just as they have since the days of the Continental Army, they now join with openly gay military forces from other countries who fight alongside us in our current hostilities. Ending DADT and allowing gay and lesbian to serve is a proud day for the United States."

—**Lucky Mosqueda, Gender JUST leadership team member:** "I'm not going to be happy about



Nina Fernandez and Kevin Boyer of GLAAD Chicago. Photo by Kate Sosin

the repeal of 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' because it's just another example of the LGBT organizations spending time and money on issues that don't make life better for my community. People living with AIDS can't afford medication, people living in poverty don't have food, people are still dying in wars—and our community is working to strengthen the U.S. war machine?"

—**Kevin Boyer and Nina Fernandez, GLAAD Chicago Leadership Council co-chairs:** "Repealing DADT strengthens our national defense and is consistent with fundamental American principles of fairness and equality. Recruiting the best candidates for our military, regardless of sexual orientation, is what is best for our national security. We are proud of the role played by many from Chicago and Illinois to end this unjust and unwise policy, including the brave service members who shared their stories after being discharged."

—**Join the Impact Chicago:** "This isn't just a victory for the servicemembers who will no longer have to hide their sexual orientation. It's the end of the last law requiring that people must be fired for being gay or bisexual. Join The Impact Chicago thanks every activist who refused to let this issue die, from those who chained themselves to the White House fence, to those who called Congress or wrote a letter. We need the same effort and commitment to win things like safe schools and homes for trans and queer kids, inclusive nondiscrimination laws, marriage equality, and an end to homophobia and transphobia in society. So celebrate with us and get ready to push on!"



Bryce Bandstra.

PASSAGES

Bryce Henry Bandstra

Former Boystown resident Bryce Bandstra, an award-winning horticulturalist, died of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma at St. Paul's Hospital in Vancouver Nov. 30. He was 59.

Bandstra was the horticulturalist for the Vancouver Golf Club, where he renovated three gardens; designed and installed four additional gardens; and designed and installed a logo garden in honor of the Vancouver Golf Club's centennial. Bandstra also donated his skills by designing and installing the Wilf Evans Garden at West Burnaby United Church and the Chapel Garden at St. Michael's Care Centre in Burnaby. He also designed the Deer Lake United Church Garden.

Prior to moving to British Columbia, Bandstra worked in public horticulture for the City of Chicago. From 1990-1998 he was the director of horticulture for the John G. Shedd Aquarium, where he designed and installed seven theme gardens on the four-acre site and located and planted Pacific Northwest plants for the aquarium's famed Oceanarium exhibit. For his work at the Shedd Aquarium he received the 1997 Best Public Landscape Award from Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley.

During the summer of 1998 Bandstra worked for the late motion-picture producer/director John Hughes, designing and installing gardens on his formal English estate near Harvard, Ill.

From 1998 to 2006 Bandstra served first as the general foreman and later as the acting director of Chicago's two historic conservatories, where he oversaw four acres under glass and six acres of gardens surrounding them.

During this time he designed, on behalf of the Chicago Park District, six award-winning flower shows for the Chicago Flower and Garden show including: Best in Show in 2001 and 2005; Best use of Colour in 2000 and 2003; Best Not-for-Profit Garden in 2002; and Most Imaginative Garden in 2004.

Bandstra was a member of the American Public Gardens Association and the Professional Gardeners Guild. He also taught landscape design classes to students from Chicago's Columbia College; was a featured speaker at many Chicago area garden clubs and civic groups; and was regularly interviewed by Chicago's media.

Prior to entering horticulture, Bandstra taught elementary education in the Christian schools of Aylmer, Ontario, Canada, and South Holland, Ill.

Bryce Bandstra was born Sept. 24, 1951, in Oskaloosa, Iowa, the son of Henry and Luella Vos Bandstra. He grew up on dairy farms near Pella, Iowa and earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Dordt College and a degree in horticulture from Joliet College.

After he and his life partner, Rick Newbury, were married at Ucluelet, B.C., on July 5, 2004 they decided to immigrate to Canada, where their marriage would be legally recognized. Bandstra was a member of the West Burnaby

United Church in Burnaby, where he served on the official board, the property committee and the kitchen committee, and prepared the PowerPoint for the weekly worship service. Bandstra sang in the Stained GLASS (Gay, Lesbian & Straight Supporters) Choir and also participated with Newbury in a monthly "Queer Salon" for more mature queers.

In Chicago, Bandstra sang with the Chicago Gay Men's Chorus, was a member of GLSEN, and marched with his partner and children regularly in the Chicago Pride Parade.

Bandstra was preceded in death by his father, Henry, and a sister, Ruth. He is survived by Newbury, his life partner and husband of more than 16 years; his former wife, Katherine Beezhold; three daughters—Adele of South Holland, Ill., and Michelle Schneider (Ron) and Danelle Leep (Kenny) of Highland, Ind.; four grandchildren—Zachary and Marissa Schneider and Freddie and Sammy Leep. He is also survived by his mother, Luella; one brother, Bryan (Becky) of Pella, Iowa; and two nephews, Travis and Taylor and one niece, Bethany Cavanaugh. Bandstra is also survived by his spouse's three children who he loved as his own—Stephen Newbury (Jennifer) and Nathan Newbury (Marci) of Lexington, Ky., and Rachel Blomquist (Greg) of Columbia, Mo.

A memorial service for Bryce Bandstra was held at the West Burnaby United Church, 6050 Sussex Avenue, Burnaby Dec. 11. A second memorial service will be held at the Broadway United Methodist Church in Chicago Saturday, April 30, at 2 p.m.

Although Bryce was an amazingly talented and creative man, he will be most remembered for his kind and gracious heart. He loved God and God's creation. He was a gentle soul who shared his wonderful gift of hospitality with all who passed his way.

PASSAGES

David S. Marsink

David S. Marsink, 46, passed away unexpectedly Nov. 18 at his home in Andersonville.

Marsink was a multi-talented artist and actor. He attended the Art Institute of Chicago, trained at Victory Gardens Theater and trained and performed at Second City. He appeared in a variety of roles, including leads in Annie Get Your Gun, One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest and The Wizard of Oz.

When an incident of medical malpractice ended Marsink's acting career, he became a fierce advocate for patient's rights and the rights of the uninsured. He was never afraid to challenge the medical community's often indifference to the needs of patients who were unable to advocate for themselves. He was an avid videophile and an expert on television-related collectibles, especially from Dr. Who and Star Trek. He is survived by his friends and family of choice, who will miss his courage, passion and wonderful sense of humor. Memorials may be made to the Art Therapy Program of BEHIV, 1244 W. Thornedale, Chicago, Ill., 60660.



David S. Marsink. Photo courtesy of Rick L. Ingram

Salvation Army's views may partially explain donation decrease

BY JOSEPH ERBENTRAUT

While the Salvation Army's stance on homosexuality may not be a new point of contention for many LGBT activists, recent reports of a drastic drop-off in donations to the group's iconic Red Kettle Campaign in the Chicago area have elicited speculation that the group's anti-gay reputation may be putting a dent into its fundraising haul this holiday season.

According to a Dec. 13 Associated Press article, Chicagoland contributions to the Salvation Army's practically ubiquitous bell-and-kettle campaign, responsible for roughly 70 percent of the organization's funding, are down 13 percent over last year's numbers while demand for the group's services have shot up exponentially. In the story, Army spokeswoman Dee McKinsey blamed bad weather and the stunted economy for the campaign only netting \$4.1 million, compared to \$4.6 million during the same time period last year.

But some LGBT activists suggest the lower numbers are due to Chicagoans becoming increasingly aware of the army's opposition to same-sex relationships and history of lobbying against pro-gay legislation and carrying out questionable hiring practices.

According to the Salvation Army's website, the group "does not consider same-sex orientation blameworthy in itself" and opposes "de-meaning or mistreating" anyone. Nonetheless, the group advises gays and lesbians to "embrace celibacy as a way of life" because "Scripture forbids sexual intimacy between members of the same sex."

In 2004, the army's New York chapter threatened to close the city's soup kitchens and end its services to the homeless there if the local government passed legislation forcing it to offer health benefits to partners of their gay employees. In 2001, the group ceased offering domestic-partner benefits to all its California employees since some benefits were being received by same-sex couples. That same year, the group unsuccessfully attempted to pressure Bush administration staff into easing LGBT non-discrimination laws for faith-based groups.

While the organization's policy on LGBT issues also states that its services are available to all who qualify, regardless of sexual orientation, and that their fellowship is open to "all sincere seekers of faith in Christ," presumably including queer people of faith, Rainbow Sash Movement executive director Joe Murray described the Army's use of Biblical text to justify not hiring openly gay employees or recognizing LGBT relationships as "obscene."

"Whether they're conscious of it or not, this

is blanket discrimination against gay families," Murray told Windy City Times. "It's plain and simple discrimination ... People in our community and our allies need to be aware that there are religious groups out there promoting discrimination and doing it in the name of good works.

"That is hypocritical," Murray added, noting that many organizations within the LGBT community, such as the Howard Brown Health Center, are also in dire need of support at this time and represent a far more LGBT-friendly recipient of donations.

Andy Thayer, co-founder of the Gay Liberation Network, described the army's policy as sending "a mixed message, at best." He said the group's practices are representative of a larger problem of several faith-based agencies in the Chicago area who are contracted by the city to provide social services while, at the same time, violating the city's LGBT-inclusive non-discrimination employment law.

Thayer said he would like to see a city law that would eliminate faith-based exemptions for groups like the army and Catholic Charities under contract to provide certain city services. Meanwhile, he hoped the city's queer community will continue to "bring the Salvation Army's bigotry out of the closet."

"We need to call them out and make them pay a price for [this]. These groups like to run stealth campaigns, having their cake and eating it too," Thayer said. "They want to practice their bigotry, but at the same time, they'll project a public image of just being another warm and fuzzy charity that people should give to. ... We need to label them as the bigots that they are."

At press time, the Salvation Army's Chicago area office did not return Windy City Times' calls for comment for this story.

Howard Brown to mark 50-day appeal

Howard Brown Health Center is nearing the finish line in its unprecedented Lifeline Appeal to raise \$500,000 in 50 days. At nearly 90 percent to goal, the LGBTQA community's health center has just \$50,000 left to raise by Thursday, Dec. 23.

To help close the \$50,000 gap and ensure Howard Brown's future success, an existing donor has made a pledge to match, dollar for dollar, the first business or person to donate \$25,000 between now and Dec. 25. The anonymous donor has already provided previous challenge grants, totaling \$150,000 to date.

The community, patients and clients of Howard Brown Health Center have been invited to celebrate Dec. 23, 3-4:30 p.m., at the primary clinic located at 4025 N. Sheridan. To donate to Howard Brown's Lifeline appeal, visit <http://www.HowardBrown.org> or call 773-388-1600.

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GARCIA from cover

could not name names.

Asked how she felt about events, she said, "As angry as I may be, one of the things I'm experiencing is a lot of sadness because when I look at the Rainbow Community in Illinois, we already are a marginalized group, we already have elements outside of our community that we have to deal with and to me it's really sad to have this to deal with internally. I think it distracts and it takes away energy that could be put into other things. One of the things that I had talked to Rick about was that now Equality Illinois wanted to be at the forefront of ensuring that the civil-unions bill was being carried out equally and appropriately throughout the state because it requires the direct action of the county clerk and not every county is Cook County. So here you have some things to be done, some things to be cared for and yet the organization is having its energies sucked up on this sort of thing."

On the night of Dec. 17, Jeremy Gottschalk, president of the board of directors of Equality Illinois, sent out a joint statement signed by 17 of the 23 directors. The six who did not sign were Rocco Claps, Vernita Gray, Catherine Sikora, Tonya Wilkes Moore, Stephen S. Herseth and Art Johnston. The message, titled "Regarding the termination of Rick Garcia from Equality Illinois," simply stated: "We, as Directors of the Board of Equality Illinois, fully stand behind this decision. This is about what's best for Equality Illinois, and we are focusing on moving forward and strengthening our organization." The general impression so far has been that the decision to fire Garcia was arbitrary and quickly made.

Dalila Fridi is vice president of the board directors, and she clarified matters while addressing some specific issues. According to her, the decision was the end result of a long process that



From left: Metropolitan Water Reclamation Commissioner Debra Shore, Rick Garcia and Equality Illinois Board Chair Jeremy Gottschalk at a fundraiser in 2007. Photo by Andrew Davis

had begun a year ago, and that the board's personnel committee had raised matters with Garcia: "We discussed it with Rick and then again in summer set him down and went through his review and what we expect from him and what he needs to do to reach those goals. The request came from the board and the CEO."

Asked what the issues raised with Garcia were, she said those were personnel matters she was not free to discuss. In the summer, according to her, Garcia was given a period of 90 days to show changes: "We gave him a letter and he signed that, he agreed upon our stating our goals and our expectations of his work. The decision [to fire him] came out based on what we discussed ... we stated that this is what we the board and Bernard expect from him as a political director

and we discussed [all] of the personnel matters that we had concerns about, and we did mention that this is a work that we would like to see changes by the end of the year."

When November/December of this year came about, Fridi said, they did not revisit the matter because they were concentrating on the civil unions bill. She emphasized that, "we respect Rick, [we don't deny] anything that he's done. But like I said, this was clearly, straightforward a personnel matter, nothing to do with his work for Equality Illinois or the civil unions bill. Or the other bills that he worked hard on helping pass. But yes, we wanted to wait, we didn't want to disturb the whole civil unions bill."

With regard to the timing, many in the community have expressed concern that Garcia was effectively used for his skills in helping to bring the civil-unions bill about, with other agencies and individuals, and then let go when the organization felt it could now do without him. Responding to that concern, Fridi emphasized that she was speaking for herself, but "I don't agree with those assumptions." She added, "We appreciate everything he's done and this is clearly a personnel matter and nothing that reflects on his skills." Asked why four members had not signed, she said, "I can't speak for the board members. Some have had a relationship with Rick for over 20 years, but again this is just me assuming that. So again, if you look at the 17 on the press release, we're all behind the decision."

Jeremy Gottschalk also spoke to Windy City Times and added some more details. He would not discuss the exact reasons for the ouster and said, "[Rick Garcia's] been involved within this process all the way along ... He certainly knows. Everything was made very clear to him from the beginning and he's been involved in the process the entire time."

Asked about the four board members who had not signed on, Gottschalk said, "One more board member, Tonya Wilkes Moore, should be added to that list. And then there were four board members that now have expressed concerns. I did not ask them to sign that letter. They did not refuse to sign that letter. I did not ask because they now have expressed, I wouldn't say disagreement, but they ... I assumed they would not be comfortable signing it so I didn't ask. Every single board member, every single board member knew of this entire process and knew of all possible outcomes. You know, I'm a little perplexed now that a few board members are second-guessing it but that's their right. That's absolutely their right. But that's why I did not ask them to sign that. They did not say no. They were not asked."

What about the timing of the decision? Gottschalk responded, "He precipitated this. He precipitated the timing and this had nothing to do with the civil unions bill or with anything else. This is purely following the process we laid out for him." Did that mean there was a whole

process laid out and this was simply the inevitable result of that long process? Gottschalk responded, "Well, it was one of the possible results."

Asked about the future of the organization, he said, "the organization is stronger than ever. And there has been an overwhelming amount of support and this will not derail our work."

Bernard Cherkasov was equally emphatic that the work of Equality Illinois would carry on. Like the others, he would not describe "personnel matters," but did say, "there were no surprises for anyone here." Asked to elaborate, he added, "members of the board have known that we've been trying to avoid this situation, we've been working on these issues for a long time. It's unfortunate that this is where we ended up."

Asked about the timing, Cherkasov responded, "There is no good time for a personnel decision like this." Asked if they were looking for a new political director or had anyone in mind, he said, "We don't have anyone in mind. But in due time we're going to start the process to beef up our policy team. We do have and we've had for a long time lobbyists, both Republican and Democratic, who have been doing our advocacy work for some time."

