

WINDY CITY TIMES

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Gay U.S. Rep. Frank resigning

BY ANDREW DAVIS

Barney Frank, one of the few openly gay individuals in the U.S. House of Representatives, announced Nov. 28 that he will not seek re-election, according to the Washington Post.

Frank, 71, has served office for 16 terms.

Last year, Frank faced his first serious challenge in a long time from little-known Marine Corps reservist Sean Bielat. The congressman campaigned heavily to defend his seat; he won with 54 percent of the vote.

Seventeen Democrats in the U.S. House have announced plans to retire this year; some are running for

higher office.

In 1987, Frank became the first congressman to officially come out of the closet. Frank chaired the House Financial Services Committee from 2007 to this year, helping move bailout legislation through Congress.

In a statement, President Obama said, "This country has never had a Congressman like Barney Frank, and the House of Representatives will not be the same without him. For over 30 years, Barney has been a fierce advocate for the people of Massachusetts and Americans everywhere who needed a voice.

"He has worked tirelessly on behalf of families and businesses and helped make housing more affordable.

He has stood up for the rights of LGBT Americans and fought to end discrimination against them. And it is only thanks to his leadership that we were able to pass the most sweeping financial reform in history designed to protect consumers and prevent the kind of excessive risk-taking that led to the financial crisis from ever happening again. Barney's passion and his quick wit will be missed in the halls of Congress, and Michelle and I join the people of the Bay State in thanking him for his years of service."

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Passing 'The Baton'



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Jim Flint, owner of The Baton Show Lounge, is the subject of a new book, Jim Flint: The Boy From Peoria. Tony Peregrin sits down with authors Tracy Baim and Owen Keehnen to discuss Flint's contributions to Chicago's LGBT community.

2011 HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

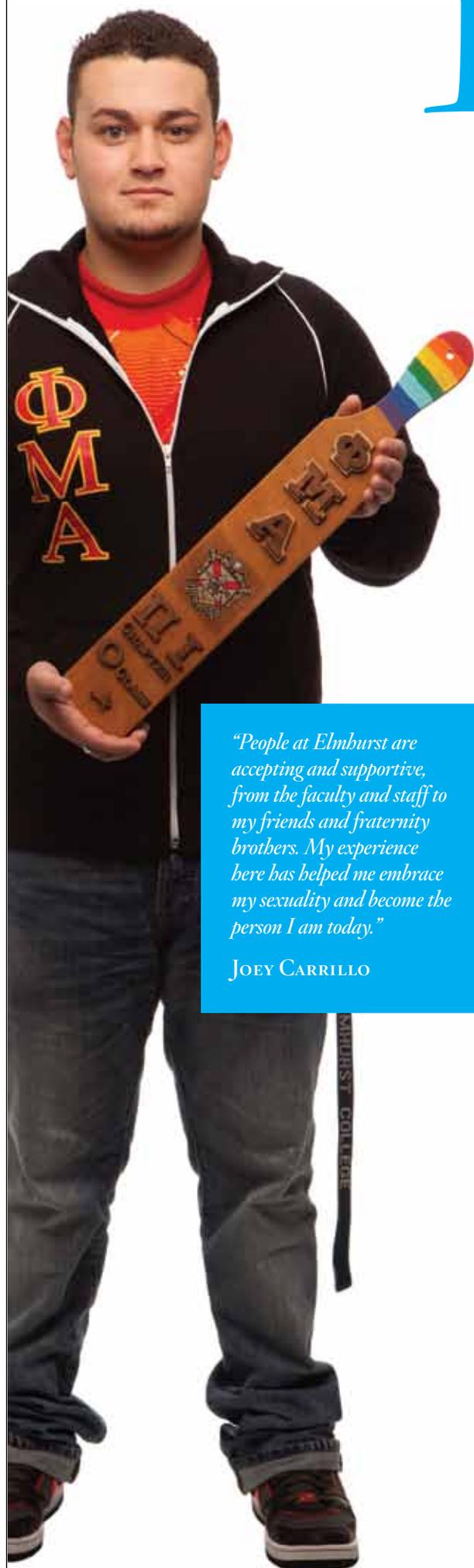


WEEK ONE OF OUR SPECIAL PULL-OUT SECTION



pages 27-38

You belong here



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JOEY CARRILLO

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"In a small but meaningful step, Elmhurst College is now officially telling applicants that gay students are welcome on campus. The private liberal arts college is the first college in the U.S. to ask potential students about their sexual orientation or gender identity on its application....The question is meant to increase diversity at the school, which is affiliated with the United Church of Christ, and to direct incoming students toward services that might ease their transition into college life. It's also a strong signal that the school will embrace LGBT students and will do its best to support them."

—*Chicago Sun-Times*, August 26, 2011



"Elmhurst College does a great job of nurturing and supporting LGBT students. Coming out was hard for me, but I've been blessed to have an accepting community to come out to."

FELICIA DIAZ



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this week in
WINDY CITY TIMES

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Photos on cover (left, from top): PR photo of Chris Isaak; photo of Maggie Daley by Kat Fitzgerald; PR photo of Amanda Bearse; Piper Laurie photo by David Child; Holland Taylor photo by Jazz Jennings courtesy of OWN

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FLICK OF THE LITTER

Disc and That has a list of recent and upcoming DVDs, including Margin Call (left), Tyler Perry's A Madea Christmas and Go Go Crazy.



Read psychologist Eduardo Fajardo's column on LGBTs being home for the holidays.

Photo from Eduardo Fajardo



Find out how to prepare for a trip to New Zealand.

Photo courtesy of Tourism New Zealand

REMEMBERING MAGGIE

Read the full list of remembrances LGBT individuals submitted to WCT.

BATTLE OF 'THE EXES'

Read an interview with actor David Alan Basche, who co-stars in the TV show The Exes with Donald Faison and Kristen Johnston.

THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT

This week's entertainment round-up includes items on Jean Paul Gaultier, Del Shores and Whoopi Goldberg.

plus
DAILY BREAKING NEWS

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"DRAWS COMPARISONS TO BERTOLUCCI'S MARLON BRANDO CLASSIC 'LAST TANGO IN PARIS.'"

NEW YORK POST

"Driven by a brilliant, ferocious performance by Michael Fassbender, 'Shame' is a real walk on the wild side. A cinematic jolt that is bracing to experience, as jolting as a strong whiff of ammonia."

Hollywood REPORTER

"Michael Fassbender and Carey Mulligan give dynamite performances in this terrific film that echoes 'Midnight Cowboy.'"

theguardian

"Quite simply, Michael Fassbender is brilliant in this haunting tale of urban loneliness."

Wmagazine

Michael Fassbender
Carey Mulligan

S H A M E

A Steve M^cQueen Film

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Study: Gay-straight alliances help LGBT youth, young adults

BY DANA RUDOLPH
KEEN NEWS SERVICE

Gay-straight alliance clubs (GSAs) in middle schools and high schools help youth not only while they are in school, but also later in life, according to a new study.

LGBT young adults who attended a school with a GSA had better mental health as young adults, were less likely to drop out of high school, and more likely to attend college, according to researchers Russell B. Toomey, Caitlin Ryan, Rafael M. Diaz, and Stephen T. Russell. Their results were published in the November issue of the peer-reviewed journal *Applied Developmental Science*.

"This study adds to the mounting evidence that youth-led clubs are important for healthy development—especially for youth at risk," Russell said in a statement. "For LGBT youth, high school gay-straight alliances make a significant positive difference."

Although previous studies have shown GSAs to have positive effects on LGBT youth while in school, the current study is the first to look at the impact of GSAs on students as they grow into young adults.

The research is part of Ryan's Family Acceptance Project at San Francisco State University, a research, intervention, education, and policy initiative that works to decrease health risks for LGBT youth.

The study covered 245 young adults (ages 21-25) in the San Francisco Bay Area who self-identified as LGBT and came from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds. Approximately 47 percent identified as male, 45 percent as female and 9 percent as transgender. Approximately 70 percent identified as lesbian or gay, 13 percent as bisexual, and 17 percent as other (e.g., queer, dyke, homosexual). About half (51 percent) were Latino and half (49 percent) were white and non-Latino. (Numbers do not add up to exactly 100 percent because of rounding.)

Of the 245 participants, 86 (35 percent) said their schools had a GSA or similar club. Of those, 55 (64 percent) said they participated in the GSA.

However, the mere presence of a GSA at the school was more relevant to students' well-being than their actual participation in it, the study found. The researchers suggest this may be because "schools with GSAs likely have safer school climates overall."

They also found that participants who perceived their GSAs to be more effective in promoting safe school climates reported lower levels of LGBT-specific school victimization.

Participation in a GSA did seem to buffer the impact of school victimization related to being LGBT. Students who experienced victimization at a low level and participated in a GSA had lower levels of depression as young adults and fewer lifetime suicide attempts.

However, students who experienced higher levels of victimization did not enjoy the same protective effect of having a GSA at their school. This, said researchers, suggests that GSAs "cannot be accepted by schools as the only solution for creating safer school climates for LGBT youth," and GSAs "may not be sufficient to alter the system-level heterosexism and homophobia that continues to exist in schools."

Based on previous research by themselves and others, the researchers recommend that schools take other steps to protect LGBT students, such as enacting anti-bullying policies that specifically prohibit anti-LGBT bullying, training teachers on how to address with LGBT issues,



Caitlin Ryan.

providing an LGBT-inclusive curriculum, and having LGBT-inclusive and accessible support for students.

"Our findings," said Toomey, "document that other LGBT-positive supports need to be implemented in schools for LGBT students to thrive."

The researchers cautioned that the study had a limited sample size and urged future efforts that use larger samples to further explore the associations between GSAs, levels of GSA participation, and outcomes for young adults.

The research adds to the picture developed by previous studies, which have shown the positive effects of GSAs on LGBT high school and middle school students. In the May 2011 issue of *Pediatrics*, the official journal of the American Academy of Pediatrics, Dr. Mark Hatzenbuehler of Columbia University found a positive social environment, including the presence of GSAs, led to a 20 percent reduction in the risk of attempting suicide for LGBT youth.

Also, according to the Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network's (GLSEN's) 2009 National School Climate Survey, LGBT students in schools with GSAs heard fewer homophobic remarks, were more likely to report that educators intervened when they heard such remarks, experienced less victimization related to their sexual orientation and gender expression, and were less likely to feel unsafe. They also felt a greater sense of connectedness to their school community.

There are more than 4,000 GSAs in the country, according to GLSEN, and nearly 45 percent of LGBT students attend a school that has one.

U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan cited the GLSEN survey in a "Dear Colleague" letter to educators this past June, in which he reminded them that based on the Equal Access Act of 1984, schools receiving federal funds must provide equal access to school resources for all student groups, including GSAs.

Many schools still try to prohibit GSAs. In recent years, Okeechobee and Yulee high schools in Florida; Flour Bluff High School in Corpus Christi, Texas; and West Bend High School in Milwaukee, Wis., have attempted to bar GSAs.

Federal lawsuits were brought against the schools in Florida and Wisconsin, and the ACLU sent a notice letter to the school in Texas, reminding them of their legal obligation to allow the groups. In all of the cases, the parties settled out of court or judges ruled in favor of allowing the GSA.

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Calif. teen gets plea deal in gay killing

In California, Brandon McInerney, 17, avoided a retrial by agreeing to a plea deal of 21 years in prison for shooting gay classmate Larry King in 2008, according to the *Washington Post*.

McInerney pled guilty to second-degree murder, voluntary manslaughter and use of a firearm; he is scheduled to be sentenced Dec. 19.

McInerney, while in a fit of rage, killed King at E.O. Green Junior High School in Oxnard because he didn't like King's attire and the victim's attention to him.

Indian groups condemn fire system in deaths of transgender individuals

Members of the pro-LGBT groups Sangama and the Karnataka Sexual Minorities Forum have condemned the Delhi government in India for not putting fire-safety systems in place that, they contend, led to the charring to death of 15 *hijras* (transgender individuals) in a fire Nov. 20, according to the *Hindu*.

The fire blazed through a makeshift tent where a large number of *hijras* had gathered to honor deceased friends.

A joint statement issued by executive director of Sangama Manohar Elavarthi and state coordinator of the forum Mahesh Patil said, "We stand together with more than 50 seriously injured *hijras*, families of deceased *hijras* and with the *hijra* community as a whole in this moment of deep sorrow. From media reports it is very clear that fire safety measures and emergency evacuation facilities were not adequate in the Delhi Municipal Corporation's community hall, where more than 1,000 members of the transgender community had gathered as part of its community congregation."

According to the *New York Times*, some of the victims are being housed in an inn attached to

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NATIONAL NEWS

—Transgender woman harassed in Iowa bar

—Ron Paul (left): Gov't should 'butt out' of marriage equality

—Harvard might add LGBT question to applications

a temple near the accident site. Also, Chief Minister of Delhi Sheila Dikshit announced that the next of kin of each deceased individual would be compensated \$3,800.

Lakeview East chamber offering gift cards

The Lakeview East Chamber of Commerce is offering a gift-card program as part of a "Shop Local Campaign" during Chicago's "Buy Local First Week," through Dec. 4.

Launched in 2007, the gift card is available in any denomination from \$5 to \$500, or more, and is accepted at more than 150 retailers and city parking boxes throughout the Lakeview East neighborhood.

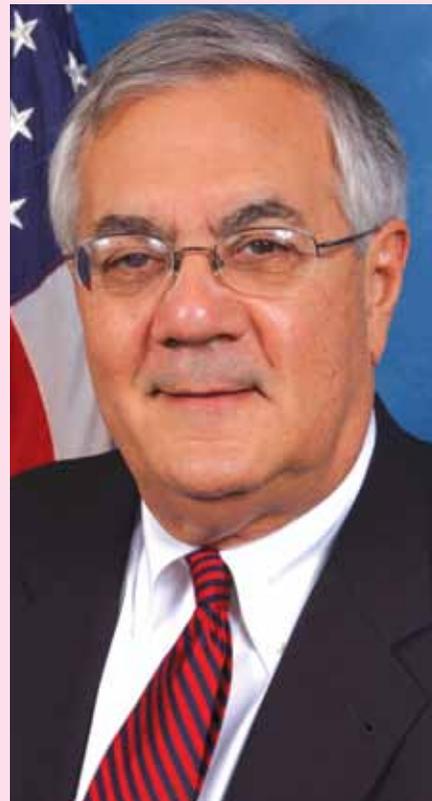
If the card is lost or stolen, it may be reactivated and replaced.

Visit <http://www.LakeviewEast.com> to purchase a gift card or to see a full list of participating merchants.

FRANK from cover

Human Rights Campaign President Joe Solomonese said in a statement, "Barney Frank has exemplified true leadership over his more than 30 years in the U.S. House of Representatives. As the first openly gay member of Congress, Barney defied stereotypes and kicked doors open for LGBT Americans."

"Repeal of 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' and passage of the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act would never



U.S. Rep. Barney Frank.

have happened without his leadership. But it goes beyond that. His service as chairman of the House Financial Services Committee during a time of great economic upheaval made a gay man one of the most powerful people in the country and he used that power for great good. America, Massachusetts and LGBT people are better off for Barney Frank's service."

Lesbian U.S. Rep. Tammy Baldwin said, "With the retirement of Congressman Barney Frank, the House will lose one of its smartest, wittiest and most progressive voices. In a time of deep economic turmoil and unscrupulous financial practices, Barney led the Financial Services Committee and the House to restore much-needed consumer protections and corporate regulation."

"For LGBT Americans, Barney has had an immeasurable impact both symbolically and substantively. He has written and fought for laws that are leading us toward full equality. He co-founded with me the first Congressional LGBT Equality Caucus which now boasts a bipartisan membership of nearly 100. He has been a role model for LGBT youth in and out of government. For me, he also has been a valued mentor and friend."

"For all of us committed to social justice, Barney leaves an enduring legacy."

Rea Carey, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, said, "Barney Frank is one of a kind. ... As an openly gay member of Congress for nearly a quarter century, Barney Frank has made his mark on history. Yet his legacy is much more than that—for 30 years, he has dedicated himself to bettering the lives of the people he serves, and the country he serves. His voice—often loud and uncompromising—will be missed by many, including me."

Report focuses on media and public attitude toward marriage equality

BY JOE FRANCO

Dr. Tien-Tsung Lee of the University of Kansas and Dr. Gary Hicks from Southern Illinois University recently published a study in the Journal of Homosexuality investigating if the media the public consumes has any effect on people's attitudes towards same-sex marriage. The report notes that while "the news media might not be able to tell the audience what to think, they can at least tell the audience what to think about."

The findings of that study were based on a survey of 5,000 random people done in 2006 regarding a number of personal attributes, including age, gender, education and religiosity, among several others. The study found that the strongest predictor of a supportive same-sex-marriage attitude was whether the person identified as liberal, followed by religiosity. Media consumption, although not a strong predictor, did appear to influence an individual's attitudes towards same-sex marriage.

"Media consumers' positive attitudes toward same-sex marriage are positively related to one's disliking of religious programming on television, liking political television talk shows, using television as a primary form of entertainment, reading a blog often and stating that magazines are more interesting than television," Lee said.

He added, "I have been studying political ide-

ologies, such as the difference between liberals and conservatives. I am curious about why people hold different positions on political issues, such as abortion, racial equality and women's equal status. The issue of same-sex marriage is a logical extension. Also, because I teach in a journalism school, I am interested in the 'effects' of media consumption on people's positions."

Lee admitted that the study does have its limitations. For example, the study does not separate one attribute from another. The study would not necessarily tell one which media choices that a white, educated woman who is not religious could make. Lee said, "You figured out the limitation of this particular study [and this kind of study]. I analyzed a survey conducted by an advertising agency [DDB Worldwide, based in Chicago and New York]. When I analyze this kind of data, I can only look at associations [or correlations] between variables [questions in the survey]. Because I only looked at associations, and the fact that this survey didn't ask questions about whether certain type of media affect the survey respondents' attitudes on this particular issue, I cannot untangle how one affects the other, and what the effects are."

Lee was also asked whether an attribute, such as personally knowing a gay or lesbian individual, was included in the study. He admitted that



Dr. Tien-Tsung Lee. Photo courtesy of Lee

it was not but added, "There are many studies that say, if you know a gay person personally, you'd tend to hold a more positive attitude toward homosexuals in general. That is one of the many reasons that coming out [and being out] is important."

The study relied on a set of data that was media-type specific but did not specify the exact programming watched, the particular magazines read or the discrete blogs perused. Also not included in the study were the effects of Facebook and the social-networking phenomenon of the last five years. Lee said, "The data of this study came from a 2006 survey. Social media were not that big at that time. In another study based on more recent data (2008), I did look at online media. The focus of that paper is gay equal rights." That paper is due out in early 2012. He added that if there were any follow-up studies,

he would certainly include social-networking sites.

Ultimately, the study found that "only a few media are associated with audiences' attitudes towards same-sex marriage, and their effects are small. Other factors including citizens' religious views, political ideologies and attitudes toward racial equality have a much stronger association with their position on same-sex marriage." Lee said, "The 'effects' of this study can be a bit misleading because they are associations, not causal effects."

"However, knowledge about associations is still useful. That would give gay-rights activists some ideas about what kind of people are more supportive of that cause, and what kind of media those potential supporters consume. Therefore, the advocates or activists can reach their allies via the right media channels."

LGPA-GOAL 'Dirty Santa' party Dec. 15 at Pizza Doc

The Lesbian Gay Police Association-Gay Officers Action League of Chicago (LGPA-GOAL) is hosting "The Annual Dirty Santa Christmas Party" Thursday, Dec. 15, at The Pizza Doc, 2251 W. Lawrence Ave., 6-10 p.m.

There will be a guitarist performing as well as a "Dirty Santa" grab bag. The menu will include, among other things, chicken marsala, pizza and dessert.

Tickets are \$50 each; visit <http://www.goal-chicago.info> or call 773-392-4992.

LGBT Narcotics Anon. meetings at Haymarket

Narcotics Anonymous meetings for LGBT individuals will take place Mondays 8-9 p.m. at Haymarket Center, 20 N. Sangamon.

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LIVE YOUR DREAM - AWAKEN YOUR SPIRIT
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Report: LGBT seniors subjected to more stress than peers

BY ERICA DEMAREST

Senior citizens who identify as LGBT face higher rates of disabilities and physical and mental stress than their heterosexual peers, according to a new study from the University of Washington's School of Social Work.

Titled "The Aging and Health Report: Disparities and Resilience among Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Older Adults," the study has made history as one of the first federally funded reports to examine challenges faced by LGBT seniors.

Queer activists are hailing the document, released Nov. 16, as an important step toward acquiring necessary senior services.