Citing the work ahead for the organization, Cherkasov said, "We've been doing a lot of aggressive outreach work, and now we're going to focus on stronger transgender equality work, to make sure we follow up closely the implementation of civil unions, make sure the will of the legislature is implemented as [civil unions] are rolled out and so that we can continue to do outreach to communities of color and communities of faith and that is going to require a lot of effort, a lot of work."

Asked for a statement about Rick Garcia, he said, "Rick has been one of the most passionate advocates for equality. The immediate aftermath of a separation is always a difficult period. Wherever his next journey takes him, I wish him every success. I think my intention is for this process to be the utmost professional and we can make it work, make sure it's absolutely amicable. The politics of personal destruction has been not helpful to anyone in the organization, to anyone in our movement. But I think as passions cool down, I hope people come to realize that this is not about individuals, it's about a cause. And we have to keep working towards full equality ... and not focus on destructive personalities."



Rick Garcia at the 2006 Chicago Pride Parade. Photo by Chuck Kramer

There are rumors swirling that Garcia was not a paid employee of Equality Illinois. Both Fridi and Cherkasov have emphatically denied that, pointing to the organization's financial documents. WCT will continue to cover that and other aspects of the matter in the following weeks.

Rocco Claps, Vernita Gray, Katherine Siccora, and Art Johnston as well as other board members were contacted for this story but WCT did not receive responses at the time of this going to print. Given the rush of the weekend, we expect to hear more in the coming days and will continue to update this story.

Equality Illinois and Rick Garcia part ways; El on civil-union plans

BY ANDREW DAVIS

In a move that will likely send shock waves through the local LGBT community, pro-LGBTQ organization Equality Illinois is no longer employing Rick Garcia as its director of public policy.

Equality Illinois CEO Bernard Cherkasov confirmed the news during a conversation with Windy City Times. He said that during a Dec. 17 conference call with "key stakeholders to outline an agenda for Equality Illinois with our priorities for 2011. We announced that we have to strengthen our team for all the challenges that come ahead, including protecting civil unions and empowering our community about civil unions. And we all announced that Rick Garcia is no longer employed with Equality Illinois."

Cherkasov added that "we will begin a new search process right after the holidays to hire someone who will help us get to our next milestone." When asked about the qualities he would want in Garcia's successor, Cherkasov said he would like "somebody who is skilled, experienced and professional—somebody who would develop strong relationships with all the key stakeholders in the community, not only with our elected officials, but with our partner organizations as well as communities of color, the transgender community, women...every segment of our community."

Garcia's contribution to the advancement of gay rights in Illinois is undeniable. He was a key figure in both the amendment of the state's human-rights act that includes sexual orientation and gender identity as well as the civil-unions bill that recently passed through the Illinois General Assembly.



Bernard Cherkasov. Photo courtesy of Danny Maurice

When asked to describe Garcia, Cherkasov said that he is "a passionate advocate. He did a lot for our movement. He is outspoken and unafraid and he, in his heart of hearts, really believed in full equality for the LGBT community. Wherever his next journey takes him, I wish him every success."

Regarding civil unions, Cherkasov added that Equality Illinois is holding 12 community forums "in every corner of the state" over the 120 days after the bill passed the state Senate Dec. 1. There was one Dec. 16 at Center on Halsted.

He said that Equality Illinois is unveiling an "aggressive" campaign that "will educate and empower our community about civil unions. We are also focusing on ... [ensuring] that the legislation intended to provide equal treatment for same-sex couples in Illinois. We're going to closely scrutinize and follow the implementation of civil unions, and make sure the legislators' intent is carried out."

"We are also going to work with our allies in the communities of faith and color to make sure people understand what relationship recognition means and doesn't mean."

Rick Garcia speaks out about firing

BY YASMIN NAIR

Windy City Times spoke to Rick Garcia, the ousted political director of Equality Illinois, late Friday night, Dec. 17. What follows are excerpts from that interview.

Garcia said that Equality Illinois CEO Bernard Cherkasov told him, "I am going to be very gracious and amicable," and Garcia said he looked at him and said, "Do you think for one minute that I'm going to be gracious and amicable?"

Yasmin Nair: So, to start then, our story is that you have been released from EI and could you tell us what happened, why, when?

Garcia: I went into the office for a meeting at 5 o'clock last night [Dec. 16]. I went into Bernard's office. There was one of our board members that nobody would know, hello, and I sat down and Bernard just looked at me and said, "Your services are no longer needed and we are terminating you now." Now, the state of Illinois is an at-will state and anybody can be fired at any time, so he just fired my ass at about 5 o'clock last night. Um, about 45 minutes before I was supposed to be over at [Center on Halsted] to give a talk.

So he fired me 10 days after we passed a civil-unions bill that only six states have. He fires me. Who has passed more civil-rights legislation in this country than that little nasty—I can't even think of the term—that he would even think of? And then he sits across from me and says, "I'm terminating you because we don't need you up here no more." And that's what he said to me. We're terminating you.

Nair: And did he give any reasons?

Garcia: Absolutely not. He told me that at some point in the future we could have an exit ... an exit interview and "we will go over what the problems were" OK, fine, fine.

Nair: And what was your response to him?

Garcia: "Fuck you." [Laughs.] I mean, I have to be really real, you know. I sat there across from him, less than 10 days from passing a civil-unions bill in Illinois. Passing a statewide gay-rights bill in the state of Illinois, in 2005, giving state employees domestic-partner benefits, allowing lesbians to have in vitro fertilization covered by their insurers. And excuse my language, it's really rude, OK—and this bitch is going to dismiss me. I don't think so. I do not think so. I challenge—here's the thing, here's the thing. I challenge him to come up with anybody who has my record. And I've always said that, I can stand on my record. Who, who, who, who has my record?

I mean when he first came to work for us, he kept on saying, [does a mocking imitation], "Oh, my God, Rick, I would really love to be you, I would really love to stand up there and talk like you." But you know what, Yasmin, you know what else I do? It's not being up there talking. It's about getting the job done.

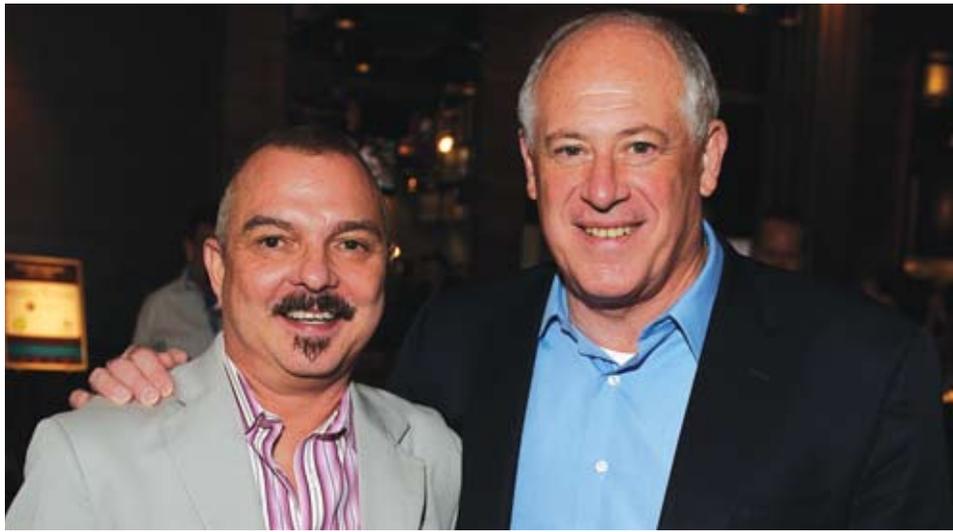
And you know it's and you know I was removed from the office by police.

Nair: Yes, I know.

Garcia: I'm glad you know that. I did that on purpose.

Nair: How did you do it by purpose? What do you mean by that?

Garcia: Well, I went to the office. I walked in. He looked shocked that I was there. He did not think that I was going to come in. And then he said, Well, we all have to leave to go to the Christmas party. I said, "Well, have fun." "Well, we can't leave you here, in an unlocked office." He says, to the founder, the founder of that mother-fucking office. "We can't leave you in here with an unlocked door." I said, "Well, call the police." And he did, and four police officers came, and of course they all know me from the neighborhood. You know, it's all really nasty and



Rick Garcia and Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn at this year's Illinois Safe Schools Alliance brunch. Photo by Kat Fitzgerald (MysticImagesPhotography.com)

it doesn't have to be nasty. And he's making it nasty. And that's the thing.

Nair: Basically, you said, call the police; the police came in. Did you have any conversation with the police at all?

Garcia: Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah. They came in. I said, "I think I'm ready for you." They said, "OK. Next time you want to get anything out of here, call him and talk it out." It was very amicable, very nice. But you know, four police officers were there for him to throw me out—while the rest of our staff is at their Christmas party, which he doesn't want me to go to.

Nair: So no one touched you or anything like that—they were just escorting you out?

Garcia: Oh, no, absolutely, no, no, no, no.

Nair: And who else—you said there was another board member?

Garcia: Kyle [Spainhour]. He's somebody that, truth be told, I think I've seen him maybe once or twice in my entire life. I mean, this is not somebody who is doing anything for the community. He has the opportunity to be on the EI board.

Nair: And do you think any of this had to do with the issue around Howard Brown Health Center that we had talked about? [Garcia spoke frankly about the controversies at HBHC.]

Garcia: Well, I will tell you this. I do know that Jamal [Edwards, the new head of HBHC] and Paul Fairchild [former HBHC development director] complained to Bernard about me. And that's where much of this began.

Nair: Did he [Bernard] ever talk to you personally?

Garcia: No, no. You know what? The only time we see each other, we say hello, nod, but he never ever talked to me personally. The only thing I know is that he told whatever his name is I'm drawing a complete blank ...

Nair: Bernard—Jamal told Bernard?

Garcia: Yeah, he told Bernard that he was very upset with what I had said about Howard Brown. And of course I stand by what I said about Howard Brown. We need to be transparent. You know what? EI needs to be transparent. We need to know where the money comes from, where it goes, and what we do with it. Simple as that.

Nair: Now we did contact Jamal and Bernard separately to ask about what you had told us. Jamal did not deny making the phone call [but pointed out that Rick criticized Howard Brown Health Center during a time when the details of what HBHC was facing were not fully known nor available. In response, Jamal says he told Bernard: "People should not judge anyone, or any organization, without first being fully advised of the facts"]. Bernard said he had a conversation with you but he never threatened termination. So what would your response be to that?

Garcia: Well, I would say that Bernard is a liar. That's on the record. He is a complete liar. He has lied more than once. I'm sure he'll lie again. And that's one of the reasons why I have a difficult time continuing to work for EI. Because Bernard is a liar.

Nair: So you've had problems with Bernard in the past then, since he came on?

Garcia: Well, I never trusted him. You know why? For instance, let's talk about the current situation. Bernard tells me [mimics]: "I have talked to the board and all of the board agrees. I am here just giving you what the board is saying about your termination." And then I talked to four board members and you know what they all say to me? "What the hell is he talking about?"

Nair: So you think it was not really passed through the board either?

Garcia: No, no, it's him. It's him and a couple of other people. Here's the bottom line. I know that there are board members who would never want to fire me. Cathy Sikora, Dan Dever, Art Johnston. I know a couple of others. There are four that I know. And then Bernard has the audacity to stand there and say [mimicking], "the board agrees with me." You know what? All of the board doesn't agree with him.

Nair: Have you spoken to Cathy or Dan or Art Johnston?

Garcia: I have spoken to Cathy and I have talked to Art.

Nair: OK, and so nothing was brought up about the Howard Brown issue—no reasons were given at all?

Garcia: At my meeting, all they said [was]: "This is not working out. You are terminated, and there was no reason for being terminated. But as I always say, "I ain't going nowhere." And even if the police have to come to my office every morning to take me out of there, that's gonna be fine, 'cause I know, Yasmin, I think you know this: I'm not there for the cops, I am not there for the politicians, I am there for the people who need us, and that's why I'm there. That's why I will continue to be there.

Nair: So do you plan to go back to the office on Monday or ... what action will you take from now on?

Garcia: On Monday?? On Monday?? Honey, I'm going up there tomorrow. They may have changed the locks, but you know what, I have work to do. We have work to do. You know what, all this ... let's cut through all this, OK? We have serious work to do. And I'll go up there and do it. You know what? I don't care what this crazy megalomaniac CEO or whatever he's called, I don't care about the idiot president of our board because that chap is such an idiot ... I don't care what they think. Because I know that people need help and people need protection now.

Nair: So you'll keep going back to do your work even if it means that every day the police will come to escort you out?

Garcia: Yes. And then I'll do my work in my car. [laughs] I'm always going back to do my work. That is what God made me to do.

Nair: And so you have no plans to go into any other organization or anything like that?

Garcia: No, no, no, no, no. And I should always these days, I think, be referred to as the founder of EI. They don't want me to be referred to as anything else, but they can't take 'I am the founder of the organization,' they can't take that away from me.

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Investigating Gender
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Sunday, Jan. 9
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WINDY CITY
TIMES

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TRACY
BAIMThe Garcia
fallout

Rick Garcia is among the most controversial figures in Chicago's gay community. But while he has alienated and angered many people during his decades of activism, he has also been one of the most visible and passionate people working on LGBT rights in Illinois. He is one of the most known "faces" and spokespersons for our movement, and he has been credited with being among the most effective activists in the state.

His work spans from the 1980s when he lobbied for passage of the city's gay-rights law, to Cook County and state of Illinois legislation for LGBT rights. Most recently, he worked on the successful 2010 push for civil-unions legislation in Illinois.

So even if you disagree with his tactics, and have been on the other end of his attacks, Garcia deserves the honors he has received, includ-

ing induction into the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame.

Given that I have frequently been on that "other side" of Garcia's attacks, I am probably the last person to write an editorial about his sudden firing from Equality Illinois, as its political director. But maybe that makes this the right thing to do. Garcia is both dogged and tireless in his activism, and he was not afraid to spark anger and outrage, even among other gay activists and leaders.

Equality Illinois CEO Bernard Cherkasov announced Dec. 17 that Garcia was fired from the agency that Garcia helped found in the 1990s (as the Illinois Federation for Human Rights). The firing was a shock heard around the state, especially coming just days after the passage of civil-unions legislation.

Perhaps Garcia's biggest cross to bear was his temperament and his take-no-prisoners approach to gay politics. Politics really seems to be a sport for Garcia, and winner takes all. That is a style that can be effective in securing gay rights. But it is also a style that creates many enemies who are after your head, and your job. Over the years, Garcia did more than his fair share of attacking of other gay leaders and groups—some of it deserved, some of it not.

But all of this criticism, and difference in styles, does not add up to the way this all was handled last week, just before the holidays, and days after one of the state's biggest victories on

gay rights. Even if there are legitimate reasons behind this action (and often when it involves personnel, agencies are not able to fully disclose their reasons for firing), the way this happened was disrespectful and has opened a huge wound for Equality Illinois to heal. Coming just weeks before the agency's annual fundraising gala, it could have a negative impact on the agency's future.

This was the wrong timing and the wrong process, and it creates more questions than answers. The Equality Illinois board and its CEO now must step up and come clean about this process, and what can be done to make this transition more transparent and respectful.

Equality Illinois is an important community agency, but that doesn't mean it is not accountable to that same community when controversy strikes. They need to understand that by firing their most visible face in the community, they have a lot of damage control and bridge building to do.

I don't agree with many things Garcia has done in our community, but I do know that his contributions have been tremendous, and no one deserves to experience the actions that happened last week. We may not be able to fully know everything that built up to this painful decision, but what we do know about the process is that it was badly handled in public in a way that could hurt the agency, and our community.

KOBI
BURKSMeeting Kobi,
part two

Hi—Kobi here. If you read "Meeting Kobi" in the Nov. 10, edition of Windy City Times then you know that I'm writing to you from Chester Mental Health Center, the only maximum security hospital in Illinois, and that I am here because of my violent past. I can remember standing there in my family home in the horrific aftermath of the "incident." That's what the "professionals" call the murders. I plainly remember the deafening ringing in my ears, the only noise following the numerous gunshots that ended the lives of my parents and sister. In an age where our teenage generation has begun ending their own lives due to pain with which I'm all too familiar, I want to scream out of a window (impossible to do here) "Stop!"

I have been where you are. Don't you see the similarities? Please allow me to help enlighten you. Hope is the mainstay of the living, in my opinion. Without hope I feel that we become either hopeless, and by that I mean finding no reason to continue, which may take one down the sad path to suicide or another side effect of losing hope is desperation, another sad path that almost always leads to catastrophe. It did for me, anyway.

Part of the issue as I see it now, after years of therapy, is that when I was suffering in my youth, I knew in my mind that my tiny pain-filled world was the only world that existed. It was a world with the father who would strip-search and cavity-search me (including personal exams), and a world with the sadistic boyfriend who would leave me tied up, naked, beaten and bloody. I really knew that was the only world that existed.

I want every person brave enough to read this to continue to be brave and take notice that our community has grown. Our numbers are larger, and we have a voice. What may shock you, if you

are anything like I was, is that you always have had the power to free yourself from the bondage of pain and sadness. I really felt that my actions were the only way to move past my sadness and frustration. How wrong I was.

The first step, as I now see it, is to stand up (Really! If you're sitting, stand up!) and leave. No possessions you have are worth the life of someone else or your own life. Nowhere to go? I politely refer you back to the whole "we are larger in numbers" thing. People are far more understanding than we give them credit for. If I had just gone to someone and said "Help me!" where might I be right now? More importantly, where might my loved ones be? How might we have changed things by realizing that the real world is bigger than my issues? Well, you know what they say: Hindsight is 20/20. Garbage! We all have power—power to survive, but not just this but to thrive.

I'm sitting on a cot in a cold, cell-like room. Every day I watch my back and fear unbridled abuse from either staff or patients. (Truly, this place is not known for its comfort or kind treatment of consumers.) But do you know what? I am thriving. I realize that I am what I'm doing, not what I've done.

I really hope to hear from you as I pray that somewhere I can make a difference in somebody's life. Write to me at Kobi Burks, P.O. Box 31, Chester, Ill., 62233. I hope to hear from you soon.

Kobi

Send letters and viewpoints to
Andrew@WindyCityMediaGroup.com.
Items may be edited for length or clarity.

LETTER

Straight talk on civil unions

My name is Wes Fowler. I was a candidate this fall for the Cook County Board of Commissioners. Regarding the passage of the civil-unions bill, I am very happy about this historic landmark victory for our community, but I have a small problem with the way the measure is written.

The bill allows civil unions for unmarried heterosexual couples as well as same-sex couples. I find this insulting. Many state and European civil-union laws are written like this, but not all of them. There is no reason for the Illinois law to be written for both gay and straight couples. The law effectively grants a new benefit to unmarried heterosexual couples. They get the benefits of marriage without the legal consequences or responsibilities.

This effectively creates what one European couple called their "pre-marriage." This is just a stepping stone until they get to their "real" marriage. That is sad as well as very insulting, because this is as close as we, the gay community, will get to "real" marriage.

I spoke with someone who helped write the law a couple of years ago. He said the law was written this way because elderly unmarried heterosexual couples in nursing homes need a law to protect their financial interests without having to get married. Why can't this issue be resolved under a different venue?

Regardless of the ends, the law, as written, should be tweaked a bit.

Marriage, gay or straight, is based on love, not future estate planning. So many people forget this too often.

Wes Fowler
Chicago

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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.

GOINGS-ON

WINDY CITY TIMES' ENTERTAINMENT SECTION

Photo by
Tanner
Photography

A 'CHRISTMAS' STORY

Is Irving Berlin's *White Christmas* (above) like a gift—or like coal in one's stocking? Read the review on page 19.

THEATER

Yes, 'Virginia'...
Page 20.

Photo by Michael Brosilow



MUSIC

Canny McPhee.
Page 24.



SPORTS

Bart and soul.
Page 32.

Photo from Bart Abeel



Michael Feinstein's 'American' dream

BY JERRY NUNN

Michael Feinstein, known for his singing and piano-playing, is bringing his Great American Songbook to the masses with a four-DVD collectors set of the PBS hit just in time for the holidays. Windy City Times discussed this collection with the artist himself and the producer, Amber Edwards.

Windy City Times: Hello! How did your DVD set come together, Michael?

MF: Michael Feinstein: Well, I had very little to do with it contrary, to popular belief. What I mean by that is Amber had carte blanche on how she assembled all the material. I told her the only way that it would work for me is for her to make all the decisions and choices. That was a wise decision on my part because I am delighted on how it has been received and put together.

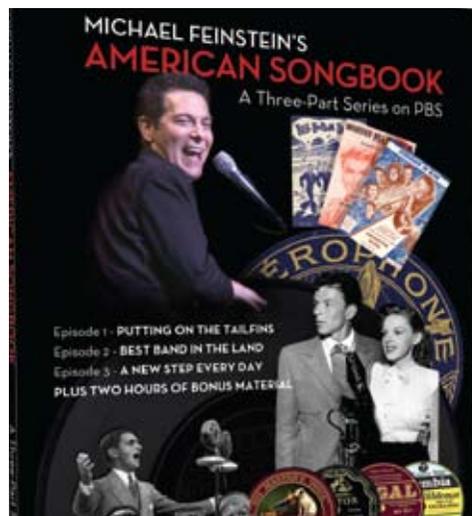
WCT: How do you feel about the release of the DVD?

MF: It makes me particularly happy because of the experience of the bonus materials on the set. We wanted to make available material that was not generally accessible. This reflects both of our tastes in this particular music.

Amber Edwards: I will say that it breaks your heart to discard things that were so beautiful. I went on the road with Michael for the two years when we filmed it. There were wonderful performances and not room enough for it to all fit on a one-hour program. We have 13 extra Feinstein performances. It's always good not letting something go into the dustbin as they say.

MF: Those are dirty words, Amber!

WCT: What is on the extra disc, Amber?



Left: Michael Feinstein's *American Songbook*. Right: Photo of Feinstein from Kyle Whitney

AE: There is a Rosemary Clooney performance from 1956. There is a wonderful version of *Night & Day* by Frank Sinatra also that was filmed when he was in Italy. There are many things that people may not have seen ever before.

WCT: Do you have a favorite part from working on this project?

MF: For me it was being able to interview Margaret Whiting. It was a real sense of history being able to preserve memories with a person who lived the history of American music. Since that time she has not been able to do interviews. I felt like we were able to capture her with dignity.

AE: I would echo that and say that being able to look at this material through Michael's eyes and see him tie together the music and the history.

WCT: How do you feel gay artists have evolved over the years?

MF: There was a big divide back then between performers and songwriters that were gay. Most of the songwriters were in the closet. People knew that Cole Porter was gay but he never spoke of it and was married. There were many



songwriters who were gay such as Herman Hupfeld who wrote "As Time Goes By." Many people did not want it to impact their careers. But then there were people at MGM like Conrad Salinger, who was film composer that was so outrageously flamboyant but he didn't care what people thought because his job was secure and he was extraordinarily talented. For performers it was very much hidden.

AE: We have footage where men in the army played female parts in the shows but they never thought of it like drag. It was a different era and people looked at things depending on how they were comfortable.

WCT: Michael, at the beginning of your career could you have been out and made it as big as you did?

MF: I was out. I guess I didn't talk about it but I didn't try to cover it up. But yes, I would have been concerned at the beginning of my career on how it would have been effect. It is always a personal journey because you never know how people will respond.

WCT: Did you research if George Gershwin was gay?

MF: Yes, and many people have claimed that he was gay. There was no definitive proof that George Gershwin was gay. From my view, he might have been very sexually confused that he was not able to form any sort of lasting relationship. No one has ever come forward and said they had a relationship with him. Don't you think they would?

WCT: Well, maybe. He could have been bisexual.

MF: Yes, he could have been bisexual or asexual. There is not a lot documentation about his relationships.

WCT: What was it like living next door to Rosemary Clooney?

MF: Rosemary Clooney was my favorite person in the world. When I first started working with Ira Gershwin it drove me nuts that she was next door and I didn't get to meet her. I would hear her pull in the driveway sometimes singing along to the music on the radio.

Once I was able to meet her, she invited me in the house and I never left. I became like her sixth kid. She was an earth mother and I adore her as I adore very few people. She was always my favorite singer and remains so. She always wanted to know the gossip and later performing so many shows with her was a great gift.

WCT: How amazing. When are you coming back to Chicago?

MF: I don't know.

AE: Not on this year's tour, that I know of.

MF: I was asked to do Ravinia last year and thought I should take a break. I had been doing it every year and don't like to be overexposed, well at least not onstage. [*Chuckles*] I will look into doing Ravinia again at some point.

WCT: So who should get this DVD for the holiday season?

MF: I can't think of anyone that it wouldn't be appropriate!

Stuff someone's stocking with this collection by purchasing on his website at <http://www.michaelfeinstein.com>, or at <http://www.pbs.org>.

- EPZICOM, in combination with other antiretroviral agents, is indicated for the treatment of HIV-1 infection in adults.
- EPZICOM is one of 3 medicines containing abacavir. Before starting EPZICOM, your healthcare provider will review your medical history in order to avoid the use of abacavir if you have experienced an allergic reaction to abacavir in the past.
- In one study, more patients had a severe hypersensitivity reaction in the abacavir once-daily group than in the abacavir twice-daily group.
- EPZICOM should not be used as part of a triple-nucleoside regimen.
- EPZICOM does not cure HIV infection/AIDS or prevent passing HIV to others.

Important Safety Information

EPZICOM contains abacavir, which is also contained in ZIAGEN® (abacavir sulfate) and TRIZIVIR® (abacavir sulfate, lamivudine, and zidovudine). Patients taking abacavir may have a **serious allergic reaction (hypersensitivity reaction) that can cause death**. Your risk of this allergic reaction is much higher if you have a gene variation called *HLA-B*5701* than if you do not. Your healthcare provider can determine with a blood test if you have this gene variation. **If you get a symptom from 2 or more of the following groups while taking EPZICOM, call your doctor right away to determine if you should stop taking this medicine.**

1. Fever
2. Rash
3. Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, or abdominal (stomach area) pain
4. Generally ill feeling, extreme tiredness, or achiness
5. Shortness of breath, cough, or sore throat

Carefully read the Warning Card that your pharmacist gives you and carry it with you at all times.

If you stop EPZICOM because of an allergic reaction, NEVER take EPZICOM or any other abacavir-containing medicine (ZIAGEN, TRIZIVIR) again. If you take EPZICOM or any other abacavir-containing medicine again after you have had an allergic reaction, **WITHIN HOURS** you may get **life-threatening symptoms** that may include **very low blood pressure or death**.



I've got the fight in me.

If you stop EPZICOM for any other reason, even for a few days, and you are not allergic to EPZICOM, talk with your healthcare provider before taking it again. Taking EPZICOM again can cause a serious allergic or life-threatening reaction, even if you never had an allergic reaction to it before. If your healthcare provider tells you that you can take EPZICOM again, **start taking it when you are around medical help or people who can call a healthcare provider if you need one.**

A buildup of lactic acid in the blood and an enlarged liver, including fatal cases, have been reported.

Do not take EPZICOM if your liver does not function normally. Some patients infected with both hepatitis B virus (HBV) and HIV have worsening of hepatitis after stopping lamivudine (a component of EPZICOM). Discuss any change in treatment with your healthcare provider. If you have both HBV and HIV and stop treatment with EPZICOM, you should be closely monitored by your healthcare provider for at least several months.

Worsening of liver disease (sometimes resulting in death) has occurred in patients infected with both HIV and hepatitis C virus who are taking anti-HIV medicines and are also being treated for hepatitis C with interferon with or without ribavirin. If you are taking EPZICOM as well as interferon with or without ribavirin and you experience side effects, be sure to tell your healthcare provider.

When you start taking HIV medicines, your immune system may get stronger and could begin to fight infections that have been hidden in your body, such as pneumonia, herpes virus, or tuberculosis. If you have new symptoms after starting your HIV medicines, be sure to tell your healthcare provider.

Changes in body fat may occur in some patients taking antiretroviral therapy. These changes may include an increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast, and around the trunk. Loss of fat from the legs, arms, and face may also occur. The cause and long-term health effects of these conditions are not known at this time.

Some HIV medicines, including those containing abacavir (ZIAGEN, EPZICOM, and TRIZIVIR), may increase your risk of heart attack. If you have heart problems, smoke, or suffer from diseases that increase your risk of heart disease, such as high blood pressure, high cholesterol, or diabetes, tell your healthcare provider.

The most common side effects seen with the drugs in EPZICOM dosed once daily were allergic reaction, trouble sleeping, depression, headache, tiredness, dizziness, nausea, diarrhea, rash, fever, stomach pain, abnormal dreams, and anxiety. Most of the side effects do not cause people to stop taking EPZICOM.

By prescription only.

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

Visit www.fda.gov/medwatch, or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

Please see additional important information about EPZICOM, including boxed warnings, on the adjacent pages.



If you don't have prescription coverage and can't afford your medicines, visit GSKforYou.com or call the ViiV Healthcare Response Center 1-877-844-8872



Save on your medication!

Ask your doctor about the Patient Savings Card or visit www.mysupportcard.com to learn how to save on your out-of-pocket expenses. Subject to eligibility. Restrictions apply.



“EVEN WITH HIV,
**I NEVER
STOP FIGHTING.”**

“When I was first diagnosed with HIV, I didn’t know what each day would bring or how the virus would affect my body over time. But at some point, I realized I had to take control. So I worked on my body. My mind. And my attitude. Since then, I’ve dedicated my life to fighting HIV with everything in me.

My meds help a lot. About a year ago, my doctor told me about EPZICOM. In combination with other medications, it’s been shown to help keep HIV from making more copies of itself and infecting healthy cells. 68% of patients taking a regimen with EPZICOM had their viral load become undetectable in less than one year. Plus, patients saw a 93% increase in their T-cell counts.* So I started taking it as part of my combination therapy.

Turns out that was a good thing. My viral load is undetectable. And me? I just keep fighting on.”†

† Not an actual patient testimonial. Based on collection of real patient experiences. Individual results may vary.

*HEAT study of 688 patients defines undetectable as a viral load less than 50 copies/mL. Baseline median T-cell count for patients receiving EPZICOM was 214 cells/mm³ and at 48 weeks, patients saw a median increase of 201 cells/mm³ in their T-cell count.

Ask your healthcare provider if EPZICOM is right for you.
Learn more at www.EpzicomForYou.com

EPZICOM® (abacavir sulfate and lamivudine) Tablets

MEDICATION GUIDE

EPZICOM® (ep' zih com) Tablets

Generic name: abacavir (uh-BACK-ah-veer) sulfate and lamivudine (la-MIV-yoo-deen)

Read the Medication Guide that comes with EPZICOM before you start taking it and each time you get a refill because there may be new information. This information does not take the place of talking to your doctor about your medical condition or your treatment. Be sure to carry your EPZICOM Warning Card with you at all times.

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

- **Serious Allergic Reaction to Abacavir.** EPZICOM contains abacavir (also contained in ZIAGEN® and TRIZIVIR®). Patients taking EPZICOM may have a serious allergic reaction (hypersensitivity reaction) that can cause death. **Your risk of this allergic reaction is much higher if you have a gene variation called HLA-B*5701 than if you do not. Your doctor can determine with a blood test if you have this gene variation. If you get a symptom from 2 or more of the following groups while taking EPZICOM, call your doctor right away to determine if you should stop taking this medicine.**

	Symptom(s)
Group 1	Fever
Group 2	Rash
Group 3	Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal (stomach area) pain
Group 4	Generally ill feeling, extreme tiredness, or achiness
Group 5	Shortness of breath, cough, sore throat

A list of these symptoms is on the Warning Card your pharmacist gives you. Carry this Warning Card with you.

If you stop EPZICOM because of an allergic reaction, NEVER take EPZICOM (abacavir sulfate and lamivudine) or any other abacavir-containing medicine (ZIAGEN and TRIZIVIR) again. If you take EPZICOM or any other abacavir-containing medicine again after you have had an allergic reaction, **WITHIN HOURS** you may get **life-threatening symptoms** that may include **very low blood pressure** or **death**.