"There's such an invisibility factor to this community," said Britta Larson, senior services director at the Center on Halsted. "It's not often talked about. It's not often seen. Even within our own gay community, it's sort of pushed aside... [This report] is long overdue. Without the research that backs what we're seeing on a daily basis here [at the Center], it's difficult for us to procure funding and create programs."

A multi-state research team led by the School of Social Work's Karen Fredriksen-Goldsen surveyed 2,560 LGBT adults aged 50-95 throughout the United States. Across the board, LGBT seniors reported higher levels of loneliness, depression and binge drinking than heterosexuals in the same age group.

Nearly one-half of those interviewed reported a disability, while about one-third said they've experienced depression. Four of every 10 participants have contemplated suicide.

"Many of our older adults do not have biological families that they rely upon, that they're close to. They may not have had children... and 80 percent of the caregiving in this country comes from families," Larson said. "Many of our seniors have support systems comprised of families of choice—of their friends. But if those people are your age, they're aging too."

As social circles and financial resources dwindle, many LGBT seniors face debilitating loneliness and social isolation that can be "linked to poor mental and physical health, cognitive impairment, chronic illness and premature death," Fredriksen-Goldsen said.

More than half the participants surveyed reported chronic loneliness. Researchers suggested that finding and creating open, accepting communities could help stem these feelings. But for LGBT seniors with limited housing options, that's easier said than done.

"It's incredibly common for older adults to go back into the closet once they enter senior housing or senior living," Larson said. "They may not feel welcome as an LGBT-identified older adult.

They may not feel comfortable coming out."

Histories of victimization have created lasting fears for many seniors. The study showed that 80 percent of respondents had been victimized in some way during their lifetimes; this included verbal and physical assault, threats of physical violence or being 'outed,' and damaged property. Additionally, 21 percent of participants said they were denied a job or promotion because of perceived sexual orientation.

When it came to medical care, 21 percent of respondents said they had not disclosed their sexual orientation to doctors for fear of receiving inferior care. And 13 percent reported being turned away from healthcare professionals after coming out.

Fredriksen-Goldsen cautioned that hiding one's sexual orientation could lead to severe health problems, including increased risks of breast or prostate cancer, hepatitis and HIV.

"If you do not disclose to your doctor," Larson explains, "that means that you're not going to be getting proper medical service. Your doctor's not going to be asking the right questions and doing the right screenings."

There was some positive healthcare news, however. Of those interviewed, 91 percent of LGBT older adults reported participating in wellness activities such as meditation and photography. And 82 percent said they engage in modern physical activities such as brisk walks.

"LGBT older adults are resilient and living their lives and building their communities," Fredriksen-Goldsen said.

She presented the study's key findings Nov. 9 during a congressional briefing. Fredriksen-Goldsen urged lawmakers to take note of the growing LGBT senior population, which is expected to double to more than 4 million by 2030.

"The higher rates of aging and health disparities among LGBT older adults are a major concern," Fredriksen-Goldsen said. "Prevention and intervention strategies must be developed to address their unique and mounting needs and to effectively respond to the increasing number of older adults in these communities."

Larson said the Center on Halsted, which helped conduct research for the study, is home to one of the nation's largest and most comprehensive LGBT-specific senior programs. SAGE offers free lunches, holiday programming and social and educational events; it is currently working to build the Midwest's first affordable LGBT senior housing center.

It's not enough, Larson said.

"When our seniors come to the Center on Halsted, they are very comfortable being out and being who they are and embracing one another," she said, "but as I got to know them on a deeper level, I realized that many of them are not out

to their employer or to their family... Many of them remain closeted in one aspect of their lives or another."

Larson continued: "Having a safe and welcoming place is important, but they shouldn't have to come here to feel that welcoming atmosphere. They should be able to feel that same

level of comfort wherever they are."

"The Aging and Health Report: Disparities and Resilience among Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Older Adults" was funded by the National Institutes of Health and the National Institute on Aging.

Howard Brown development director resigns

BY YASMIN NAIR

Windy City Times received news Nov. 23 that Brad McLaughlin, a member of Howard Brown Health Center's (HBHC's) executive leadership team and vice president and chief development officer, has resigned. His last day at work is Nov. 30. McLaughlin confirmed the news.

McLaughlin was previously executive director at Better Existence with HIV (BEHIV) and



Brad McLaughlin. Photo by Steve Starr

then director of development and program collaborations at the Test Positive Aware Network (TPAN).

His departure is the latest and one of the more high-level ones at an agency that has been embroiled in financial troubles since last year's announcement that mismanagement of funds resulted in the loss of its prestigious MACS (Multicenter AIDS Cohort Study) grant. Since then, HBHC has been engaged in a vigorous and very public series of fundraising appeals, which have included various special events and consistent calls for donations.

McLaughlin replaced Chuck Benya, who also resigned early this year.

HBHC issued a statement congratulating McLaughlin "on his new role at Oral Health America. He's been an enthusiastic team member at HBHC and we wish him well in his new endeavor."

McLaughlin said, "It's a bittersweet departure from Howard Brown Health Center. I'm excited about a new opportunity, but I will miss Howard Brown Health Center and my colleagues here whose professionalism and pas-

sion have always been second to none."

WCT also received reports of a merger between HBHC and area organizations, specifically Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center and/or Northstar Healthcare. When contacted, all parties denied the existence of any merger plans.

Survivors suing Sugarland for stage collapse

BY KATE SOSIN

A group of survivors of the Indiana State Fair stage collapse that killed Chicago lesbian activist Christina Santiago is suing country music duo Sugarland over the accident.

Sugarland is one of 12 entities named in the suit on behalf of 48 survivors of the Aug. 13 accident.

The group makes up 95 percent of those injured in the accident, according to attorney Mario Massillamany. His firm, Austen & Miller LLP, is representing three of the survivors.

"Everything is pretty much dictated by the artist," Massillamany told Windy City Times. "They had the final say to go forward with this event."

The group of survivors suing does not include Chicagoan Alisha Brennon, who lost spouse Christina Santiago and suffered facial fractures when strong winds toppled the stage.

Brennon has filed suit with another group of survivors against different defendants.

Kenneth J. Allen, who is representing Brennon's group, said that his clients were reluctant to file suits against the band.

"My clients frankly like the group and felt off the top that they shouldn't be targeted," Allen said. However, he added, "we're going to probably be compelled to do that."

Allen said that the group will likely file suit against Sugarland to prevent other defendants from pointing fingers at the band to get out of their own lawsuits. If all parties involved in the concert are named, Allen said, the blame game will get harder.

Sugarland expressed sympathy over the incident just days after the collapse, stating on its website stating that the members "stand in the gap asking God to offer [the families of those killed] peace and healing. For those suffering from injury we hold you up with prayers for complete healing of your own." In addition, Sugarland returned to Indianapolis recently to perform a free concert for the victims of the stage collapse.

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Matthew Shepard Foundation vying for Giving Award

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

The Matthew Shepard Foundation is competing to receive one of five cash awards from the American Giving Awards, presented by Chase Bank. The foundation is the only LGBT organization in the second round of voting.

Each of the five charities will receive \$125,000 for fourth and fifth place, \$250,000 for third place, \$500,000 for second place and \$1,000,000 for first place, based on the public's votes on the American Giving Awards Facebook page or for those with Chase accounts. Voting will take place Dec. 1-8. Each person will be able to vote eight times, one vote per 24-hour period. The four charities that are competing against the foundation are To Write Love on Her Arms, Wish Upon a Hero Foundation, Let's Get Ready and Move for Hunger.

In the first round of voting the foundation won the "Youth Developers" category with their program "Replacing Hate with Understanding, Compassion and Acceptance." Twenty-five charities competed in the first round a number of weeks ago; they were divided into five categories based on certain themes. With its victory in the first round of voting, the foundation is hoping to win the top prize of a \$1,000,000 grant to start an online learning program.

"We want to develop online learning programs for LGBT and allied youth to learn skills for dealing with bullying, harassment and bias that they encounter in their daily lives by creating a simulation decision-making exercise where you confront some typical situations of bullying or bias and see how different responses might play out, so they can feel more confident dealing with unexpected and difficult situations they may encounter," said Jason Marsden, executive director of the Matthew Shepard Foundation.

He added, "Then you will get feedback about the way you responded and what that might lead to including suggestions for further resources you can look at and think about. The idea would be create a safe environment with some expertise and educational resources ... where they can try out different ways to respond to it in a safe way. This has been a dream of ours for a number of years that we have been refining, talking to experts but to write a software program it will take considerable financial resources to really pull it off."

This is not the foundation's only program. There is also a program called Erase Hate, where Judy Shepard (Matthew's mother), a staff member, a board member or several members of its growing speakers bureau do speaking engagements. The places they visit include middle and high schools as well as colleges, workplaces, community groups, non-governmental organizations, other nonprofits, local LGBT centers and community theaters who are putting on the Laramie Project. With the Laramie Project productions the foundation provides a specialist, resources and all-around information on how to put on an accurate performance.

Also on the horizon, the foundation is working on getting youth bloggers to participate on the Matthew's Place website which houses their youth resources. These bloggers will write about LGBT issues from different regions around the country. The foundation wants to get five to 10 young people blogging about their experiences.

The foundation has received support for the competition from many notable people, including Chelsea Handler, actress Judith Light and activist/reality-TV veteran Reichen Lehmkuhl. Many organizations have also agreed to help

promote the voting, such as One Colorado, PFLAG, GLSEN, AFER, Campus Pride, True Colors, Give a Damn and even The Imperial Court of Halifax.

Results of the voting will be announced during the first-ever American Giving Awards on NBC, which Bob Costas will host in a two-hour prime-time special Saturday, Dec. 10, 7-9 p.m. CT at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion in Los Angeles.

To vote for the Matthew Shepard Foundation, visit <http://www.votematthewshepard.org> or log on to a Chase online account page. To find out more about the foundation, visit <http://www.matthewshepard.org>; to read the youth blogs, visit <http://www.matthewsplace.com>.

Two gender-variant people charged in mugging

BY KATE SOSIN

Two gender-variant people are facing charges of armed robbery with a dangerous weapon and attempted armed robbery relating to a weekend Lincoln Park mugging.

Officer Robert Perez of the Chicago Police Department said that "two males dressed as women" were arrested after they were identified by two different mugging victims in Lincoln Park Nov. 25. Perez said that it was not known whether the offenders were, in fact, transgender people.

According to Perez, B. Arnold, 24, and M. Burns, 21, (first names redacted as they could go by different names relating to gender identity), allegedly held up two people in Lincoln Park with mace.