If you stop EPZICOM for any other reason, even for a few days, and you are not allergic to EPZICOM, talk with your doctor before taking it again. Taking EPZICOM again can cause a serious allergic or life-threatening reaction, even if you never had an allergic reaction to it before. If your doctor tells you that you can take EPZICOM again, **start taking it when you are around medical help or people who can call a doctor if you need one.**

- **Lactic Acidosis.** Some human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) medicines, including EPZICOM, can cause a rare but serious condition called **lactic acidosis with liver enlargement (hepatomegaly)**. Nausea and tiredness that don't get better may be symptoms of lactic acidosis. In some cases this condition can cause death. Women, overweight people, and people who have taken HIV medicines like EPZICOM for a long time have a higher chance of getting lactic acidosis and liver enlargement. Lactic acidosis is a medical emergency and must be treated in the hospital.
- **Worsening of hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection.** Patients with HBV infection, who take EPZICOM and then stop it, may get "flare-ups" of their hepatitis. "Flare-up" is when the disease suddenly returns in a worse way than before. If you have HBV infection, your doctor should closely monitor your liver function for several months after stopping EPZICOM. You may need to take anti-HBV medicines.
- **Use with interferon- and ribavirin-based regimens.** Worsening of liver disease (sometimes resulting in death) has occurred in patients infected with both HIV and hepatitis C virus who are taking anti-HIV medicines and are also being treated for hepatitis C with interferon with or without ribavirin. If you are taking EPZICOM as well as interferon with or without ribavirin and you experience side effects, be sure to tell your doctor.

EPZICOM can have other serious side effects. Be sure to read the section below entitled "What are the possible side effects of EPZICOM?"

What is EPZICOM?

EPZICOM is a prescription medicine used to treat HIV infection. EPZICOM includes 2 medicines: abacavir (ZIAGEN) and lamivudine or 3TC (EPIVIR®). See the end of this Medication Guide for a complete list of ingredients in EPZICOM. Both of these medicines are called nucleoside analogue reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NRTIs). When used together, they help lower the amount of HIV in your blood. This helps to keep your immune system as healthy as possible so that it can help fight infection.

Different combinations of medicines are used to treat HIV infection. You and your doctor should discuss which combination of medicines is best for you.

- **EPZICOM does not cure HIV infection or AIDS.** We do not know if EPZICOM will help you live longer or have fewer of the medical problems that people get with HIV or AIDS. It is very important that you see your doctor regularly while you are taking EPZICOM.
- **EPZICOM does not lower the risk of passing HIV to other people through sexual contact, sharing needles, or being exposed to your blood.** For your health and the health of others, it is important to always practice safe sex by using a latex or polyurethane condom or other barrier method to lower the chance of sexual contact with semen, vaginal secretions, or blood. Never use or share dirty needles.

Who should not take EPZICOM?

Do not take EPZICOM if you:

- **have ever had a serious allergic reaction (a hypersensitivity reaction) to EPZICOM or any other medicine that has abacavir as one of its ingredients (TRIZIVIR and ZIAGEN). See the end of this Medication Guide for a complete list of ingredients in EPZICOM.**
- **have a liver that does not function properly.**
- **are less than 18 years of age.**

Before starting EPZICOM tell your doctor about all of your medical conditions, including if you:

- **have been tested and know whether or not you have a particular gene variation called HLA-B*5701.**
- **are pregnant or planning to become pregnant.** We do not know if EPZICOM will harm your unborn child. You and your doctor will need to decide if EPZICOM is right for you. If you use EPZICOM while you are pregnant, talk to your doctor about how you can be on the Antiviral Pregnancy Registry for EPZICOM.
- **are breastfeeding.** Some of the ingredients in EPZICOM can be passed to your baby in your breast milk. It is not known if they could harm your baby. Also, mothers with HIV should not breastfeed because HIV can be passed to the baby in the breast milk.
- **have liver problems including hepatitis B virus infection.**
- **have kidney problems.**
- **have heart problems, smoke, or suffer from diseases that increase your risk of heart disease such as high blood pressure, high cholesterol, or diabetes.**

Tell your doctor about all the medicines you take, including prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. Especially tell your doctor if you take any of the following medicines*:

- **methadone**
- **HIVID® (zalcitabine, ddC)**
- **EPIVIR or EPIVIR-HBV® (lamivudine, 3TC), ZIAGEN (abacavir sulfate), COMBIVIR® (lamivudine and zidovudine), or TRIZIVIR (abacavir sulfate, lamivudine, and zidovudine).**

How should I take EPZICOM?

- **Take EPZICOM by mouth exactly as your doctor prescribes it.** The usual dose is 1 tablet once a day. Do not skip doses.
- **You can take EPZICOM with or without food.**
- **If you miss a dose of EPZICOM, take the missed dose right away. Then, take the next dose at the usual time.**
- **Do not let your EPZICOM run out.**
- **Starting EPZICOM again can cause a serious allergic or life-threatening reaction, even if you never had an allergic reaction to it before.** If you run out of EPZICOM even for a few days, you must ask your doctor if you can start EPZICOM again. If your doctor tells you that you can take EPZICOM again, start taking it when you are around medical help or people who can call a doctor if you need one.
- **If you stop your anti-HIV drugs, even for a short time, the amount of virus in your blood may increase and the virus may become harder to treat.**
- **If you take too much EPZICOM, call your doctor or poison control center right away.**

What should I avoid while taking EPZICOM?

- Do not take **EPIVIR (lamivudine, 3TC), COMBIVIR (lamivudine and zidovudine), ZIAGEN (abacavir sulfate), or TRIZIVIR (abacavir sulfate, lamivudine, and zidovudine)** while taking EPZICOM. Some of these medicines are already in EPZICOM.
- Do not take **zalcitabine (HIVID, ddC)** while taking EPZICOM.

Avoid doing things that can spread HIV infection, as EPZICOM does not stop you from passing the HIV infection to others.

- **Do not share needles or other injection equipment.**
- **Do not share personal items that can have blood or body fluids on them, like toothbrushes and razor blades.**
- **Do not have any kind of sex without protection.** Always practice safe sex by using a latex or polyurethane condom or other barrier method to lower the chance of sexual contact with semen, vaginal secretions, or blood.
- **Do not breastfeed.** EPZICOM can be passed to babies in breast milk and could harm the baby. Also, mothers with HIV should not breastfeed because HIV can be passed to the baby in the breast milk.

What are the possible side effects of EPZICOM?

EPZICOM can cause the following serious side effects:

- **Serious allergic reaction that can cause death.** (See "What is the most important information I should know about EPZICOM?" at the beginning of this Medication Guide.)
- **Lactic acidosis with liver enlargement (hepatomegaly) that can cause death.** (See "What is the most important information I should know about EPZICOM?" at the beginning of this Medication Guide.)
- **Worsening of HBV infection.** (See "What is the most important information I should know about EPZICOM?" at the beginning of this Medication Guide.)
- **Changes in immune system.** When you start taking HIV medicines, your immune system may get stronger and could begin to fight infections that have been hidden in your body, such as pneumonia, herpes virus, or tuberculosis. If you have new symptoms after starting your HIV medicines, be sure to tell your doctor.
- **Changes in body fat.** These changes have happened in patients taking antiretroviral medicines like EPZICOM. The changes may include an increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast, and around the back, chest, and stomach area. 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.

Some HIV medicines including EPZICOM may increase your risk of heart attack. If you have heart problems, smoke, or suffer from diseases that increase your risk of heart disease such as high blood pressure, high cholesterol, or diabetes, tell your doctor.

The most common side effects with EPZICOM are trouble sleeping, depression, headache, tiredness, dizziness, nausea, diarrhea, rash, fever, stomach pain, abnormal dreams, and anxiety. Most of these side effects did not cause people to stop taking EPZICOM.

This list of side effects is not complete. 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 EPZICOM?

- Store EPZICOM at room temperature between 59° to 86°F (15° to 30°C).
- Keep EPZICOM and all medicines out of the reach of children.

General information for safe and effective use of EPZICOM

Medicines are sometimes prescribed for conditions that are not mentioned in Medication Guides. Do not use EPZICOM for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give EPZICOM to other people, even if they have the same symptoms that you have. It may harm them.

This Medication Guide summarizes the most important information about EPZICOM. If you would like more information, talk with your doctor. You can ask your doctor or pharmacist for the information that is written for healthcare professionals or call 1-888-825-5249.

What are the ingredients in EPZICOM?

Active ingredients: abacavir sulfate and lamivudine

Inactive ingredients: Each film-coated EPZICOM Tablet contains the inactive ingredients magnesium stearate, microcrystalline cellulose, and sodium starch glycolate. The tablets are coated with a film (OPADRY® orange YS-1-13065-A) that is made of FD&C Yellow No. 6, hypromellose, polyethylene glycol 400, polysorbate 80, and titanium dioxide.

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John Scherer (left) and Denis Lambert in Irving Berlin's *White Christmas*. Photos by Tanner Photography

THEATER REVIEW

Irving Berlin's *White Christmas*

Playwright: music & lyrics by Irving Berlin, book by David Ives & Paul Blake, based on the screenplay by Norman Panama, Melvin Frank & Norman Krasna
At: Broadway In Chicago at the Bank of America Shubert Theatre, 18 W. Monroe
Phone: 800-775-2000; \$25-\$98
Runs through: Jan. 2, 2011

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

With increasing numbers of revelers rejecting long-distance vacations this year to seek their celebration in the Loop, Broadway In Chicago has assembled a ideally balanced menu of choices: for the young and hip, there's the edgy *Wicked* at the Cad Palace. For the less-talk-more-action fans, there's the acrobatic *Traces* at Water Tower Place's Broadway Theatre. And for audiences preferring to be entertained at a more leisurely pace, the BankAmerica Shubert is hosting this screen-to-stage adaptation of a 1954 Hollywood heartwarmer.

David Ives and Paul Blake's book cobbles together elements of the backstage musical (a successful song & dance duo prepares their new Broadway extravaganza) with the poor-girls-make-good formula (a "singing sisters" act ben-

efits romantically and professionally by their acquaintance with these male stars). Besides the usual lovers' misunderstandings, the plot references the save-the-property-from-foreclosure crisis and a salute to Our Brave Boys In Uniform (the resort owner in need of the show, you see, is our ex-GI heroes' former commander). We also have a wisecracking matron, an adorable child, a laconic rube, a fussy Manhattan director, featherbrained chorus girls and a glib west-coast TV exec. All that's missing is the big furry dog.

But if you wanted complicated narrative, there's *Christmas Carol* at the Goodman. What fuels this kind of holiday sweet are wailing horns, nimble feet, big skirts and cozy ballads by Irving Berlin at his schmaltziest (that's a compliment, folks)—like "I've Got My Love To Keep Me Warm", upbeat jazz-tempo tappers like "Let Yourself Go" and inspirational ditties like "Count Your Blessings." Warblers are allowed a bit more stylistic stridency in 2010, but Ruth Williamson takes the belter's trophy for "Let Me Sing and I'm Happy" (encored by pint-sized belterette Mary Peeples), while bachelor buddies John Scherer and Denis Lambert deliver a shyly het rendition of "Sisters." And though everyone is invited to sing along with the title song, look for a few veterans to join in "The Old Man."

Yes, it's all as corny as the garlands on the tree, but so infectious is the nostalgic glow, nevertheless, that opening-night spectators cheered the falling of fake snow throughout the house at the finale—at least, until confronting the real thing upon leaving.



OPERA REVIEW

The Pirates of Penzance

Libretto: W.S. Gilbert; **Score:** Arthur Sullivan; **Arrangement:** Kevin O'Donnell
At: The Hypocrites at Chopin Theatre, 1543 W. Division
Phone: 773-989-7352; \$14-\$28
Runs through: Jan. 30, 2011

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

Oh, those cute and crazy Hypocrites creative types! While the weather is freezing cold outside, The Hypocrites are heating up Gilbert and Sullivan's 1879 comic operetta as a zany environmental basement beach party at the Chopin Theatre.

Oh, and are they actually attempting to perform the show with just 10 actors who also double up as the rag-tag orchestra? Yup, and the results sure are a loopy romp from start to finish.

Director Sean Graney's approach to *Pirates of Penzance* is to play up the silliness of the score by having his much-doubled up cast appear as a band of 1960s beatnik/beachcomber musicians who get the wacky notion in their heads that they'll stage the classic operetta by themselves.

Gilbert and Sullivan traditionalists shouldn't really get too annoyed at what Graney has wrought in Kevin O'Donnell's new one-act arrangement of *The Pirates of Penzance* (compete with an odd orchestration that includes accordions, guitars and a saw). After all, the original operetta is pure spoofs of 19th-century melodramatic and

operatic theatrical conventions (and since the work is firmly in the public domain, there's no legal ground to complain).

Graney and his cast clearly revel in Gilbert's dexterous word play, especially since you can see the antecedents of Monty Python-style British humor throughout (particularly when the Pirate King of Robert McLean and the Major General of Matt Kahler discuss what it's like to be an orphan). Watching the cast of actor/musicians run riot (and shifting the audience around) through Tom Burch's breezy zigzag set of wooden piers and plastic swimming pools is just one of the pleasures of this show.

The only thing really missing is a true emotional connection between the cast and their characters—as one-dimensional they may be. This is particularly true with the romantic couple of Frederic and Mabel.

Zeke Sulkes doesn't genuinely show how high the stakes are for Frederic, who through a contractual discrepancy (and from his unerring steadfastness to be "the slave of duty") must turn down his love and become a thieving pirate again. Nor do we worry for the predicament of Christine Stulik's impressive banjo-strumming and mock-operatic trilling turn as Mabel/Ruth (in a weird piece of staging business, Stulik plays both roles of lover and middle-aged maid-of-all-work).

But dramatic honesty isn't something most people seek out of *The Pirates of Penzance*. It's fun, fun, fun, and The Hypocrites are doling out all that and more. For a sunny and silly break from the harsh Chicago winter, you can't do much better than spending two-and-a-half hours in the company of The Hypocrites' *Pirates of Penzance*.



The Pirates of Penzance. Photo courtesy of The Hypocrites

SPOTLIGHT



Why should local Jews just settle for Chinese food and a movie on Christmas Day? Sean Altman (formerly of the vocal group Rockapella) presents two performances of *Jewmongous*, an "unkosher" comedy show that looks askance at the travails of the modern-day Jew. *Jewmongous* plays 7 and 9 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 25, at the Skokie Theatre, 7924 N. Lincoln, Skokie. Tickets are \$20; call 847-677-7761 or visit <http://www.skokie-theater.com>. Photo of Sean Altman in *Jewmongous* courtesy of KFAR Jewish Arts Center and the artist



From left: Dustin Valenta, Mallory Nees, Eric Loughlin and Amy Steele in *Striking 12*. Photos courtesy of Brandon Dahlquist and Bohemian Theatre Ensemble

THEATER REVIEW

Striking 12

Playwright: book, music and lyrics

by Brendan Milburn, Valerie

Vigoda and Rachel Sheinkin

At: Heartland Studio, 7016 N. Glenwood

Phone: 866-811-4111; \$15

Runs through: Jan 8, 2011

BY JERRY NUNN

In the world of entertainment, Christmas is more like "the most predictable The BoHo Theatre Company brings their considerable talents up to the North Pole at the Heartland Studio on the north side of Chicago. Expectations were high as one of the writers won the Tony for penning The 25th Annual Putman County Spelling Bee back in 2005. The ensemble brings a light feeling to the material, breaking the fourth wall down and talking directly to the audience. The old theatre expression "I've got a barn, let's put on a show" holds true here with the friendly group. Eric (keyboard), Mallory (guitar, bass), Amy (violin) and Dustin (percussion) use their actual names and play their own instruments, while singing throughout the show. It's interesting to note that this is all of the cast's first show with BoHo.

They combine a holiday story with band camp and seem to be enjoying the piece. Fresh holiday songs are touched upon with "It's Coming Down" (possibly not the name of the song since it's not listed anywhere). Amy has a nice tone to her voice and Mallory is fun to watch as she switches with ease to various instruments. Eric plays a grumpy scrooge and the little drummer boy Dustin resembles Mr. Schuester from *Glee* with his curly locks and positive attitude. Much like that Fox program, the cast members try very hard to get the audience to like them. The performers almost never step away from their instruments to feature their acting chops. The intimate setting almost works against the production. With a little distance, the material could be featured in a concert setting and not the showcase style that it currently lives in.