A 43-year-old male reported that at 2:19 p.m. on Friday, Burns and Arnold attempted to rob him at the 2600 block of North Cannon Drive. A second victim, a 26-year-old female was approached in an alley on the 2300 block

of North Lincoln Park West minutes later. According to Perez, the offenders took the woman's camera and iPhone.

Perez said that it appeared that Arnold "produced a pepper spray ... and threatened to spray her if she didn't give up her property," while Burns kept a lookout.

Witnesses observed the second robbery and called police, said Perez.

Burns and Arnold, who fled by foot, were arrested minutes later.

"They were observed trying to get rid of the property," Perez said.

Vital Bridges brunch Dec. 4 at Four Seasons

Local HIV/AIDS agency Vital Bridges Center on Chronic Care, a division of Heartland Health Outreach, will hold its holiday brunch, "Celebrate the Spirit," Sunday, Dec. 4, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., at the Four Seasons Hotel, 120 E. Delaware Pl.

This year's Food for Life Award recipients are MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger and former Vital Bridges CEO Ron Nunziato.

Tickets start at \$250 each; see <http://www.VitalBridges.org>.

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Addiction program brings SMART support to local LGBTs

BY ERICA DEMAREST

The international addiction assistance program SMART Recovery is set to offer additional weekly support groups in Chicago starting Dec. 4.

Founded in 1994, SMART Recovery is a non-religious not-for-profit that uses cognitive and behavioral tools to identify addiction triggers and change harmful behavior. Peer-to-peer programming addresses myriad addiction types, ranging from substance abuse and overeating to gambling and Internet pornography.

There are currently five weekly SMART meetings in the Chicagoland area: two in the suburbs (Naperville, Carol Stream); two in Ravenswood; and one in Boystown at the Howard Brown Health Center.

The new session will take place Sunday nights at 6 p.m. at Swedish Covenant Hospital, 5145 N. California Ave. Regional Coordinator Patrick Garnett said it couldn't come at a better time.

"The need is great, and our meetings keep growing," he said. "We've got a bottleneck."

Garnett, a volunteer who facilitates two weekly meetings, first got involved with SMART Recovery 18 months ago while working on his own crystal meth addiction. He had tried numerous support groups and 12-step programs, but couldn't permanently kick the habit.

"I was never able to make it stick until I found SMART Recovery," Garnett said. "If a person finds a support group that aligns with their values and beliefs, they're apt to have better [results]. The tools and the way it's set up really worked for me."

SMART—which stands for Self-Management and Recovery Training—is based on individualized goal setting. Each participant is encouraged to create his or her own unique goal and work toward it with the help of free, confidential meetings and a SMART Recovery workbook (\$9 to cover printing costs).

"We say: This behavior is blocking you from doing things that you want to do, but what are the things that you want to do to have a great life?" Garnett said. "Whether it's go back to school, volunteer, start a family or spend more time with your family, SMART is really focused on helping someone create this great life."

Workbooks include a variety of cognitive exercises that help members manage addictive behavior. Examples include: addiction logs, which identify triggers that can be avoided or better handled; 4-Points sheets, which organize lists of pros and cons to help prioritize goals; and 'stop' exercises that can help people overcome addictive urges.



Jim Pickett.

Weekly 75-minute meetings are highly interactive, as members share stories, ideas, successes and struggles. Garnett said the community atmosphere has been a popular draw; he's seen many people begin supplementing 12-Step or other meetings with SMART sessions.

"Substance abuse has affected our [LGBT] community really strongly," Garnett said. "Because there's such an impact, it's nice to have another option for people."

While a dearth of studies related to LGBT healthcare has made it impossible to offer concrete statistics, both the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and the local Chicago Task Force on LGBT Substance Use and Abuse agree the LGBT community experiences higher rates of substance use.

In 2005, the Chicago Task Force released a report that detailed the need for LGBT-friendly substance-abuse programs. The report, which took three years to compile, said stigma, homophobia, heterosexism, HIV/AIDS and a lack of alternative social activities contribute to increased use among LGBT people.

"[It] is an issue within our community, and we haven't addressed it in the way we should," Jim Pickett, the AIDS Foundation of Chicago's director of prevention advocacy and gay men's health, told the Chicago Tribune at the time. "You can compare it to a family that has an alcoholic, and no one talks about it."

SAMHSA reports that LGBT people are not only more likely to use alcohol and drugs, but they're also more likely to continue heavy drinking later in life. Also, a 2008 University of Pittsburgh

Medical Center Study suggests that LGBT teenagers are nearly 200 percent more likely than straight teens to use illicit substances.

Although the group's confidentiality clause prohibits a precise count, Garnett said Chicago's SMART Recovery meetings (especially those held at Howard Brown) have drawn a large number of LGBT participants. He credits the group's non-judgmental tone with its popularity.

"We don't use labels like alcoholic or addict, which can be refining for someone," Garnett said. "I like to use this example: I used to live in Denver, where I used to ski every weekend. But I haven't skied in 16 years, so if you ask me today if I'm a skier, I would say no, even though 16 years ago I was."

Change is at the heart of SMART Recovery's mission.

"It's not a lifelong process," Garnett said. "You

come to SMART to help you learn tools to remain sober, but also to work on building this great life you want to build. Hopefully you get to a point where you're self-empowered, you're handling any urges you may have, and meetings are getting in the way... It's like going to therapy. You go into therapy to work on a problem, and at some point, you move on."

SMART Recovery meetings are held Tuesdays and Thursdays at 7 p.m. at the Bethany Retirement Center, 4950 N. Ashland Ave., and Saturdays at 9:30 a.m. at Howard Brown Health Center, 4025 N. Sheridan Rd. Additional Swedish Covenant meetings will begin Dec. 4. There are 19 weekly online meetings for those with holiday travel plans or other scheduling conflicts.

To learn more, visit <http://www.smartrecovery.org>.

LGBT community mourns Maggie Daley's passing

COMPILED BY ANDREW DAVIS

Former Chicago First Lady Maggie Daley passed away Thanksgiving night, Nov. 24, after a long battle with cancer. She was 68.

A public wake was held Nov. 27 at the Chicago Cultural Center. A public funeral Mass took place Nov. 28 at Old St. Patrick's Church.

Mayor Rahm Emanuel issued a statement saying, "Mrs. Daley fought breast cancer with

Windy City Times. Some of them are below:

—**State Rep. Deb Mell:** "I was very sad to hear about Maggie Daley passing on Thanksgiving. To me, she embodied grace, faith and pure class. I will always remember the kindness she showed to my mother when she was ill; that meant so much to me. My thoughts and prayers go to the whole family."

—**State Rep. Greg Harris:** "Mrs. Daley was an inspiration to all those who have faced serious illness. In the years she struggled with her cancer and her treatment, she never failed to be kind and gracious, and continued non-stop to pursue a better life for Chicago youth. She will be remembered by every Chicagoan as a woman of great faith, courage and caring."

—**44th Ward Ald. Tom Tunney:** "As Chicago's longtime first lady, Maggie Daley was a celebrated force for good in the education and arts communities and her efforts in those areas will serve as a testament to her dedicated service for years to come. She led with dignity and grace both as a public figure and as a private person fighting an almost decade-long battle with cancer. Like all Chicagoans, my prayers and thoughts are with the Daley family today."

—**Art "Chat Daddy" Sims, You & Me This Morning, WCIU-TV:** "Former First Lady Maggie Daley was a true role model for us all. She was a creator of beauty and a vessel of hope for so many people in the city of Chicago, especially through her effortless work with After School Matters. We should all be thankful for the life of Maggie Daley and her commitment to improving conditions of our youth by teaching them peace and balance through the arts. She will be missed."

—**Jacob Meister, attorney:** "The passing of Maggie Daley marks a sad day for our city. For two decades the mayor was the brains of the City and Maggie was its heart."

Read the full list of thoughts from LGBT individuals online at <http://www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com>.



Former Mayor Richard Daley and Maggie Daley in 2008. Photo by Kat Fitzgerald

grace and dignity since her diagnosis in 2002; her resilience in the fight against cancer was incredible. Chicago is a richer city because of her dedication to the arts, and her passion for after school matters. ... May she rest in the eternal peace she deserves."

Members of the LGBT community also offered their condolences, sending them to

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SRO hotel notice alarms residents

BY KATE SOSIN

Rumors that Lakeview's Ambers Hotel, 1632 W. Belmont Ave., could close suddenly, evicting residents into the cold without warning, have set tenants on edge. But management said the hotel is not at-risk of closing.

The Ambers is the latest contested single-room occupancy (SRO) hotel in Chicago. Several others have been sold and redeveloped in recent years. Affected are many LGBT elders, some who have lived in SROs for decades.

Trouble at the Ambers began Nov. 4, according to residents. The building's management company notified residents that their rent cycles, typically monthly, were going to be daily ones.

The notice set off suspicions that the hotel was closing, and that rather than notifying tenants, the management had opted to switch the rent cycles, giving them the legal power to deny rooms to residents.

Rumors circulated that the building had been sold and that everyone would have to find new housing.

"I'm not bitter about it," said Anthony Warren, who lives on the second floor. "If I have to move, fine. But tell me. Give me 30 days."

Warren, who wakes early to get to his job at a dry cleaners in Highwood, said that paying every day before work is stressful. He has not been given receipts for rent, he added. Others who tried to pay for their rooms at night said they have been denied.

To add to anxieties, residents claim that people living on the fourth floor were tricked into checking out, only to be subsequently denied rooms.

Residents said that management emptied the fourth floor for maintenance purposes. They were told to check out of the hotel and promised that they could check back in after repairs and painting. However, some were not allowed to check back in, or were relocated to another floor, Warren said.

"Now you have some of these people literally sitting out on the street with their belongings," he said. "It was a catch-22, a 'we tricked you into moving out'... what they did was a test run with the fourth floor."

Warren (and others, who refused to go on-record with Windy City Times for fear of backlash) has been in meetings with Lakeview Action Coalition, an organization of community groups that fights to keep affordable housing in the area, about their concerns.

David Labunski, president of Ambers Hotel, Inc., confirmed that some tenants were asked to check out for maintenance reasons, but he insisted that it is "business as usual" at the Ambers. No one has been asked to leave, he said.

"I don't even know why you're calling," Labunski told Windy City Times. "I don't think there's a story."

Labunski said that maintenance in the building was routine and that the switch to daily rentals was just that. He added that the building was not closing; rather, he said, workers were upgrading the building.

Labunski added that he does not own the Ambers. Rather, it is owned by the corporation that manages it (Ambers Hotel, Inc.). Asked if he owned that corporation, Labunski told Windy City Times, "It's none of your business who owns it."

Corporations are listed publicly by the Illinois secretary of state. According to those records, Labunski is the president of Ambers Hotel, Inc. while Albert Labunski is the secretary. Albert Labunski is also listed as the president and secretary of Cedar Realty, where David Labunski was reached by phone.

Paul Sajovec is the chief of staff for 32nd Ward Alderman Scott Waguespack. His office has been



Bob Zuley. Photo courtesy of Zuley

investigating concerns that the building telling residents to leave.

"I called and left a voicemail for the owner, and they never called me back," Sajovec said. However, he said there is little indication that residents are being told to vacate.

Sajovec's office sent police to the Ambers to make sure that residents were not being illegally evicted. He said they reported that only one person had been told to leave; he was a man who had only stayed there for two nights and got into a fight with someone, they said.

Furthermore, Sajovec said, the switch to daily rental cycles does not change any resident's rights.

"If they've been there for 30 days or more, that's considered their residence," he said.

SROs have become contested housing in recent years, as many local politicians and residents see them as liabilities. SROs often provide housing to people who would not otherwise find housing, due to discrimination based on criminal records or because they cannot scrape together a security deposit.

Still, some have argued that they attract trouble and violate health codes.

SROs close every year now in Chicago, leading many to say that they are a dying breed of affordable housing.

Bob Zuley, an LGBT advocate and activist with Lakeview Action Coalition, argued that the trend of closing SROs in the city is a lesson the power of privilege over the needs of many.

"While some North American cities have recognized SRO's as a viable and necessary component of our urban housing stock and have constructively engaged in SRO preservation efforts, Chicago isn't one of them," Zuley said. "This is a matter of establishing priorities, and housing should always be a priority."

In July, both The Sheffield House hotel, 3834 N. Sheffield Ave., and The Belair Hotel, 424 W. Diversey Ave., were sold, displacing an estimated 350 people amid controversy.

One who moved from the Belair was Warren, who relocated to the second floor of the Ambers. His rent went up \$10 a week when the billing cycles at the Ambers went daily. However, it's not about the money for him.

"It's about the control," he said.

Regardless of the fate of the Ambers, Warren said he is filling out rental applications for apartments. He won't live in an SRO again. "I've seen enough," he said.



Richard James Kurtz. Photo courtesy of the Douglas County sheriff's office.

Priest arrested in Chicago on sex-abuse charges

BY KATE SOSIN

A Jesuit priest was arrested Nov. 21 in Chicago on charges relating to a decade-old sexual abuse scandal, according to a statement released by the Federal Bureau of Investigations.

Father Richard James Kurtz, 67, is facing felony charges of sexual assault on a child by one in possession of trust and attempted sexual assault on a child by one in passion of trust.

According to the Douglas County sheriff's office, the charges stem from an incident that allegedly occurred while Kurtz was employed at the University of Detroit High School in Detroit. Kurtz was working there as a chemistry teacher in 2001 when he allegedly abused an underage male.

The incident itself, however, occurred in Colorado. Sgt. Ron Hanavan of the sheriff's office told Windy City Times. According to Hanavan, Kurtz and the alleged victim knew each other. The sheriff's office said the incident was not related a church in Colorado.

The Douglas County Special Victims Unit began investigating the priest in June after a tip from the Society Of Jesus Chicago-Detroit Province. A warrant for his arrest was issued

on Nov. 18. Kurtz was booked on a \$100,000 bond.

A case against Kurtz was filed with the 18th Judicial District Attorney's Office of Douglas County.

Oak Park man charged with HIV transmission

An Oak Park man has been charged with three felonies, including the transmission of HIV, after he reportedly bit a police officer's thumb, according to a Chicago Tribune item.

The man is also facing charges of aggravated battery of a police officer and retail theft after being arrested outside Old Navy, 417 N. Harlem Ave., Oak Park.

Ann Hilton Fisher, executive director of the AIDS Legal Council of Chicago, said in a release that the arrest shows the outdated and stigmatizing nature of HIV criminal-transmission laws, both in Illinois and across the United States.

"There is, of course, no risk that the officer will get HIV from this bite," she said. "These laws reflect, and fuel, outdated notions of HIV transmission. How many people will read this article and think that they need to know the HIV status of the two year old who bit their child in the arm in a nursery school tussle over a toy, or worry that they shouldn't share a meal, let alone a kiss, with someone who is HIV-positive?"

She also said that the "Illinois' Criminal Transmission of HIV Law [720 ILCS 5/12-16.2] makes it a class B felony for anyone with HIV to 'engage in intimate contact' with another person unless the person with HIV has first disclosed his or her status and the other party has consented to the contact. 'Intimate contact' is defined as 'the exposure of the body of one person to the bodily fluids of another in a manner which would result in the transmission of HIV.' An individual with HIV can be prosecuted under the statute whether or not HIV is in fact transmitted."

The trial date is Dec. 2 at Maywood Court-house.



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Patient model. Pill shown is not actual size.

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COMPLERA does not cure HIV and has not been shown to prevent passing HIV to others. It is important to always practice safer sex, use latex or polyurethane condoms to lower the chance of sexual contact with any body fluids, and to never re-use or share needles. **Do not stop taking COMPLERA unless directed by your healthcare provider. See your healthcare provider regularly.**

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Contact your healthcare provider right away if you get the following side effects or conditions while taking COMPLERA:

- Nausea, vomiting, unusual muscle pain, and/or weakness. These may be signs of a buildup of acid in the blood (lactic acidosis), which is a serious medical condition
- Light-colored stools, dark-colored urine, and/or if your skin or the whites of your eyes turn yellow. These may be signs of serious liver problems (hepatotoxicity), with liver enlargement (hepatomegaly), and fat in the liver (steatosis)
- If you have HIV-1 and hepatitis B virus (HBV), your liver disease may suddenly get worse if you stop taking COMPLERA. Do not stop taking COMPLERA without first talking to your healthcare provider. Your healthcare provider will monitor your condition

COMPLERA may affect the way other medicines work, and other medicines may affect how COMPLERA works, and may cause serious side effects.

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- the anti-tuberculosis medicines rifabutin (Mycobutin), rifampin (Rifater®, Rifamate®, Rimactane®, Rifadin®) and rifapentine (Priftin®)
- a proton pump inhibitor medicine for certain stomach or intestinal problems, including esomeprazole (Nexium®, Vimovo®), lansoprazole (Prevacid®), omeprazole (Prilosec®), pantoprazole sodium (Protonix®), rabeprazole (Aciphex®)
- more than 1 dose of the steroid medicine dexamethasone or dexamethasone sodium phosphate
- St. John's wort (Hypericum perforatum)
- other medicines that contain tenofovir (VIREAD®, TRUVADA®, ATRIPLA®)
- other medicines that contain emtricitabine or lamivudine (EMTRIVA®, Combivir®, Epivir® or Epivir-HBV®, Epzicom®, Trizivir®)
- rilpivirine (Edurant™)
- adefovir (HEPSERA®)

In addition, also tell your healthcare provider if you take:

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- a histamine-2 blocker medicine, including famotidine (Pepcid®), cimetidine (Tagamet®), nizatidine (Axid®), or ranitidine hydrochloride (Zantac®). Take these medicines at least 12 hours before or at least 4 hours after you take COMPLERA
- the antibiotic medicines clarithromycin (Biaxin®), erythromycin (E-Mycin®, Eryc®, Ery-Tab®, PCE®, Pediazole®, Ilosone®), and troleandomycin (TAO®)
- an antifungal medicine by mouth, including fluconazole (Diflucan®), itraconazole (Sporanox®), ketoconazole (Nizoral®), posaconazole (Noxafil®), voriconazole (Vfend®)
- methadone (Dolophine®)

This list of medicines is not complete. Discuss with your healthcare provider all prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, or herbal supplements you are taking or plan to take.

COMPLERA is a prescription medicine used as a complete single-tablet regimen to treat HIV-1 in adults who have never taken HIV medicines before. COMPLERA does not cure HIV or AIDS or help prevent passing HIV to others.

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Serious side effects associated with COMPLERA:

- **New or worse kidney problems** can happen in some people who take COMPLERA. If you have had kidney problems in the past or take other medicines that can cause kidney problems, your healthcare provider may need to do blood tests to check your kidneys during your treatment with COMPLERA
- **Depression or mood changes** can happen in some people who take COMPLERA. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any of the following symptoms: feeling sad or hopeless, feeling anxious or restless, or if you have thoughts of hurting yourself (suicide) or have tried to hurt yourself
- **Bone problems** can happen in some people who take COMPLERA. Bone problems include bone pain, softening or thinning (which may lead to fractures). Your healthcare provider may need to do additional tests to check your bones
- **Changes in body fat** can happen in people taking HIV medicine. These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast, and around the main part of your body (trunk). Loss of fat from the legs, arms and face may also happen. The cause and long-term health effect of these conditions are not known
- **Changes in your immune system (Immune Reconstitution Syndrome)** can happen when you start taking HIV medicines. Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections that have been hidden in your body for a long time. Tell your healthcare provider if you start having new symptoms after starting your HIV medicine

Common side effects associated with COMPLERA:

- trouble sleeping (insomnia), abnormal dreams, headache, dizziness, diarrhea, nausea, rash, tiredness, and depression

Other side effects associated with COMPLERA:

- vomiting, stomach pain or discomfort, skin discoloration (small spots or freckles), and pain

Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effect that bothers you or that does not go away. These are not all the possible side effects of COMPLERA. For more information, ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist. Call your healthcare provider for medical advice about side effects.

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.

Take COMPLERA exactly as your healthcare provider tells you to take it

- **Always take COMPLERA with a meal.** Taking COMPLERA with a meal is important to help get the right amount of medicine in your body. A protein drink does not replace a meal
- **Stay under the care of your healthcare provider during treatment with COMPLERA and see your healthcare provider regularly**

Please see Patient Information for COMPLERA on the following pages.



COMPLERA[®]
emtricitabine 200mg/rilpivirine 25mg/
tenofovir disoproxil fumarate 300mg tablets

Learn more at www.COMPLERA.com

FDA-Approved Patient Labeling

Patient Information

COMPLERA® (kom-PLUH-rah)

(emtricitabine, rilpivirine and tenofovir disoproxil fumarate) Tablets

Important: Ask your doctor or pharmacist about medicines that should not be taken with COMPLERA. For more information, see the section “What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking COMPLERA?”