The director, Lara Filip, states in the program that she felt "there was no direction to be done" at times and the songs speak for themselves. This is never a good sign. The show needs tweaking and more than just Hans Christian Anderson's tale of the Little Match Girl being referenced throughout to tie it together. The title refers to the clock striking twelve for New Years. Unfortunately for this show, many may be looking at their watches as the Bohemians strike out at bat.



RAIN.
Photo by
Cylla
Von
Tiedemann

Beatles tribute Feb. 8-13 at Oriental

RAIN—A Tribute To The Beatles, will run live at the Ford Center for the Performing Arts Oriental Theatre, 24 W. Randolph, for a limited one-week engagement Feb. 8-13, 2011.

RAIN performs the full range of The Beatles' discography live onstage, including songs the Beatles recorded in the studio but never performed for an audience.

Individual tickets are \$35-\$65. A select number of premium seats are also available. Tickets are available at all Broadway in Chicago box office locations and online at <http://www.BroadwayInChicago.com>.

Five chosen in gay play contest

Five new plays featuring GLBT characters or themes have been selected as the finalists in the first Great Gay Play Contest sponsored by Pride Films and Plays. All five scripts will be performed in a festival of staged readings March 3-6, 2011 at the Hoover-Leppen Theater at the Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted.

The five finalists are: *False Reality* by Joe Lauderdale, Los Angeles, Calif.; *Learn to be Latina* by Enrique Urueta, San Francisco, Calif.; *Save the Date* by Tyler Dean, Chicago; *Short Expanse* by Corinne J. Kaweck, Chicago; and *The Times* by Mark S. Watson, Key West, Fla.

For more information, visit <http://www.pridefilmsandplays.com>.

TimeLine presents 'In Darfur' Jan. 22

TimeLine Theatre Company will present the Chicago premiere of *In Darfur* by Winter Miller (directed by TimeLine Associate Artistic Director Nick Bowling) Jan. 22-March 20, 2011 (with previews Jan. 18-21) at TimeLine Theatre, 615 W. Wellington.

In a camp for internally displaced persons in Darfur, three lives intertwine: an aid worker trying to save lives, a Darfuri woman searching for safety and a journalist who believes that one front page-story can help stop the madness. Together they tell a story inspired by real life.

The cast of *In Darfur* features Tyla Abercrombie, Kelli Simpkins, Gregory Isaac, Eddie Jordan III, Mildred Marie Langford, Brian-Alwyn Newland and Ebony Wimbs.

Tickets are \$28 (Wed. through Friday) or \$38 (Saturday and Sunday); preview tickets are \$18. Call the box office at 773-281-8463 or visit <http://www.timelinetheatre.com>.

'Kiss' opens Feb. 4

The Kiss Kiss Cabaret, a Chicago-based neo-vaudeville, burlesque cabaret, has announced its debut at the Greenhouse Theater Center, 2257 N. Lincoln, for an open run of weekly performances.

The open run starts Friday, Feb. 4, 2011. The Kiss Kiss Cabaret Coquettes include members such as Siren Jinx, Jolie Roberson, Miss Kiss Kiss and Naughty Natanya.

Tickets are \$15. See <http://www.KissKissCabaret.com>.

CRITICS' PICKS

A Christmas Carol, Goodman Theatre, through Dec 31. Casting Chicago's foremost American Realism actor as Dickens' legendary unenlightened capitalist allows John Judd to display a greater emotional range than his predecessors in telling a story that could as easily be set on LaSalle Street and in Uptown as Victorian London. MSB

The Importance of Being Earnest, Remy Bumppo, through Jan. 9, 2011. Non-campy and low key, this is a self-assured production of Wilde's witty play, which both honors and sends up 19th-century society and the 19th-century well-made play. Great costumes, too. JA

Peter Pan (A Play), Lookingglass Theatre, through Jan. 23, 2011. Before the super high-tech British tent version arrives in Chicago next year, catch this revisionist homegrown adaptation of J.M. Barrie's classic tale of the boy who wouldn't grow up. Yes, you can see all the ropes and harnesses for the flying effects, but it's still theatrically magical. SCM

Traces, Broadway Playhouse at Water Tower Place, through Jan. 1, 2011. Seven PG-wholesome (but oh-so-sexy) young gymnasts fly higher sans net, wires or sequins for 90 sweaty and thrilling minutes than all your standard-issue big-top tinkerbells. MSB

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge
and Morgan



Amy Morton and Tracy Letts in *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* Photo by Michael Brosilow

THEATER REVIEW

Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?

Playwright: Edward Albee

At: Steppenwolf Theatre, 1650 N. Halsted

Phone: 312-335-1650; \$20-\$75

Runs through: Feb. 13, 2011

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

Sometimes it takes a whole generation for a play to escape its time frame and become a true classic. In 1962, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* was all about the squirming secrets lurking beneath the placid surface of a New England college community—particularly, the lengths to which barren women would go to fulfill their pronatal destiny and men, their masculine imperative. In 2010, however, such idyllic landscapes are found only in real estate brochures, childless couples are no longer objects of pity, and not every metaphor imbued with a political agenda, and so Edward Albee's portrait of marital compromise raises different questions:

First, could the constantly squabbling George and Martha actually be the perfect soul-mates? Both thwarted in their attempts to venture beyond the roles meted out for them by a society steeped in sham and hypocrisy, their suspicions color even their own affections, so that they take solace in the fellowship that

comes of revealing the lie to others, reserving their softer sides for an idealized fantasy of unconditional innocence. And speaking of innocence, are Nick and Honey, their latest victims, complicit in their excoriation? Why don't they leave, together or singly? Or are George and Martha's interrogations, in fact, a gantlet meant to test the mettle of all new professors at this institution, with George simply deciding tonight to take the game into overtime?

Whatever the answers—and Albee's not saying, any more than he's telling whether the hitherto-forbidden melody to the song that gives the show its deceptively puckish title represents a change of his, or Disney's, mind—this Steppenwolf production is not the popular screams-and-whispers marathon modeled on the 1966 film. Instead, director Pam MacKinnon has instructed her actors to play text instead of attitude—a decision stretching the running time somewhat, but making for a surgical precision allowing each of the four characters to render *us* as privy as they, themselves, to the stratagems under scrutiny.

And unencumbered by cheap visual gags, too: Honey's false pregnancy is a thing of the past. Martha is no blowsy harridan, but a sleek and tastefully attired academic matron, nor is Nick the caricatured midwesterner so beloved of coastal audiences. Indeed, the ambience is so much more riveting for its understated plausibility that we wonder why it took the playwright so long to overcome his fear of handing over his first-born to these sensitive artists.



Georgann Coleman makes mark on 'Worst Cooks'

BY JERRY NUNN

Food Network's Worst Cooks in America returns for a second season. Chicago resident and friend to Windy City Times Georgann Coleman turns up the heat in their kitchen.

Windy City Times: Hi, Georg. I have seen you in our Windy City office before because you used to work for us.

Georgann Coleman: Yes, I did sales for a few weeks.

WCT: You now work as a speech language pathologist.

GC: For 12 years now.

WCT: What exactly is that?

GC: I work with a variety of communication disorders from speech to articulation disorders, kids making Rs, Ss and Ls, all the way up to autism and everything in between. It can even be vocal disorders.

WCT: How long have you been with your partner?

GC: Our wedding was five years ago this November. We have been together nine years.

WCT: You have a daughter, correct?

GC: Yes.

WCT: And she was in the movie Hannah Free?

GC: She was, and three months old in it. They needed two babies for the newborns. The director, Wendy Jo Carlton, is a friend of ours and asked. We did a day of shooting.

WCT: I watched the first episode of Worst Cooks. I can't cook either. What led you to audition for it?

GC: I got a phone call out of the blue one day from a producer from the Food Network asking me if I knew my wife had nominated me for the worst cook in America? I said, "No." They asked, "Aren't you excited?" I said, "Not particularly." We had seen a couple of episodes last season so I knew what they were talking about but I had no idea she did that.

WCT: Were you insulted?

GC: I was taken aback, then, yes, it caused about a week of fighting. There were five days of me not wanting to do this. [Partner] Teresa kept her side of it. I carried our daughter Quinn and around 18 months we had hit rock-bottom in our relationship. Theresa is a real-estate broker and wound up being a stay at home mom because of the market. There was a time when I had to be the breadwinner and we fought over domestic responsibilities. So I don't do anything up to her par, especially the cooking! I don't have a problem cooking for myself. I would make my own lunches but she doesn't eat my food. She never has and she just won't. At this point when they called me she said, "This is your opportunity to learn from the best." I was not thrilled about it at first.

WCT: Well, I know I am a bad cook so it wouldn't bother me at all if someone nominated me.

GC: Yeah, I hear you. Later on, when Chef Robert Irvine met me at the first audition he



Georgann Coleman on Worst Chefs.

told me that I have an attitude. The thing was I wasn't pissed I just couldn't believe I was on this show. After Teresa and I discussed all of this in the house, she said, "Just forget it!" And I said, "Hell no, we are going; it's on!" So that's when we went.

WCT: Reverse psychology worked, then. You had to make a dish for the audition.

GC: I wanted to make something that was very familiar to me. I made it regularly before but since the show I made a deal with Chef Roberts that I would never make it again. Someday I might because I still like it.

WCT: What was the dish again?

GC: It's a turkey burger sautéed in a pan with vegetables. It's a mixture of whatever vegetables are in the house, especially onions—they have to be a part of it. I like to caramelize it and make it a little burnt. Also, I like soy sauce or Bragg's Amino Acids. Do you know what Bragg is from Whole Foods?

WCT: No, I told you that I am a bad cook.

GC: It is like a healthier soy sauce and has the same Asian thing going on. I just mix all that together and throw it into my Tupperware and go to work.

WCT: There ya go!

GC: That's the one that Chef Anne Burrell says looks like pet food.

WCT: Oh yeah. I remember that now!

GC: I had never heard that in my life. I couldn't believe it. I guess it was the way that I crumbled the turkey.

WCT: The judges were very entertaining with the audition process.

GC: On the preview for the show the table breaks and the food falls everywhere. It's so funny.

WCT: There were a couple of people from Illinois on the show, also.

GC: There were four of us from the Chicagoland area.

WCT: We always represent really well on reality-television shows.

GC: I know, right?

WCT: Do you feel like you have gotten to be a better cook from the experience?

GC: I do, in certain regards. I really feel like my fear and inhibition in the kitchen is gone. I try things now. The chefs told me that even if I mess up just go for it. I didn't have that before. I was tentative to try anything. Now I have some skills.

WCT: That's great.

GC: I would stick with the basics before and what I knew.

WCT: I think everyone does that and gets stuck in a rut of what we make and eat.

GC: I definitely have expanded that and my horizons.

See who makes the best and Worst Cooks in America when the show debuts Jan 2. Browse over to <http://www.foodnetwork.com> for details.

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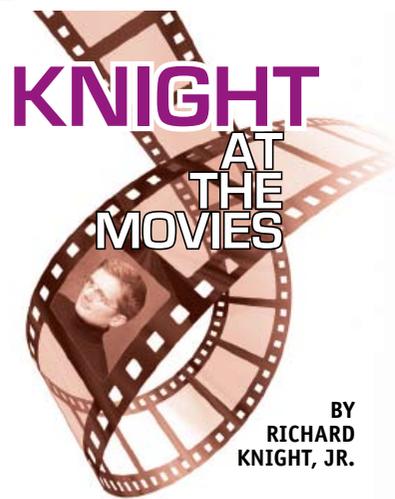


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BY
RICHARD
KNIGHT, JR.

Rabbit Hole; True Grit; Somewhere; Fockers; Poseidon

Hollywood wants you to have a blue Christmas this year. Or so it would seem when one considers the quartet of movies opening this holiday weekend. Two of the movies—**Rabbit Hole** and **Somewhere**—are decidedly downbeat, **True Grit** is a western remake of the 1969 John Wayne classic as seen through the dyspeptic viewfinder of the Coen Brothers while **Little Fockers**, the supposed “feel-good” comedy of the group, is just ... awful. (A fifth film, another comedy, *Gulliver's Travels* starring Jack Black wasn't screened in time for deadlines.) In other words: Bah humbug! But take heart—those first three titles are also award contenders, hence their weighty subject matters and each are definitely worth taking in—when the mood for serious fare ensues, that is.

Rabbit Hole is the first movie from gay director-writer-performer John Cameron Mitchell since his deliriously wonderful film experiment, the sexually adventurous *Shortbus*, four years ago. His return is overdue and, though the material doesn't have a whiff of queer content, the film is beautifully written (adapted for the screen by the playwright David Lindsay-Abaire) and performed by its expert cast—Nicole Kidman, Aaron Eckhart, Dianne Wiest, Tammy Blanchard, Sandra Oh and Miles Teller, a marvelous newcomer.

The story focuses on Kidman and Eckhart as a married couple in the midst of emotional free-fall eight months after the accidental death of their three-year-old son. Kidman is frozen in anger, wound so tight she seems about to snap. (Ironically, when she inevitably does, her mask of a face actually shows some emotion for once.) Eckhart desperately wants to put their lives back together. But nothing is working and Kidman ig-



Josh Brolin in *True Grit*. Photo by Lorey Sebastian

nores any attempts at conciliation from him, her mother (Wiest), sister (Blanchard) or intrusive neighbors. Instead, she's drawn to a sober-faced teenaged boy (Teller) for reasons that slowly become clear.

Mitchell refuses to push the envelope in the inherently grief-stricken material and when tears finally come they are honestly earned. But his cautious approach to the heartbreak has the unfortunate side effect of distancing the audience from Kidman, the central character, until very nearly the end. You just have to hang in there, like Eckhart (who is remarkable in a tricky role), and wait for the clouds to part. I'm glad that Mitchell made *Rabbit Hole* but, selfishly, I want another queer-themed movie from him next.

I also want to see the Coen Brothers—the writers-directors of movies from just about every genre—give us an LGBT-themed film. They've tried just about everything but that it seems, so why not? Perhaps they'd find a remake of say, *Boys in the Band*, *Victim* or *The Killing of Sister George* a mite more creatively challenging than *True Grit*. Their remake is less sour than I expected and their propensity for in your face violence is toned down for once. And while the picture—an old-fashioned western in which a plucky teenage girl hires a grizzled gunman to track down and kill the man who murdered her father—is enjoyable in the way that dozens of other westerns with interchangeable stories and characters are, there's not much that elevates the movie beyond the original.

Jeff Bridges is fine but has none of the electricity that John Wayne, nearing the end of his career, brought to the role. And while the picture is gorgeously shot, scored, the Coens' discovery Hailee Steinfeld is a marvelous find as the “won't take no for an answer” teenaged Mattie, and Matt Damon is a decided improvement over Glen Campbell, really, why did they remake the movie other than as a stop gap between one of their dark comedic projects (like last year's

overlooked gem *A Serious Man*)?

Writer-director Sofia Coppola returns to her roots with *Somewhere*, her follow-up to the misbegotten *Marie Antoinette* (which, naturally, I loved). The new film finds her back with a subject near and dear to her heart—the heartbreak of malaise (aka the old ennui) that strikes the idle rich, apparently, when they have too much time, fame, and money on their hands.

Bill Murray, the emotionally frayed central character in Coppola's visually dazzling *Lost in Translation*, is taken over by comely Stephen Dorff as a hunky movie star living at Beverly Hills' eternally hip Chateau Marmont hotel. Nothing seems to fill the emptiness of Dorff's character Johnny Marco. But Johnny is momentarily brought back to life by an extended visit from his 11-year-old daughter (Elle Fanning, stepping into the role played by Scarlett Johansson in *Lost in Translation*). The two don't do much—they swim, have hamburgers, roam around in limos, drive in Dorff's roadster, play video games,

DVD REVIEW

Strapped

BY STEVE WARREN

An art film from a queer distributor? That usually means a movie has subtitles. The English-language queer art film died with Derek Jarman. Until now.

Strapped was written and directed by Joseph Graham. It was made in San Francisco but that doesn't matter because it all takes place inside an apartment building, “the gayest building on the gayest street in town,” on a dark and stormy night. You'll think of Sartre—if you ever think of Sartre—because there seems to be “no exit” from the building for the protagonist.

Ben Bonenfant stars as a hustler with no name/many names who enters the building with a trick, John (Artem Mishin), a man nearing middle age with little sexual experience. Trying to leave, the hustler finds dead ends in all the hallways but runs into Leon (Carlo D'Amore), who greets him like an old friend, although the youth obviously has no idea who he is.

Leon is having a little coke-fueled party with three of his friends. The hustler doesn't do drugs but does do one of the guests, Dirk (Raphael Barker) and flirts with another, Gary (Nick Frangione).

The hustler is good at his job—not only sexually versatile but able to introduce himself to each customer with a different name (Alex, Eddie, Max, Jeff) and a personality to go with it. Calling himself “an agent of desire” (a phrase attributed to Michel Foucault), he operates on a strictly cash basis and doesn't take repeat customers. His tricks are “random. Anonymous. I like adventures.”

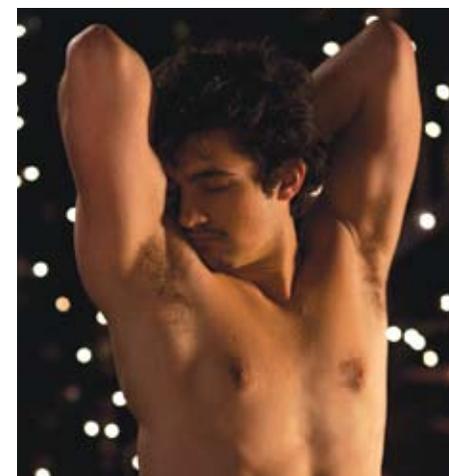
His adventures continue with a self-hating bisexual (Michael Klinger) who attacks him in the laundry room and a gentle older man (Paul

etc.—but as in Coppola's best work, her eye for detail is what propels the movie. The camera coolly observes Johnny and though we become intimately aware of his physicality, the routine-ness of his celebrity existence, we are kept at a distance. Like Coppola's best films, *Somewhere* is a great movie for voyeurs.

As for *Little Fockers*—the third in the series of “comedies” focusing on Ben Stiller as the accident-prone, Jewish male nurse under the thumb of, not his wife, but his overbearing WASPY conservative father-in-law (Robert De Niro)—there's nothing much good to report other than a nice, warm scene between Barbara Streisand and Dustin Hoffman (returning as Stiller's parents), a few laughs provided by Owen Wilson as the ex-boyfriend and, well, that's all, I'm afraid.

For genuine laughs of the cinematic kind I suggest one and all take the plunge on New Year's Eve when the Music Box, 3733 N. Southport, presents their third annual screening of the 1972 campy classic **The Poseidon Adventure**. As in years past, Dick O'Day (the alter ego of yours truly) will host the wacky pre-show, featuring a costume parade (with prizes) beginning at 11 p.m., before the audience interactive screening which will be timed so that the doomed passengers on the S.S. *Poseidon* (Shelley Winters, et al) and theatre patrons will ring in the New Year together at Midnight. David Cerda, artistic director of Handbag Productions, and the Handbag players will once again be on board as well. (A portion of the proceeds will benefit Handbag.) Admission includes party favors, a champagne toast and something new this year—a drink ticket and an exclusive after-party being held in the theatre following the screening. See <http://www.musicboxtheatre.com>.

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



Strapped.

Gerrion) who binds his wounds in the attic and says he shouldn't have trouble leaving: “It's an apartment building. It isn't purgatory.” Or is it?

After casually engaging in all the activities we usually consider intimate, the only time the hustler gets performance anxiety is when a client wants to kiss him.

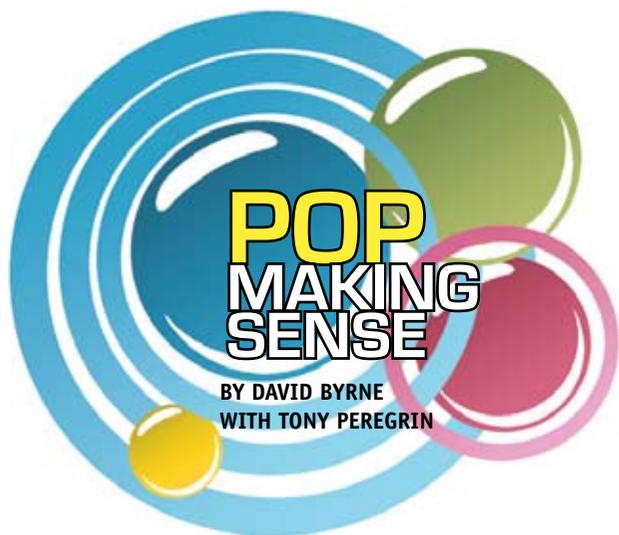
Peppered with references to people and things you don't hear about in lowest-common-denominator gay entertainment, but not intimidating, *Strapped* is a class act with plenty of sex. Your interest may flag at times but you'll no more be able to tear yourself away from the movie than the hustler is able to leave the building. The conversations are not always absorbing from moment to moment but the cumulative effect is powerful.

I can't wait to see what Graham does next!

While you're enjoying your Thanksgiving turkey, think of the poor cannibals, like Ivan in Scarce and Gus in Lynch Mob (both played by Steve Warren). They don't know who their next meal is coming from.



Nicole Kidman in *Rabbit Hole*. Photo by JoJo Whilden

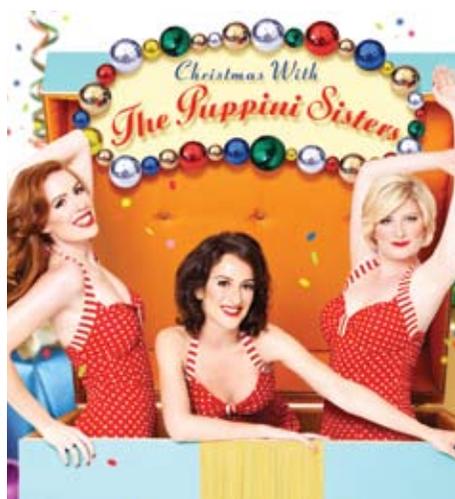


to "All I Want for Christmas Is You." Instead of tapping somebody else's catalog, she re-recorded another new version of her holiday hit especially for Merry Christmas II You.

Leave it to the **Puppini Sisters** to put a fantastic twist to Carey's "All I Want for Christmas" by giving it a big-band arrangement. The British trio is renowned for reworking songs into a flawless three-part harmony, like The Andrews Sisters. The act's third album, *Christmas with the Puppini Sisters*, has holiday classics like "Here Comes Santa Claus," "Let It Snow" and even a slowed down version of WHAM!'s "Last Christmas" as if they were straight out of a yuletide WWII USO show. Just try not to swing-dance to "Step into Christmas." This talented threesome can nail a sacred moment like "O Holy Night," then tease you with a wink during "Santa Baby."

"Santa Baby" has been sung by some of the sultriest sirens like Eartha Kitt, Madonna and Kylie Minogue. British-born crooner **Darren Stewart-Jones** is adding a gay twist to this holiday number. Now residing in Canada, Stewart-Jones's version of "Santa Baby" has become a viral hit and is available now on iTunes. Proceeds from sales of "Santa Baby" will benefit the It Gets Better Project stateside and The Lesbian Gay Bi Trans Youth Line in Canada.

Jane Krakowski's resume ranges from her prime-time hits *30 Rock* and *Ally McBeal* to her classic role in *National Lampoon's Vacation* and a *Muppets Christmas: Letters to Santa*. The Tony Award winner released her debut, *The Laziest Girl in Town*, earlier this year. Krakowski's voice is strong here, but what steals the spotlight is her



beaming personality. The blonde adds jokes and stories between ditties on this live album. "My Handy Man" and the encore, "Rubber Duckie," are bubbling over with suggestive lyrics. Again, her sense of humor takes center stage during "Tweet," a reworking of "ZIP" and "An Englishman Needs Time." Krakowski's stellar *The Laziest Girl in Town* is a genuine live album, where the listener actually feels like a member of the audience.

On *Hooked!*, **Lucy Woodward** offers a balance between cabaret, jazz and swing. Like the sensational Melody Gardot, this blonde starlet writes her own material and captures the essence of music from '40s and '50s.

The impressive album also includes remakes of Peggy Lee's "Sans Souci" and "I Wanna Be Like You (The Monkey Song)," as well as the evergreen "Stardust." "Purple Heart" closes with Woodward singing as if she is trying to seduce her listener with her final breath. Mending a broken heart never had so much va-voom as heard on "Slow Recovery." "Leave It to You" would fit perfectly as the love theme for a WWII-era film. The sing-along worthy "Babies" and "Ragdoll" are the set's showstoppers. The rewarding and timeless *Hooked!* is out now on Verve.

Even though he's "Gone Too Soon," **Michael Jackson** has several projects surfacing. More than 40 of the late megastar's groundbreaking music videos—short films, if you will—are out now in the comprehensive set *Michael Jackson's Vision*. Included here are the career-defining moments like "Billie Jean," "Thriller" and "Smooth Criminal," plus the hard-to-find clips to "Come Together" and "One More Chance." My favorites on *Michael Jackson's Vision* are the David Fincher-directed "Who Is It?" and Herb Ritts' "In the Closet."

Demos and other unreleased tracks have been touched up to comprise the posthumous album *Michael*. The authenticity of the vocals provided on "Breaking News" has been questioned. Akon takes the driver's seat and overshadows the late King of Pop on the album's limp lead single, "Hold My Hand." But the collaboration with Lenny Kravitz, "(I Can't Make It) Another Day," is electrifying.

A Jackson-themed Wii game is out now. *Michael Jackson the Experience* offers challenges for the players to duplicate the gloved one's trademark dance moves.

In 2011, *Cirque du Soleil* will debut *Michael Jackson the Immortal World Tour*. As of now, no Chicago dates are listed. Tickets for dates in The United States and Canada are now on sale.



Darren Stewart-Jones. Photo from Stewart-Jones

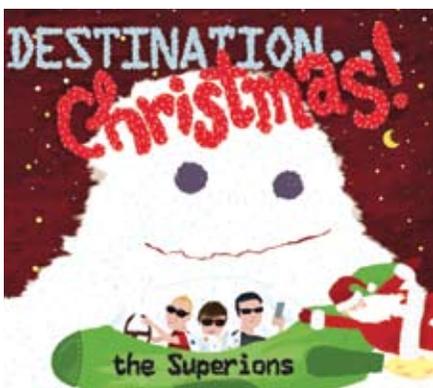
Shelby Lynne dishes up Southern hospitality and an intimate appeal on *Merry Christmas*. These seasonal songs make the listener feel welcomed to an up-close jam session. Even the new offering *Ain't Nothin' Like Christmas* is destined to be a holiday favorite. Dave Koz's saxophone adds a wonderful effect to "Xmas." Fun covers of standards "Santa Claus Is Coming to Town" and "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" find the gifted Grammy winner enjoying the season in a charming, childlike fashion.

On Tuesday, Feb. 1, Lynne will have a concert at Space, 1245 Chicago, Evanston.

Mariah Carey is trying to return to her hey day with yuletide greetings on the lamely titled *Merry Christmas II You*. "Oh Santa!" and the medley with "Housetop Celebration" are cringe-inducing, yet festive, upbeat numbers. At least the orchestration is grand on "Christmas Time Is in the Air Again."

The supporting actress from *Precious* is not the only diva in the family. Her mother, Patricia Carey, is the guest opera singer on "O Come All Ye Faithful/Hallelujah Chorus."

Last year, Carey teased us with a new remix



B-52s' Schneider's Christmas CD

Openly gay vocalist Fred Schneider of The B-52s released *Destination... Christmas!*, an album of 11 original holiday songs by his band, The Superions, on Fanatic Records, according to a press release. The CD will feature lyrics and vocals by Schneider, and he'll be joined by Noah Brodie (keyboards and electronic drums) and Dan Marshall (programming).

Tracks include "Santa's Disco," "Fruitcake" and "Jingle Those Bells." Schneider said, "It's hard to say who our musical influences for this project were, because we don't want to get sued."

Ke\$ha in Chicago Feb. 24

Pop superstar Ke\$ha's "Get \$leazy" tour will bring her to Chicago Feb. 24, 2011.

She will perform at the House of Blues, 329 N. Dearborn. Ke\$ha, who just won the MTV EMA for Best New Act, is touring in support her newest CD, *Cannibal* (RCA Records / Kemosabe Entertainment). It will be made available for

sale separately, as well as bundled with *Animal* in a special deluxe repackaged called *Animal + Cannibal*.

For tickets, see <http://www.ticketmaster.com> and <http://www.livenation.com>.

Web phenom Chance touring with Cosgrove

In January 2011, Greyson Chance will embark on his first U.S. tour as direct support to Miranda Cosgrove. The 21-city tour will kick off Jan. 24 in Kansas City, Mo., with a Jan. 28 stop at the Rosemont Theatre.

Chance's famed cover of "Paparazzi" was recently named the third most popular YouTube video of 2010. The *Ellen DeGeneres Show* recently premiered a video clip of Chance's most recent single, "Waiting Outside the Lines." (DeGeneres also announced that she had signed the teen to her new label, eleveneleven.)

For more info, visit <http://www.greysonofficial.com>.



Greyson Chance. Photo by Nick Spanos

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Katharine McPhee.

NUNN ON ONE: MUSIC

Katharine McPhee on the holidays—and hair

BY JERRY NUNN

Katharine McPhee nearly won the fifth season of American Idol and has proved she is not just a runner-up, with huge record sales over the years. McPhee had lunch Nunn on One to get in the holiday spirit at Macy's in the Walnut room.

Windy City Times: Hi, Katharine. How did you audition for American Idol?

KM: I have a cameo in that one and it's called "Peace, Love, and Misunderstanding." How did you know about that?

WCT: The rest is history now. You are still doing a lot of acting, correct?

KM: I am.

WCT: You have a Jane Fonda movie coming out, right?

KM: I have a cameo in that one and it's called "Peace, Love, and Misunderstanding." How did you know about that?

WCT: I have my sources...

KM: You are a good investigator. I just wrapped a movie called Shark Night: 3-D. I filmed it in Louisiana and got home to L.A. a week ago yesterday.

WCT: So it's in 3-D!

KM: Yes, I know. It will be interesting to see myself in 3-D. I haven't even seen a movie in 3-D; that's how anti 3-D I have been.

WCT: Oh, you didn't see Avatar?

KM: I didn't see it. I was like, "What's this stupid 3-D crap?"

WCT: [Laughs] And now you are in one!

KM: Yes, now I am in one.

WCT: I wanted to tell you that I wrote a travel story down in Shreveport, La.

KM: You did?

WCT: Yes, I went during a festival.

KM: There are some good restaurants down there. It was a good place to shoot, to be honest.

WCT: It's a homey little town.

KM: It has character.

WCT: How do you celebrate the holidays?

KM: Gosh, this year is particularly different because I don't think I have ever been working this much during the holiday season. I usually spend it with family. I never have had extravagant trips or anything like that.

WCT: Where does your family live?

KM: My parents live in Los Angeles; that's where I was born. My sister lives in New York. We are usually split up. My in-laws are in San Francisco, so I am usually up there.

WCT: Why did you decide to do a Christmas

album?

KM: My label asked me to do one so that's what inspired me. It was requested from them and I gladly accepted to do it. I started working on it in June of this summer.

WCT: That's quick.

KM: Yes, exactly.

WCT: Did you get to choose what songs to include?

KM: Yeah, I picked all the songs. I started off with a list like you have there with my chicken scratch. I was listening to Christmas records to listen to the different songs. There are so many



songs that I tried out, process of elimination. That was how I chose them from a list on a piece of paper.

WCT: You have a track, "What Are You Doing New Year's Eve," on the album. I really like that song.