Read this Patient Information before you start taking COMPLERA and each time you get a refill. There may be new information. This information does not take the place of talking to your healthcare provider about your medical condition or treatment.

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

COMPLERA can cause serious side effects, including:

1. Build-up of an acid in your blood (lactic acidosis). Lactic acidosis can happen in some people who take COMPLERA or similar (nucleoside analogs) medicines. **Lactic acidosis** is a serious medical emergency that can lead to death.

Lactic acidosis can be hard to identify early, because the symptoms could seem like symptoms of other health problems. **Call your healthcare provider right away if you get any of the following symptoms which could be signs of lactic acidosis:**

- feeling very weak or tired
- have unusual (not normal) muscle pain
- have trouble breathing
- have stomach pain with
 - nausea (feel sick to your stomach)
 - vomiting
- feel cold, especially in your arms and legs
- feel dizzy or lightheaded
- have a fast or irregular heartbeat

2. Severe liver problems. Severe liver problems can happen in people who take COMPLERA or similar medicines. In some cases these liver problems can lead to death. Your liver may become large (hepatomegaly) and you may develop fat in your liver (steatosis) when you take COMPLERA.

Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any of the following symptoms of liver problems:

- your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice).
- dark “tea-colored” urine
- light-colored bowel movements (stools)
- loss of appetite for several days or longer
- nausea
- stomach pain

You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or severe liver problems if you are female, very overweight (obese), or have been taking COMPLERA or a similar medicine containing nucleoside analogs for a long time.

3. Worsening of Hepatitis B infection. If you also have hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection and you stop taking COMPLERA, your HBV infection may become worse (flare-up). A “flare-up” is when your HBV infection suddenly returns in a worse way than before. COMPLERA is not approved for the treatment of HBV, so you must discuss your HBV therapy with your healthcare provider.

- Do not let your COMPLERA run out. Refill your prescription or talk to your healthcare provider before your COMPLERA is all gone.
- Do not stop taking COMPLERA without first talking to your healthcare provider.
- If you stop taking COMPLERA, your healthcare provider will need to check your health often and do regular blood tests to check your HBV infection. Tell your healthcare provider about any new or unusual symptoms you may have after you stop taking COMPLERA.

What is COMPLERA?

COMPLERA is a prescription HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) medicine that:

- is used to treat HIV-1 in adults who have **never** taken HIV medicines before. HIV is the virus that causes AIDS (Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome).
- contains 3 medicines, (rilpivirine, emtricitabine, tenofovir disoproxil fumarate) combined in one tablet. EMTRIVA and VIREAD are HIV-1 (human immunodeficiency virus) nucleoside analog reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NRTIs) and EDURANT is an HIV-1 non-nucleoside analog reverse transcriptase inhibitor (NNRTI).

It is not known if COMPLERA is safe and effective in children under the age of 18 years.

COMPLERA may help:

- Reduce the amount of HIV in your blood. This is called your “viral load”.
- Increase the number of white blood cells called CD4+ (T) cells that help fight off other infections.

Reducing the amount of HIV and increasing the CD4+ (T) cell count may improve your immune system. This may reduce your risk of death or infections that can happen when your immune system is weak (opportunistic infections).

COMPLERA does not cure HIV infections or AIDS.

- Always practice safer sex.
- Use latex or polyurethane condoms to lower the chance of sexual contact with any body fluids such as semen, vaginal secretions, or blood.
- Never re-use or share needles.

Ask your healthcare provider if you have any questions about how to prevent passing HIV to other people.

Who should not take COMPLERA?

- Do not take COMPLERA if your HIV infection has been previously treated with HIV medicines.
- **Do not take COMPLERA if you are taking certain other medicines.** For more information about medicines that must not be taken with COMPLERA, see “What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking COMPLERA?”

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking COMPLERA?

Before you take COMPLERA, tell your healthcare provider if you:

- have liver problems, including hepatitis B or C virus infection
- have kidney problems
- have ever had a mental health problem
- have bone problems
- are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if COMPLERA can harm your unborn child
- **Pregnancy Registry.** There is a pregnancy registry for women who take antiviral medicines during pregnancy. Its purpose is to collect information about the health of you and your baby. Talk to your healthcare provider about how you can take part in this registry.
- are breast-feeding or plan to breast-feed. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that mothers with HIV not breastfeed because they can pass the HIV through their milk to the baby. It is not known if COMPLERA can pass through your breast milk and harm your baby. Talk to your healthcare provider about the best way to feed your baby.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take, including prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements.

COMPLERA may affect the way other medicines work, and other medicines may affect how COMPLERA works, and may cause serious side effects. If you take certain medicines with COMPLERA, the amount of COMPLERA in your body may be too low and it may not work to help control your HIV infection. The HIV virus in your body may become resistant to COMPLERA or other HIV medicines that are like it.

Do not take COMPLERA if you also take these medicines:

- COMPLERA provides a complete treatment for HIV infection. Do not take other HIV medicines with COMPLERA.
- the anti-seizure medicines carbamazepine (CARBATROL®, EQUETRO®, TEGRETOL®, TEGRETOL-XR®, TERIL®, EPITOL®), oxcarbazepine (TRILEPTAL®), phenobarbital (LUMINAL®), phenytoin (DILANTIN®, DILANTIN-125®, PHENYTEK®)
- the anti-tuberculosis medicines rifabutin (MYCOBUTIN®), rifampin (RIFATER®, RIFAMATE®, RIMACTANE®, RIFADIN®) and rifapentine (PRIFTIN®)
- a proton pump inhibitor medicine for certain stomach or intestinal problems, including esomeprazole (NEXIUM®, VIMOVO®), lansoprazole (PREVACID®), omeprazole (PRILOSEC®), pantoprazole sodium (PROTONIX®), rabeprazole (ACIPHEX®)
- more than 1 dose of the steroid medicine dexamethasone or dexamethasone sodium phosphate
- St. John’s wort (*Hypericum perforatum*)

If you are taking COMPLERA, you should not take:

- other medicines that contain tenofovir (VIREAD®, TRUVADA®, ATRIPLA®)
- other medicines that contain emtricitabine or lamivudine (EMTRIVA®, COMBIVIR®, EPIVIR® or EPIVIR-HBV®, EPZICOM®, TRIZIVIR®)
- rilpivirine (EDURANT™)
- adefovir (HEPSERA®)

Also tell your healthcare provider if you take:

- an antacid medicine that contains aluminum, magnesium hydroxide, or calcium carbonate. Take antacids at least 2 hours before or at least 4 hours after you take COMPLERA.
- a histamine-2 blocker medicine, including famotidine (PEPCID®), cimetidine (TAGAMET®), nizatidine (AXID®), or ranitidine hydrochloride (ZANTAC®). Take these medicines at least 12 hours before or at least 4 hours after you take COMPLERA.
- the antibiotic medicines clarithromycin (BIAXIN®), erythromycin (E-MYCIN®, ERYC®, ERY-TAB®, PCE®, PEDIAZOLE®, ILOSONE®), and troleandomycin (TAO®)
- an antifungal medicine by mouth, including fluconazole (DIFLUCAN®), itraconazole (SPORANOX®), ketoconazole (NIZORAL®), posaconazole (NOXAFIL®), voriconazole (VFEND®)
- methadone (DOLOPHINE®)

Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist if you are not sure if your medicine is one that is listed above.

Know the medicines you take. Keep a list of your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist when you get a new medicine. Your healthcare provider and your pharmacist can tell you if you can take these medicines with COMPLERA. Do not start any new medicines while you are taking COMPLERA without first talking with your healthcare provider or pharmacist. You can ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for a list of medicines that can interact with COMPLERA.

How should I take COMPLERA?

- **Stay under the care of your healthcare provider during treatment with COMPLERA.**
- **Take COMPLERA exactly as your healthcare provider tells you to take it.**
- **Always take COMPLERA with a meal.** Taking COMPLERA with a meal is important to help get the right amount of medicine in your body. A protein drink does not replace a meal.
- Do not change your dose or stop taking COMPLERA without first talking with your healthcare provider. See your healthcare provider regularly while taking COMPLERA.
- If you miss a dose of COMPLERA within 12 hours of the time you usually take it, take your dose of COMPLERA with a meal as soon as possible. Then, take your next dose of COMPLERA at the regularly scheduled time. If you miss a dose of COMPLERA by more than 12 hours of the time you usually take it, wait and then take the next dose of COMPLERA at the regularly scheduled time.
- Do not take more than your prescribed dose to make up for a missed dose.
- When your COMPLERA supply starts to run low, get more from your healthcare provider or pharmacy. It is very important not to run out of COMPLERA. The amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time.
- If you take too much COMPLERA, contact your local poison control center or go to the nearest hospital emergency room right away.

What are the possible side effects of COMPLERA?**COMPLERA may cause the following serious side effects, including:**

- **See “What is the most important information I should know about COMPLERA?”**
- **New or worse kidney problems** can happen in some people who take COMPLERA. If you have had kidney problems in the past or take other medicines that can cause kidney problems, your healthcare provider may need to do blood tests to check your kidneys during your treatment with COMPLERA.
- **Depression or mood changes. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any of the following symptoms:**
 - feeling sad or hopeless
 - feeling anxious or restless
 - have thoughts of hurting yourself (suicide) or have tried to hurt yourself
- **Bone problems** can happen in some people who take COMPLERA. Bone problems include bone pain, softening or thinning (which may lead to fractures). Your healthcare provider may need to do additional tests to check your bones.
- **Changes in body fat** can happen in people taking HIV medicine. These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck (“buffalo hump”), breast, and around the main part of your body (trunk). Loss of fat from the legs, arms and face may also happen. The cause and long term health effect of these conditions are not known.
- **Changes in your immune system (Immune Reconstitution Syndrome)** can happen when you start taking HIV medicines. Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections that have been hidden in your body for a long time. Tell your healthcare provider if you start having new symptoms after starting your HIV medicine.

The most common side effects of COMPLERA include:

- trouble sleeping (insomnia)
- abnormal dreams
- headache
- dizziness
- diarrhea
- nausea
- rash
- tiredness
- depression

Additional common side effects include:

- vomiting
- stomach pain or discomfort
- skin discoloration (small spots or freckles)
- pain

Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effect that bothers you or that does not go away.

These are not all the possible side effects of COMPLERA. For more information, ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist.

Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088 (1-800-332-1088).

How do I store COMPLERA?

- Store COMPLERA at room temperature 77 °F (25 °C).
- Keep COMPLERA in its original container and keep the container tightly closed.
- Do not use COMPLERA if the seal over the bottle opening is broken or missing.