KM: Thank you. For New Year's Eve I am usually pretty lame, unless I get specifically invited to an event or party. Maybe we will go out to dinner but I would love to be in Vegas or something. I am always looking for an excuse to be at a big party.

WCT: Totally. So no more blonde hair—are you keeping the brown?

KM: Yeah, it's a lot easier, although I have a few tricks up my sleeve as far as hair color—well, not tricks, but I have ideas. I am always wanting to change my hair; it's fun. I grew up with my mom and sister in the house and they were always about keeping your long brown hair but it gets kind of boring after a while. You have to change it up. I definitely want it to grow, it's taking forever!

WCT: What are your plans for next year?

KM: I am supposed to do an ABC family movie that was supposed to shoot until Christmas but thankfully that got pushed back to spring. So that will give me a little more time through the holidays. I will probably start the writing process for the next record and hopefully more acting projects.

WCT: Great, have a wonderful holiday!!!

Christmas Is The Time To Say I Love You is currently out now. Visit <http://www.KatharinemcPhee.com> to purchase the CD.



Storefront of Bucky Gear. Photo by Ross Forman

BUSINESS

Bucky Adams: Getting things in 'Gear'

BY ROSS FORMAN

Bucky Adams couldn't find a casual, fun store in Andersonville, where he lives, that offered affordable clothes and gift items—so he opened one himself.

Adams, 52, is the founder and owner of Bucky Gear, 5644 N. Clark, which offers men's and women's clothing, accessories, and, as he points out, "other cool stuff."

Bucky Gear certainly takes after its owner, who admits he is, "a t-shirt and jeans guy." The store has Big Star and Miracle jeans, PalmerCash t-shirts, Hidden Truth shirts, Kiss the Girl and Next Level hoodies and sweat shirts, and more. Bucky Gear also offers bags from Manhattan Portage and Pan Am. And even Noon Copenhagen watches.

Bucky Gear also offers hats, scarves, belts, jewelry "and lots of really fun and crazy gift items," he said.

"We turned a blank space into a loft/warehouse-looking place," Adams said. "We have exposed brick, warehouse windows, a Tike bar, old fans and school lockers. It's in a one block square building previously shared by the gangster Buggy Malone."

"My favorite part of 'the Gear' is talking to people and hanging out with them. We seriously like music and a little dancing on occasion. Also, as a gay man, having hot guys try on clothes in my store is never a bad thing."

"The downside is working 7 days-a-week. I really miss Sundays with the great music at church, the newspaper, hangovers and football."

Bucky Gear opened Oct. 10, as Adams wanted the date (10-10-10) to always be a memorable one.

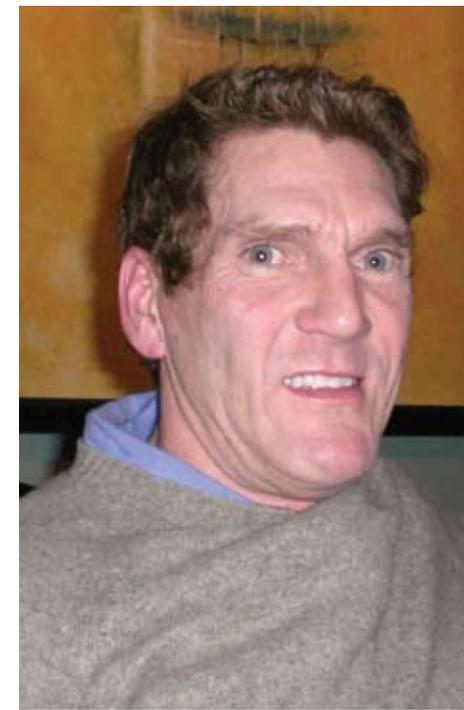
"My goals include continuing the search for cool merchandise. It's new and challenging for me, a work in progress," Adams said. "I know for sure, you always have to take care of your employees and they will take care of you. Also, we have to have fun."

"My last goal is to find ways to support the neighborhoods and organizations that make Chicago so special. I learned from my parents and my church, The Bodhi Center, to accept everyone, show respect and help where you can. Education Is Prevention (EIP) is our start. [EIP] is a new HIV/AIDS and sexually-transmitted infections' non-profit [organization] with an all-volunteer staff, a few pamphlets and very, very little money. They go directly to schools to talk

to kids about how to protect themselves. I'm so proud to be a small help to their awesome goals and accomplishments.

"Bucky Gear is my dream. I encourage everyone to find their [goal] and go for it. On 10-10-10 I wrote, 'If you imagine, believe and work hard, miracles happen; dreams really do come true.'"

Adams has lived in Chicago for 16 years and is single, except for his 4-year-old rescue dog, Cody.



Bucky Adams. Photo by Ross Forman

"He is a handful but I can't live without him," said Adams, who has spent 17 years as a Southwest Airlines flight attendant.

"The journey to getting open was long and challenging. The biggest problem was start-up funds. I had some retirement [money], but not quite enough to open. I met Sen. Dick Durbin on a flight and he suggested going to the Small Business Association (SBA). So, I took the SBA Score classes and found interest from Harris Bank. They have Canadian roots and were looking for small business investments."

"The other problem was a lease. Andersonville is very popular and the prices were tough. Fortunately, I discovered an up-and-coming area of North Andersonville. I found a reasonable rent and great businesses [nearby]."

"10-10-10 was the biggest night of my life. It was an amazing sense of accomplishment and serious fun. We had a DJ [from] San Francisco, food and drinks, and lots of family and friends. It was also a chance to actually sell something."



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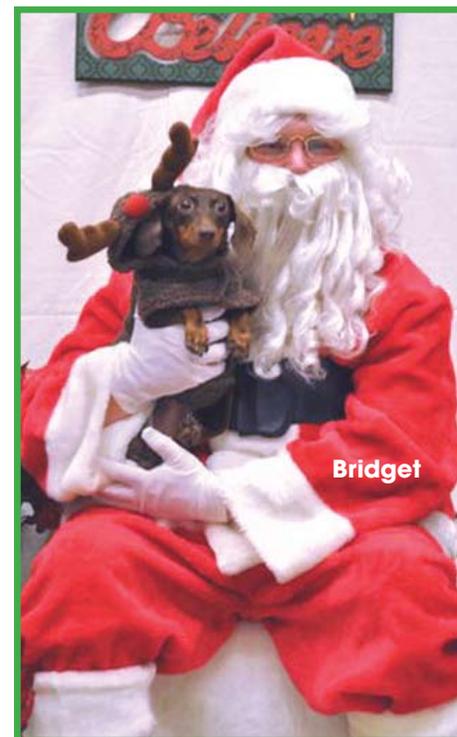
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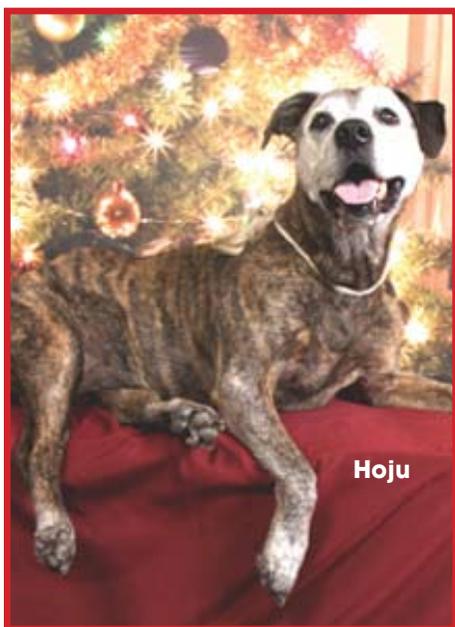
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Wed., Dec. 22

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

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MinogueFrapp Kylie Minogue and Goldfrapp showcase with DJs Greg Haus and Adam EL. 10 p.m., Berlin, 954 W Belmont, <http://www.berlinchicago.com>

Thursday, Dec. 23

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

'80s Top-Shelf Night at Charlie's Charlie's features half price on any top shelf drinks you want. DJ Matt spins sweet 80 tunes

ALL ABOUT EVE Friday, Dec. 31

There'll be no shortage of parties on New Year's Eve, thanks to clubs and private events.

Photo from 2009 by Anthony Meade



till 4am. 3 p.m., 773-871-8887, Charlie's, 3726 N Broadway, <http://charlieschicago.com>

Local Wonders, A Play with Songs Full Sky Productions presents the Chicago premiere of Local Wonders, a play with songs, at Chicago Dramatists. The production runs through Jan. 9, 2011. Lively with anecdote, humor, poetry and song, the musical celebrates the wonders of everyday life at our finger tips. 7:30 p.m., 312-633-0630, Chicago Dramatists 1105 W. Chicago, <http://www.chicagodramatists.org>

Tajma Hall & The Velvet Ladies Christmas Drag Show Tajma Hall & The Velvet Ladies Christmas Drag Show with \$6 Martini menu. 8 p.m., Velvet Rope, 728 W. Lake, <http://www.velvetropelounge.com>

Frat House Thursday at Scarlet Join Scarlet as they host all frat guys and their fans. Scarlet ramps up the frat factor with 40-ounce beer specials, HOT bartenders, cranked-up music and hottie high jinks! 21+ with ID; 9 p.m., Scarlet, 3320 N Halsted, <http://www.scarletbarchicago.com>

Friday, Dec. 24

Behind Paper Walls: Self-Printed Masterworks Floating World Gallery (FWG) presents "Behind Paper Walls: Self-Printed Masterworks by Jun'ichiro Sekino" at the gallery's Lincoln Park location, 1925 N. Halsted St., Dec. 3, 2010 to Jan. 14, 2011. 1 p.m., 312-587-7800, Floating World Gallery 1925 N. Halsted St., <http://www.floatingworld.com>

Wait For Santa at The Call Wait For Santa at The Call with video hits from disco to today with holiday favorites thrown in. \$4 Bacardi cocktails and bombs and \$1 Dekuyper shots. 4 p.m., The Call Chicago, 1547 W Bryn Mawr, <http://www.cattlecallchicago.com>

PLAN BE has joined forces with four other local promoters at Illuminati Night Club to bring you THE hottest LGBTQ party all under one roof. 10 p.m., 773-435-0130, Illuminati Nigh Club, 2354 N. Clybourn

Saturday, Dec. 25

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

Christmas Day at The Call After the holiday dinners come in and relax with video hits from disco to today. \$5 Absolut cocktails and Jameson shots. 8 p.m., The Call Chicago, 1547 W Bryn Mawr, <http://www.cattlecallchicago.com>

SNOWBALL Party at Spin After you've opened all your presents, Santa has a special evening planned for you. Join VJ Riley York, DJ Cody Domino and SPIN's super sexy Go-Go Boys for an evening of festive Christmas fun! 9 p.m., Spin Nightclub, 800 W. Belmont Ave, <http://www.spin-nightclub.com>

URBANO Holiday Party Special Holiday Edition of our Weekly URBANO 5AM Hip Hop Blatino Party. DJs Anton and Stoney Spinning Hip Hop, R&B, House and Reggaeton. Sexy URBANO Dancers. Drink Special: Huge \$10. Blue M.F. & Watermelon Bomb Mugs. 11 p.m., (773)325-2233, Circuit Night Club, 3641 N Halsted, <http://www.urbanochicago.com>

Sunday, Dec. 26

Urban Village Church service LGBT-welcoming worship services at Urban Village Church 10:15am, Spertus Institute, 610 S.

Michigan, <http://www.newchicagochurch.com/>

Geja's Cafe Champagne Festival Geja's Cafe will celebrate the holiday season with its 31st Annual Champagne Festival featuring champagnes and sparkling wines from France and California. 1 p.m., 773-281-9101, Geja's Cafe 340 W. Armitage, <http://www.gejascafe.com/>

Urban Village Church Wicker Park Worship Services LGBT welcoming worship services at Urban Village Church are eclectic and experiential, practical and intelligent, relevant and, hopefully, inspiring. 5:30 p.m., 1502 N. Hoyne (at LeMoyn), <http://www.newchicagochurch.com/>

Temptations' Customer Appreciation Night Customer Appreciation Night with DJ Duane, Hosted by Gio with a performance at 8 p.m. Take your picture with Santa or Mrs. Claus for a \$5 donation to Howard Brown. 1st 50 people will receive a 50% off pass towards New Year's Eve cov; 6 p.m., Temptations Nightclub, 10235 W Grand Ave

Monday, Dec. 27

Live Band Karaoke with Amy Armstrong Host Amy Armstrong ushers you to your place in the spotlight as you perform live with the band at Roscoe's! There's not a bad seat in the house; 10 p.m., Roscoe's Tavern, 3356 N Halsted <http://www.roscoes.com>

Perv - A Queer XXXmas Perv - A Queer XXmas with strip tease and spankings by Santa. DJs Chester, Joshua & Bunny Riot. Sponsored by Tulip. 10 p.m., Berlin, 954 W Belmont, <http://www.berlinchicago.com>

Tuesday, Dec. 28

Tim W. Brown Reads From New Novel Second Acts Author Tim W. Brown returns to Chicago to headline a reading at The Bourgeois Pig, 738 W. Fullerton. An open mic follows Brown's reading. The event starts at 7:30 p.m., and admission is \$5 or \$4 for students. The public may call 219-322-7270 or visit www.outsiderpress.com for more information. 7:30 p.m., 219-322-7270, The Bourgeois Pig, <http://www.outsiderpress.com>

LGBT Employment and Discrimination Issues Half-hour program presented by the Illinois State Bar Association (ISBA), will air on Chicago Access Network Television, Channel 21 in Chicago, at 10 p.m. on Tuesdays; 10 p.m., Chicago Access Network Television, Channel 21, Chicago

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

Wed., Dec. 29

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

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

Thursday, Dec. 30

Frat House Thursday at Scarlet Join ChicagoPride.com and Scarlet as we host all frat guys and their fans. Scarlet ramps up the frat factor with a night of 40-ounce beer specials, HOT bartenders, cranked-up music and hottie high jinks! 21+ with ID; 9 p.m., Scarlet, 3320 N Halsted, <http://www.scarletbarchicago.com>

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GO WEST

Wednesdays

Show off your talents in "You're the Star Karaoke with Honey West" at Roscoe's, 3356 N. Halsted.

Photo of Honey West (left) and Chili Pepper by Tracy Baim

293-8430, Asian Human Services 4753 N. Broadway, Suite 700, http://www.ahschicago.org/community_health.htm

Friday, Dec. 31

7th Annual Dinner & A Movie 'Women Coming Together' Relaxing overnight getaway for a few hundred women who love women presented by Class 'C' Entertainment features luxurious accommodations, a welcome mix & mingle, candlelight dinner, big-screen movie collection of short films relating to lesbian of color experiences written, produced and directed by several of the nation's lesbian of color filmmakers and later a dance party with an expected 500 with Chicago Gay & Lesbian Hall of Fame's Pat McCombs and Vera Washington, co-founders of Executive Sweet [a "traveling club" for women of color] as hostesses carol@classceechicago.com; 3 p.m., 312-399-9669, Sheraton Gateway Suites, 6501 N. Mannheim, Rosemont, <http://www.classceechicago.com>

NYE at Sidetrack Welcome 1/1/11 at this special NYE benefit for Equality IL PAC. \$25 tickets from your bartender or online at EQIL.org. Sponsored by Palm Springs Tourism and Stoli. 9 p.m., Sidetrack, 3349 N Halsted, <http://www.sidetrackchicago.com>

New Year's Eve Celebration/ Lady GaGa ticket giveaway Join Club Krave for our grand New Year's Eve Celebration. 1st 50 Guests who purchase advanced tickets receive a FREE bottle of Champagne at the door. Hors d'oeuvres and champagne toast and ball drop outside at midnight. VJ Mix-MasterF. Grand prize raffle of 2 LADY GaGa Monster Ball tickets, plus a bunch of other prizes. \$10 advance tickets and \$15 at the; 8 p.m., Club Krave, 13126 S. Western, <http://www.clubkrave.com>

Crew's New Year's Eve celebration with complimentary champagne toast at midnight. \$10 VIP package gets you \$2 domestic drafts and mixed well cocktails from 9 p.m. until close. DJ Perv gives you a countdown of 2010's favorite songs. 9 p.m., Crew Bar & Grill, 4804 N. Broadway, <http://www.worldsgreatestbar.com>

Saturday, Jan. 1

Watch New Year's Bowl Games at Crew TicketCity Bowl at 11 a.m. Capital One ans Outback Bowls at noon. Gator Bowl at 12:30 p.m. Rose Bowl at 3:30 p.m. Fiesta Bowl at 7:30 p.m. \$2.75 Bud Light drafts, \$6 Double Bloody Marys, \$12 Mimosa and Sangria pitchers. 11am, Crew Bar & Grill, 4804 N Broadway, <http://www.worldsgreatestbar.com>

New Year's Day pajama party Wear your PJs to Scot's and have your first Bloody Mary of 2011. Brunch at the Omelet Bar begins at noon. Get ready for Houlihan's famous sausage ring! 11 a.m., Scot's, 1829 W. Montrose



ELF ESTEEM

Saturday, Dec. 25

Rudolph the Red-Hosed Reindeer is at Mary's Attic, 5400 N. Clark, until Saturday, Jan. 1.