Keep COMPLERA and all other medicines out of reach of children.**General information about COMPLERA:**

Medicines are sometimes prescribed for purposes other than those listed in a Patient Information leaflet. Do not use COMPLERA for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give COMPLERA to other people, even if they have the same symptoms you have. It may harm them.

This leaflet summarizes the most important information about COMPLERA. If you would like more information, talk with your healthcare provider. You can ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for information about COMPLERA that is written for health professionals. For more information, call (1-800-445-3235) or go to www.COMPLERA.com.

What are the ingredients of COMPLERA?

Active ingredients: emtricitabine, rilpivirine hydrochloride, and tenofovir disoproxil fumarate

Inactive ingredients: pregelatinized starch, lactose monohydrate, microcrystalline cellulose, croscarmellose sodium, magnesium stearate, povidone, polysorbate 20. The tablet film coating contains polyethylene glycol, hypromellose, lactose monohydrate, triacetin, titanium dioxide, iron oxide red, FD&C Blue #2 aluminum lake, FD&C Yellow #6 aluminum lake.

This Patient Information has been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration

Manufactured and distributed by:

Gilead Sciences, Inc.

Foster City, CA 94404

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Drawing on hope:

Nurse documents the legacy of AIDS Unit 371 at Illinois Masonic

BY ROSS FORMAN

MK Czerwiec worked at Illinois Masonic Hospital's dedicated HIV/AIDS ward, known as Unit 371, from 1994-2000, her first job out of nursing school—and it definitely changed her life.

"Who I am today is profoundly informed by the time I spent in that place and the people I met there," Czerwiec said. "Around 2005, when I wanted to learn some details about Unit 371 that I didn't know, such as how it started, I felt certain that a simple Internet search would reveal great stories of this place. But there was nothing. I couldn't find any information about it. So I decided that, as part of my Master's [degree] in Medical Humanities and Bioethics at Northwestern, I would begin the process of documenting the history of Unit 371.

"I began the process because this project will go on—there is no one person who can write a history. All of us share that history, so all of us need to share our stories and experiences from that place—to commit to audio recording or paper or canvas or film, or whatever media works. I'm just the person trying to gather that together. Part of why I decided to do this project was because I felt documentation of this place needed to exist. Unit 371 has an extremely important place in the history of our community and in the history of medicine. AIDS changed healthcare as we know it, profoundly. And on Unit 371, that care was a partnership; it was delivered in quite a unique way. I wanted to represent this uniqueness, examine it, see what we could learn from discussing all that Unit 371 did and was."

Unit 371 spawned from life and professional partners David Blatt and David Moore, physicians and members of the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame. Unit 371 treated AIDS patients in a safe environment for partners and other family members, where they could spend unlimited time with beloved friends and relatives.

Unit 371 became a model for AIDS units at medical centers across the U.S.

"The death rate on Unit 371 was higher than any other hospital unit because, for so long, AIDS was a fast-moving, terminal disease," Czerwiec said. "In a month, we could lose 30 patients. Fortunately, that has changed. But, to be there at that time, to have known and cared about, repeatedly worked with the patients and their friends and families, for the staff, this was all too much to handle.

"I'd like to tell you that I heard some magic bullet cure for how any of us did handle it, but my interviews didn't reveal this. My interviews reveal people today who are still trying to deal with experiencing so many losses over such a short time—as the entire gay community is."

Czerwiec, now 44, is now an artist-in-residence at Northwestern's Feinberg School of Medicine. She is partnered and a lifelong Chicago-area resident.

"I ended up working in AIDS care unexpectedly," Czerwiec said. "My father died while I was in my medical clinical rotation of nursing school. We had cared for my dad at home after multiple strokes, for seven years prior to his death. Once he died, it was suddenly too challenging to care for patients who reminded me of him. So I planned to drop out of nursing school and find another career. But one of my instructors wouldn't let me. She set me up with a private clinical in AIDS care because she said the patients were, unfortunately, much younger than my dad was, and wouldn't remind me of him. She added, 'Through AIDS, you'll learn everything

you need to know to be an amazing nurse—and then some.' She was absolutely right.

"I fail when I try to describe what Unit 371, and [what] all the people who went through its doors, taught me. Perhaps that's also part of why I wanted to look at this place more closely through the words of my narrators, the people who were kind enough to let me interview them. I'm hoping they will help me paint this picture, and together we'll all understand better how this place, and AIDS, [has] changed us."

Czerwiec, two months ago, interviewed a former patient of Unit 371 and his partner. The partner told her, "We have a very normal life, except for the fact that we see doctors more often than other people might. We don't ignore his sickness, but it does not rule our life."

Czerwiec said those comments stand in stark contrast to what many faced—herself included—during the years when Unit 371 was necessary.

"It's astonishing, really. And wonderful," she said. "AIDS presents many new and different challenges today, as we all know. As a community, we need to keep vigilant, continuing to help those who still need us. We can do this through programs like Vital Bridges, for example.

"The great irony of Unit 371 that emerges quite profoundly in my oral history interviews is that, despite the pain and death we faced there, it was recalled on several occasions as a

fun place, a place the narrators actually enjoyed being. One person said, 'At a time of death everywhere, on Unit 371, there was life. Abundant life.'"

Czerwiec brings her oral history of Unit 371 to the Center on Halsted on, fittingly, Thursday, Dec. 1—World AIDS Day.

"The Center is a unique space, open to all, proudly serving the needs of the LGBTQ community. Unit 371 was this type of space as well. So it is a perfect fit," she said.

"World AIDS Day was started in 1988, and it's a day set aside for moving HIV/AIDS, and the impact it has had, into our direct focus. The aim of my project about Unit 371 is to do this as well, so again, it's a perfect fit for me to be sharing this work publicly for the first time, on Dec. 1 at the Center on Halsted."

Czerwiec said attendees will hear stories about the Unit, which served the community from about 1985 through 2000. The discussion will include how Unit 371 began, challenges faced by the staff, the patients, families, the hospital administration, and the surrounding community. "We'll also discuss what elements of Unit 371 were unlike typical hospital units," she said. "This history will be told by some of the people who were there, who lived it."

Before starting the Oral History project, Czerwiec studied with Gretchen Case, an oral historian, performer, creator, academic and more. "We did a one-on-one semester on oral history—the theories, the practice, the art, the pitfalls, the responsibilities, and a few insider tips," Czerwiec said. "It was an intensive learning experience, and then she interviewed me. I wanted to get my stories and thoughts documented so they wouldn't distract me while I was trying to be a good listener for my narrators. I also wanted to know first-hand what I was going to be putting my narrators through [because] going back to that time can be quite painful.

"I was very nervous before my interview, afraid that memories and grief would overwhelm me. But, to my surprise, I didn't fall apart, mostly because Gretchen was so skilled. It was a good experience and I was careful to pay attention to how Gretchen did that interview, and we talked about it extensively afterwards. I wanted to do as good a job with my narrators as she had done with me.

"I also want to say that this project would not exist without the amazing support of Alice Dregger, who, upon first hearing of my idea, emailed me that she was crying so hard it was challenging to type. From her perspective as a medical historian, and because of who she is personally, she believed in the importance of this project and fought hard to see it through. She's been an amazing support to me, as has the entire faculty of Medical Humanities and Bioethics at Northwestern. They got, from day one, that comics and medicine can be a perfect match. Their wisdom and progressiveness in this area has been extremely helpful to me and I am very grateful."

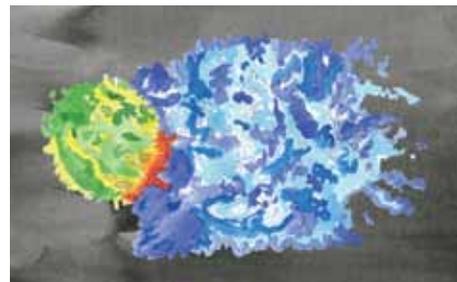
Czerwiec has, amazingly, meshed her ever-so-serious work with her passion for humor through comics.

"While working the evening shift on Unit 371, I struggled to integrate all of the traumatic things I was seeing at work on the one hand, and trying to lead an everyday life outside of the hospital on the other. It was quite difficult. Everything felt completely amiss in the world, and it was," Czerwiec said. "Sometimes it made me crazy that so many people didn't know how bad it was, or worse, didn't care. Those of us in the AIDS community at that time will under-

MK
Czerwiec.
Photo by
Michael
Green



Some of Czerwiec's drawings.



stand what I mean here. But people who didn't experience the kind of loss, the constant bad news, the constant layering of another grief, still had expectations of me, fair ones. Like that I wouldn't go to pieces with worry when a loved one got a cough or took a trip. Or that I wouldn't just burst into tears in line at the grocery store.

"Until the right combination of drugs came along, the news on Unit 371 was always bad, almost always the worse-case scenario. And if it seemed OK in any moment, you knew that wouldn't last. It was like a violent storm that went on for years without end. It was exhausting. I found myself losing the ability to function normally in social relations. I still have this aftereffect to a much lesser degree.

"One way I tried to cope was by talking with a therapist, of course, but that wasn't enough. I discovered, much by accident one day, that making a comic helped me to find my way back to some semblance of normalcy and hope. I started then and have never stopped. Perhaps it's because making a box, and only looking at one tiny bit of a situation at a time, helps me to feel less overwhelmed. Making a strip one box at a time forces me to process things carefully, sequentially, and succinctly. That helps. The boxes move me slowly from a static state of grief or confusion through a story, and somehow that little story always ends better than I might have thought it would. Also, marrying text to an image brings our right brain into the situation, and all of those extra resources. When you read or make a comic, you're using your whole brain. How can that not be a good thing? Much has been written on this in neurobiology, but I can testify from personal experience that it's quite helpful."

Czerwiec added: "Perhaps the tradition of humor in comics provides me with the levity necessary to survive. Having said this, scores of graphic narratives now exist that have, as their subject, things that are not at all funny, such as genocide. Comics are a powerful artistic medium.

My Fabulous Disease:

A blog in four movements from Mark S. King

BY JOE FRANCO

Mark S. King was diagnosed with HIV in 1985, only shortly after any viable test for the virus was made available. "I call my blog My Fabulous Disease because I refused to be defined by a disease. Now I am defining the disease. I refused to be defined by illness or suffering," he said, adding that he started his video and written blog because he liked the "instant gratification" he got and that he enjoyed the repartee with his audience.

King began his career as an actor in Los Angeles appearing in commercials and even winning a car on the Price Is Right. (You can read and watch this on his blog. According to him, it was a highlight of his life.)