Photo by Rick Aguilar

BILLY MASTERS

"My feeling about John [Travolta] has always been that we know and we don't care. Look, I'm sorry that he's uncomfortable with it, and that's all I can say. It only draws more attention to it when you make that kind of legal fuss. Just leave it be."—Carrie Fisher defends her statement to The Advocate that "We don't really care that John Travolta is gay." I dunno about Carrie, but I cared a little—back when he was hot, that is.

Last week, I was on a plane watching Mariah Carey: Merry Christmas to You. I'm thrilled that pregnancy has not deterred Mariah from wearing those anatomy-revealing ensembles. It may have been an early Christmas miracle winching Carey into any dress with a single-digit size—I suspect a number of elves (and perhaps the jaws of life) were needed to achieve this feat. I'm not sure how far along she is, but I believe when she hit the high note on "O Holy Night," I saw the baby crowning! Days later, it was announced that she's having twins. Maybe that's what she was smuggling under the front of her dress.

Like Mariah's legs, celebrity couples are having a helluva time staying together. Ryan Reynolds and Scarlett Johansson—done. Zac Efron and Vanessa Hudgens—split. Michael C. Hall and Jennifer Carpenter—kaput. Anna Friel and David Thewlis—over. Dylan Walsh and Joanna Going—going, gone. Let's recap. One of the guys is dating an ex. Two of them are clearly gay. Another is a little indiscriminate with his seed. And the other—eh, who cares. Correctly match the couple in column A with the cause in column B and win ... well, satisfaction.

After seeing The Social Network, many of you wrote me wanting to know about the hunky twins. By now it's pretty well known that the twins were actually played by a single actor—Armie Hammer. We're told that Armie has just been cast as Clyde Tolson, the protégé and romantic partner of J. Edgar Hoover in the upcoming flick J. Edgar. When asked how his wife feels about the role, Hammer laughed, saying, "She's just happy I'm not kissing another woman!" And what does Armie think about his love interest being played by Leonardo DiCaprio? "Somewhere, deep down inside it was something I always hoped for." You and me both.

Didya hear about James Franco and male prostitutes? Back when Franco was preparing to play a hooker in Sonny, he wanted to watch some real male prostitutes at work for research ... ah, the things I've done in the name of "research." He claims to have followed the guy on an actual "call": "It went down. Everything went down, as you see in the movies and hear about. The eerie thing is, it was like a movie, but it wasn't a movie—it was the real thing, happening in front of me." If I had a nickel for every time I've said that...

What if I told you Bea Arthur had a secret she took to the grave? Documents have surfaced indicating that for 30 months, Arthur was a Women's Reserve Marine who was a typist and drove trucks! I'm shocked—she was a woman? Anyway, at her personality appraisal, she was deemed to have excellent vocabulary, was argumentative, and over-aggressive (perhaps in a masculine kinda way ... but who am I to judge?). The overall evaluation called her "a good worker—if she has her own way!" By the time of her honorable discharge (long before DADT), she was a staff sergeant. The only real embarrassing part is that she was out of work for five weeks "after contracting a venereal disease." What did I tell you? Even tops are at risk!

Picture it—Chris Rock serving Mariska Hargitay breakfast in bed ... in the nude! The Children's Defense Fund held its annual benefit in NYC and auctioneer Ali Wentworth was unable to get a high bid for Rock's package, so to speak. (I

suppose her hubby George was too shy to bid on it himself.) With the blessing of Chris' wife (who is on the board), Ali threw in that Chris would be nude, and up popped Mariska's hand. I guess Chris Rock servicing you in the nude is worth \$25 grand. At least at my house, the camera equipment is already set up.

This ties in perfectly with our "Ask Billy" question. Gary in Boston asks: "I just saw a video



Ryan Reynolds (above) and Scarlett Johansson are no longer together—but why? Billy knows...

of Brendon from 'Big Brother 12' apologizing for having an online cyber-indiscretion. What the hell does that mean? And where are the photos? He's frickin' gorgeous!"

I love my fellow Bostonians—we know exactly the right context for frickin'! Brendon was on Big Brother this past summer. The sexy swim coach developed a relationship with another contestant, Rachel, which resulted in some risqué bulging underwear shots, which we'll also post. Since then, he apparently continued seeing Rachel, but had some sort of a relationship with another chick named Molly. To prove her point, Molly posted the nude photos of Brendon, which Rachel apparently recognized. Brendon went public with his crying apology and claimed it was only a cyber-affair. Molly counters that they did have sex—"He denies it and I am not proud of it, but yes, only once. I don't want to go into the details." She may not, but I'm happy to share some details with you. Like every inch of his cock, from various angles. And all for you at BillyMasters.com.

Since it's too late to make another gift suggestion, I'm going to give you the gift of laughter. I got quite a chuckle out of watching a troupe of four shirtless male acrobats in tight white pants performing in front of Pope Benedict and a mixed assortment of holy men. It's rather amusing seeing these celibate fellows, fiddling underneath their vestments, their minds wandering back to the rectory. It sure as hell beats the crazy lady tackling the pope last Christmas Eve. Or does it? Be of good cheer and check it out on BillyMasters.com.

When the Vatican is hiring male strippers for midnight mass, it's definitely time to end yet another column. With Christmas upon us (to say nothing of Hanukkah, Kwanzaa and the winter solstice for my Druid readers), let me say happy holidays to you and yours—which is much more festive than the traditional Boston greeting: "Up yours." Of course, <http://www.BillyMasters.com> never takes a holiday, so be sure to check it out for the latest breaking news. If you have a question, feel free to drop me a note at Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before Mariska orders for some breakfast sausage! Until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible.

Special content from
nightspots

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

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

Workin the "Runway"

Project Runway's Mondo Guerra was guest judge at Vogue For Tots 4 at Berlin on Thurs., Dec. 16. Photos by Jerry Nunn. See more from the event at facebook.com/nightspots.



Oh. holy night!

Paula Sinclair and Jamie Leigh McGuire filled the 3160 crowd with holiday cheer on Fri., Dec. 17. Photos by Chuck Kramer



Bart Abeel: Outgames chair on the 2013 event

BY ROSS FORMAN

Bart Abeel is planning to compete in a short-distance running event at the 2013 World Outgames in Antwerp, Belgium. Or maybe a swimming event.

After all, he participated in both sports at the 2007 EuroGames, also held in Antwerp, though he didn't claim a medal in either.

"I plan to do something because I like sports," said Abeel, 47. "But I probably won't [participate] in a major, long-distance [running] event because I will be pretty busy."

Abeel is, you see, the chairman of the board for World Outgames Antwerp, the local organizing committee for the third quadrennial sports and cultural extravaganza, scheduled for Aug. 3-11, 2013.

Antwerp was officially awarded the 2013 Outgames in December 2009.

The inaugural Outgames was held in Montreal in 2006, and then Copenhagen hosted the event in 2009.

"We were very happy, satisfied and a bit relieved," to win the bid for the 2013 Outgames, Abeel said. "It took us a long time to get all of the necessary funding before we signed the official contract [with GLISA]. But we now have the city, province and local government, their support and commitment. So we are now working to build a very memorable edition of the World Outgames.

"The event is in 2013, so we now are setting up a daily operation to start our marketing [and] fundraising, including reaching out to the



Bart Abeel. Photo courtesy of Abeel

private sector. We also are working on building partnerships that we will need in terms of logistics, marketing, transportation and more. We are building a management team."

Abeel, who is single, lives in the Old City Center of Antwerp. He was born in Ypres and raised near Brussels. He went to Antwerp to study and decided to stay.

"The local city government finds it very important that these Outgames create a message of how we live here, what our values are," Abeel said. "We are going to work with [the] local government, and local professional sports federations locally and across Europe to learn how to organize a big, major sports event."

Belgium is the home to some of the top professional female tennis players, including Kim Clijsters, Justine Henin and Yanina Wickmayer.

"We are trying to include and incorporate as many well-known sports people, not necessarily just gay people, to make it is an open event. We want to include as many people as possible, not

just gays, though gay people first," Abeel said.

Belgium boasts 172 different nationalities, Abeel said—and he wants to attract participants from as many of them as possible.

"Hopefully throughout all of the big cities in Belgium, not just Antwerp," they will come to the Outgames, he said. "Starting in 2013, we want the general public in Antwerp to know that the World Outgames is happening in August, 2013, in Antwerp. We want to make it a major sports and cultural event in Antwerp.

"Our ultimate mission is that, after 2013, we can say that something has changed," regarding the perception of gays. Not just in Antwerp, but beyond Belgium.

Abeel said he has a direct connection with Clijsters, and will reach out to have her involved in the Outgames. "I think that would be an extremely strong statement," he said.

Abeel confirmed the Outgames will be marketed extensively throughout the U.S., beginning in 2011—at LGBT sporting events and through tourism bureaus. And also through major LGBT media in the U.S.

Abeel said the 2010 Gay Games in Cologne, Germany, were very successful from the Outgames' perspective. The Outgames was very visible in Cologne, even holding a Belgium Day in the Rainbow Village in Cologne.

Early-bird registration for Antwerp is already at about 300.

"We watched and learned [in Cologne], things to do and things not to do," Abeel said.

Abeel is, naturally, concerned about the worldwide economic crisis.

"It worries everyone," he said. "It's not making our job easy, but, this is such a prestigious event, I think we can convince big, important

companies to support the event and participants to attend. I think we'll be successful, based on the nature of the project.

"What we really learned from Copenhagen was the planning and the budget; we know those are two very important elements."

Abeel said the 2013 event definitely will include a human rights conference, as has been an Outgames staple.

Are you on track as a whole?

"Yes, we are," Abeel said.

SkiBudz' 5th Annual Midwest Gay Ski Weekend

SkiBudz Chicago and the Midwest's Gay Ski and Snowboard Club is hosting its 5th annual Midwest Gay Ski Weekend Jan. 7-9, 2011 in Wausau, Wis.

This year's trip will include a special Friday welcome dinner, skiing and snowboarding at Granite Peak Ski Area, post-skiing pool party, special Saturday night event and Sunday brunch.

The trip is for skiers and snowboarders of all levels including beginners (lessons can be arranged through the ski area).

This year's host hotel will again be the Jefferson Street Inn, an upscale boutique hotel in downtown Wausau that is within walking distance to great shopping, restaurants and activities.

Visit <http://www.skibudz.org> or "Skibudz" on Facebook; also, e-mail granitepeak@skibudz.org.

MALE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR

Michael Richardson flags a championship

BY ROSS FORMAN

Michael Richardson started a new flag football team this season—the Jackhammer Hole Wreckers for the top-tiered A-Division of Chicago Metropolitan Sports Association (CMSA).

With various personalities, Richardson admitted he "was not sure how we would mesh on and off the field."

But his expectations were exceeded—the team won the CMSA Fall Flag Football Championship.

"The persons I play with are my family and have been supportive of my leadership and made this one of the best sports experiences I have ever been a part of because we were not a team when we started, but became that and more," said Richardson, 39, who is single and lives in Chicago's Edgewater neighborhood.

Richardson's 2010 LGBT sporting resume also included basketball, softball and volleyball. He played for the Jackhammer Bulldogs (C1 Division) in softball and the Hitmen (volleyball).

And for his efforts on the sporting fields of play, Richardson was named the 2010 Chicago LGBT Sports Athlete of the Year, from a poll of fellow athletes and officials.

"What made 2010 exciting and entertaining for me was the spirit in which my teams played. We played hard and never gave up, no matter how tough things got for us," said Richardson, who admitted that flag football is his best sport.

"I enjoy all of the sports I participate in equally because it is a way for me to be competitive and grow as an athlete while continually developing the friendships I have made.

"I think things [were] more cohesive [in 2010 than] in past years, specifically with the leadership of persons like Jack Neilson [softball] and Brian Kupersmit [flag football]. Their



Michael Richardson. Photo courtesy of Richardson

leadership has helped grow their perspective leagues to being the gold standard for all other leagues around the country."

Richardson said his biggest LGBT sporting surprise is the friendships developed, which he truly cherishes. "When I was assaulted, the outpouring of support was overwhelming to say the least and it humbled me to see how much people cared about me and my well being," he said.

More Michael Richardson:

—**Favorite pro sport:** "Any sport my hometown of Philadelphia plays"

—**Favorite pro team:** "Any team from my hometown of Philadelphia"

—**Favorite pro athlete:** Kobe Bryant.

—**Sporting past:** "I did not start playing sports until I turned 30."

—**LGBT sporting goal for 2011:** "I want to lead my flag football team to the Gay Bowl and win it all."

—**Quote:** "The friendships [through LGBT sports] have helped fill the void left by my families' non-acceptance of me and my sexuality. I know there are a lot of persons out there who are going through similar trials, and know the support is appreciated."

Obama and the Gays

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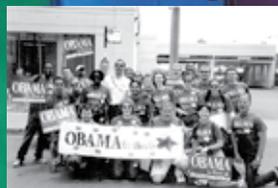
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THE EVERYDAY PSYCHIC
BY DELPHINA

Are pets a part of the afterlife?

The loss of a pet can sometimes feel overwhelming. Many people find it comforting to know that our pets continue to be a part of our lives even in the afterlife.

In fact, sometimes our deceased pets come to us as clearly as if they were still among us. This was certainly the case for Sebastian, my friend Cindy's cat. The first time I met Sebastian was at one of Cindy's monthly Eucharist games.

I was sitting in the living room noshing on some snacks when I noticed him sprawled out on the top of Cindy's favorite chair. He was a large, fluffy, orange tabby who loved Cindy's chair almost as much as she did. I was a bit taken aback, as I had always known Cindy as a dog person, not a cat person.

I asked her if she used to have an orange tabby cat. She smiled and said, "Oh, I see you've met Sebastian. He's always lying around the house somewhere."

Sebastian was an extremely strong spirit as he had made his transition well over six years ago. I think one of the reasons Sebastian hangs out so much is because during his transition, Cindy asked him to come back to her and show his presence.

The truth is, we all have the capacity to communicate with our loved ones that have crossed over. Our job is two-fold: we simply ask them to show us a sign and then we wait with an open and attentive attitude for it to come.

It is often the small signs that go unnoticed. I once had a client ask me if her mother came to her in a specific way. I told her that her mother kept showing me a red cardinal, and she gave me the sense that he was very persistent. The client told me that on days when she really missed her mother she would often see a red cardinal sitting in the tree outside her kitchen window. She thought that it may be her mother trying to make contact, but she wrote it off as wishful thinking.

The irony of this story is that cardinals were her mother's favorite bird, so of course she would choose them as a way to communicate with her daughter. If we allow it, a little wishful thinking can turn into a deep connecting moment with a loved one.

The more open we remain, the easier it is to connect with them. They choose the way in which they make contact with us. We simply have to pay attention to the small things in life.

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

CONNEXIONS

MAKE IT YOUR BUSINESS

Ray J. Koenig III and Clark Hill PLC



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

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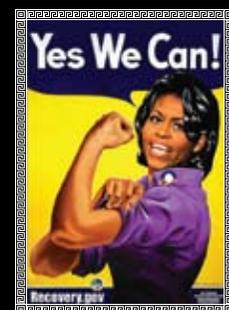
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