During the early '80s, King worked as a phone sex operator: "You know how actors have their cliché summer acting jobs? Well, I had a non-cliché summer phone sex operator job." That job eventually led to King's own phone sex company

"Telerotic—Where our guys know you like the palm of your hand." Eventually, as AIDS emerged as a national health crisis, King sold Telerotic.

"Prior to AIDS I was a shallow gay guy, working out and getting laid. I did my part to spread the gay around," said King. "HIV was my awakening about things that I was doing that were not so important. Before that, my life was the antithesis of what we're all called to do." King expressed his extreme gratitude to still be here after more than 27 years of being HIV positive. "I survived the '80s alone, and a serious drug addiction. Now I have more friends and a better sense of community. It's that kind of community that we should want more of," he said.

When asked what he thought about the new gay generation's possible waning of interest in the AIDS epidemic, King had some poignant advice: "Give them a break! Cut them some slack! People say that 'No one sees this [AIDS] as a crisis anymore.' Thank. God. Isn't that what we've been working towards all of these years? People

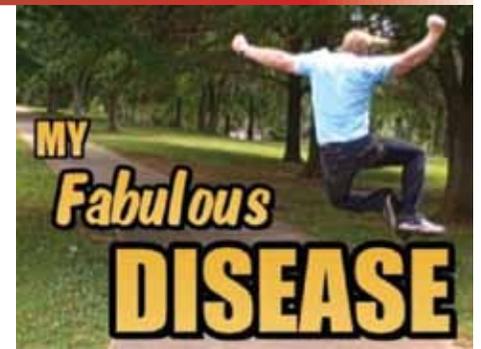
aren't as afraid anymore. This is not to say that they should be doing nothing. Being involved in the community gives a sense of belonging and meaning. This leads to a greater sense of self-esteem and the taking of fewer unhealthy risks in their lives."

King's blog is candid. Not in a scripted "Real Housewives of New York" way but in a manner that allows a reader and viewer of the blog to understand and relate to King on a deeply personal level. He admitted to a more than 10-year struggle with crystal meth. "Crystal meth, in particular, is an epidemic," he said. "Friends of mine were there one day then just 'poof' gone the next, either from seeking the drug or from an overdose."

In the mid-'90s protease inhibitor-type drugs were made available to those with HIV and suddenly fewer men were dying. "We were happy and relieved. We just wanted to reclaim our sexuality," said King. "As gay men we grew up feeling 'less than' and not feeling a part of any community. We were willing to go, even to drugs, as a way to change the way we felt. We still do this with alcohol to some extent."

"I quit my job. How could the director of an AIDS agency be caught in a sex club, high on god knows what, and having unprotected sex? I was suffering from some sort of post-traumatic stress," he said. "Mind you, I was not the only one who this happened to. There were names bigger and more important than mine doing the same thing."

King's most recent blog posts involve his recent break-up with his partner. Some blogs might gloss over those parts of the blogger's life that are unsavory or unpleasant, but in his own way, King's blog demonstrates for us that life is neither all a bed of roses or a crown of thorns. "I need to regroup. I will be moving back to Atlanta. I'm sure the blog will chronicle whatever transitions await me," King said, adding that he, like many other gay men, seem to need to always be with a man. "I was already thinking about the next man and that is so unhealthy. I was afraid. I was afraid of being alone and unlovable. But I have faith that everything is



King's blog logo.

going to be okay. I really just need to take the time to examine what has happened."

King also dabbled in drag. Drag is either something gay men do because, as Noxezma Jackson from To Wong Foo put it "they have WAY too much fashion sense for one gender." But drag is also something that some gay men fall into and thus King's alter-ego "Anita Mann" was born.

"I became a multi-media drag queen," said King. "Before Anita, I had never even put on a dress. This was raising money and awareness for AIDS. I actually had some problems putting on the dress. I never went out in drag and almost immediately after doing a show, was back in a t-shirt and jeans." Like many aspects of King's life, during his struggles with meth, Anita became a hindrance to his drug use. But after being clean now for more than four years, Anita is back with a vengeance. "Anita only performs for events that raise money and awareness for AIDS or for those people in recovery."

While King's blog seems like full-time work, for him it is a hobby, but one that brings him considerable joy. "I love writing. This is my voice. I gotta tell you though, I cry at least once a week," he said. "I get an e-mail at least once a week from someone who thought that their life was over. But they read something that makes them laugh and somehow, that makes them feel comforted."

King's blog may be unorthodox and provocative, but it is also riotously funny. It is just not mere babble about one's man's life living with HIV like the Lone Ranger and Tonto. We get the unusual treat of interacting with what it means to be a community. We learn what "belonging" means.

You can read and watch My Fabulous Disease at <http://marksking.com/>



Mark King. Courtesy of King

After 30 years of AIDS, people under 30 face greatest risk

BY SAM HO, M.D.

People who weren't yet born when AIDS first emerged are today most at risk for becoming HIV positive—an alarming development that underscores how essential awareness is, especially as we approach World AIDS Day, Dec. 1.

From 2006 to 2009, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported that the HIV incidence rate for Americans between 13 and 29 years old increased by about 21 percent. In fact, most of the new HIV infections reported in this country involve people under 30.

Americans under 30 have never known a world without AIDS. At the same time, they've never really known a time when effective treatment for HIV and AIDS wasn't available.

This hasn't always been the case. As this dis-

ease turns 30, we need to ensure people—especially younger people—remain aware of AIDS and how to prevent it.

AIDS awareness is one of the biggest challenges we face when trying to prevent it. After 30 years of addressing what was once considered one of America's most pressing health problems, AIDS is no longer front-page news.

On this World AIDS Day, let's not forget that about 56,000 Americans become infected with HIV each year, according to the CDC, and that more than 14,000 Americans with AIDS die each year.

Thanks to more effective and more available treatments, more Americans who have HIV and AIDS are able to live. The CDC estimates this number at more than 1 million nationwide.

Regularly testing people most at risk for HIV—

and then providing antiretroviral drugs for HIV/AIDS patients—dramatically reduces the number of new infections.

Preventing HIV is not complicated. If you're sexually active, get tested. Don't use IV drugs or share needles. Abstain or practice safer sex. With preventive care, patients and their health-care providers can fight and manage this disease and slow its spread.

But we can't allow today's more effective treatments to make us complacent or ambivalent, or to lessen our resolve to find a cure.

To learn more or to find a place near you to get tested, visit www.actagainstaids.org.

Dr. Sam Ho, M.D., is the chief medical officer for UnitedHealthcare.



Dr. Sam Ho.

Amanda Bearse speaks about her career, life and World AIDS Day 2011

BY SARAH TOCE

Actress, writer, director, and all-around frolicsome gal pal Amanda Bearse, 53, is back in the spotlight following her efficacious tenure both in front of and behind the camera on longstanding television shows *All My Children*, *Married ... with Children*, *Reba*, *The Big Gay Sketch Show*, and other popular societal staples.

We recently chatted with the Atlanta-native about her passion for World AIDS Day 2011, her fifth-banana character on the show that put her on the map, revolving storylines surrounding Susan Lucci, and taking the leap into the darkness to find the light when you least expect it.

Windy City Times: Many of your fans recall your success on *Married ... with Children*. Tell us a little bit about that experience.

Amanda Bearse: That was a great job. It really, really was ... and it afforded me a second career behind the camera. I had done daytime television and started my career professionally on a soap [*All My Children*]. My character's name was Amanda Cousins. My background was actually in theater—I studied with Sandy Meisner in New York. Then I moved out to L.A., which was either a smart move because more of the business is there, or it was a stupid move because I left a paying job on *All My Children*. I took a chance and it did work itself out and, after a couple of films, I ended up on *Married ... with Children*.

At the time we were all like, "What's Fox?" I mean, this was 25 years ago December when we made the pilot for *Married ... with Children*. So, you can kind of rewind the industry. The television industry has changed so rapidly in the last two-and-a-half decades. It's a whole different deal. There were basically three channels and CNN, Turner Broadcasting and MTV were just breaking out so they said there would never be a fourth network. So when this pilot script for this show *Married ... with Children* came my way through my agent, which is the usual course, we were like, "What's Fox? What's that?" Actually, at the time they called it "FBC" because there was "ABC", "CBS", "NBC" and "FBC".

WCT: You took a leap and accepted it!

AB: I read it [the script] and kind of had my mouth open the whole time because there were characters speaking more in the way people really talked to one another or had attitudes about each other that was more than what was currently being reflected on Primetime. This was the time of *The Cosby Show* and *Family Ties*. The creators of *Married ... with Children* called it the anti-Cosby and it really was just that! Nowadays, that show would be pretty benign. It's still on the air, which is unfathomable to me. We had no idea it was going to be this little renegade show that could.

WCT: It was probably a Godsend being that work in the industry for an actor is very few and far between.

AB: As you do with every series, you take things one or two years at a time. Nobody really thought that it would have the run that it did, but it was a 10-year run. It's what I am most known for as an actor and it really launched my career as a director because I directed starting in the fifth season of the show. By the end of the run I was directing a good many episodes of each season. I was very fortunate.

WCT: Going back for a moment to *All My Children* ...

AB: It just went off the air!

WCT: Yes, it just went off the air! Were you a viewer?

AB: Not really, I mean, I'd tune in every now and then. Some of the people that I'd worked with ... well, obviously, Susan Lucci is still on the show, but our storylines didn't really interconnect ... I'd tune in to see some of their work. When I first auditioned for that show, I was going for the part of Liza Colby, which was a big character on the show for years and years. That storyline with Tad Martin was one that held on. I left *All My Children* to try to have this career, where, really ... you could stay with one show if you want to and live and die on one show. It was such a great first job.

WCT: Tell us about your theater background.

AB: I grew up doing theater. I studied in New York primarily under a theatrical kind of setting. My career as a young person was primarily directed towards the stage. Broadway was a penultimate for any actor in New York. I was not a triple threat, though, I was primarily an actor. The difference between acting for the stage and acting for the screen is that the camera is much more intimate so you don't have to be as animated or project as much outwardly. You can have real subtlety in a performance. As far as I'm concerned, it's not the technique that changes with the medium—it stays the same—it's whether or not you "dial it up". For me, it's harder to actually "dial it down" because I am a very animated person.

WCT: In addition to the small screen and the stage, you wore the director hat on episodes of popular television shows, such as: *Reba*, *Dharma & Greg*, *Veronica's Closet*, *Two Guys, a Girl and a Pizza Place*, *Jesse*, and others.

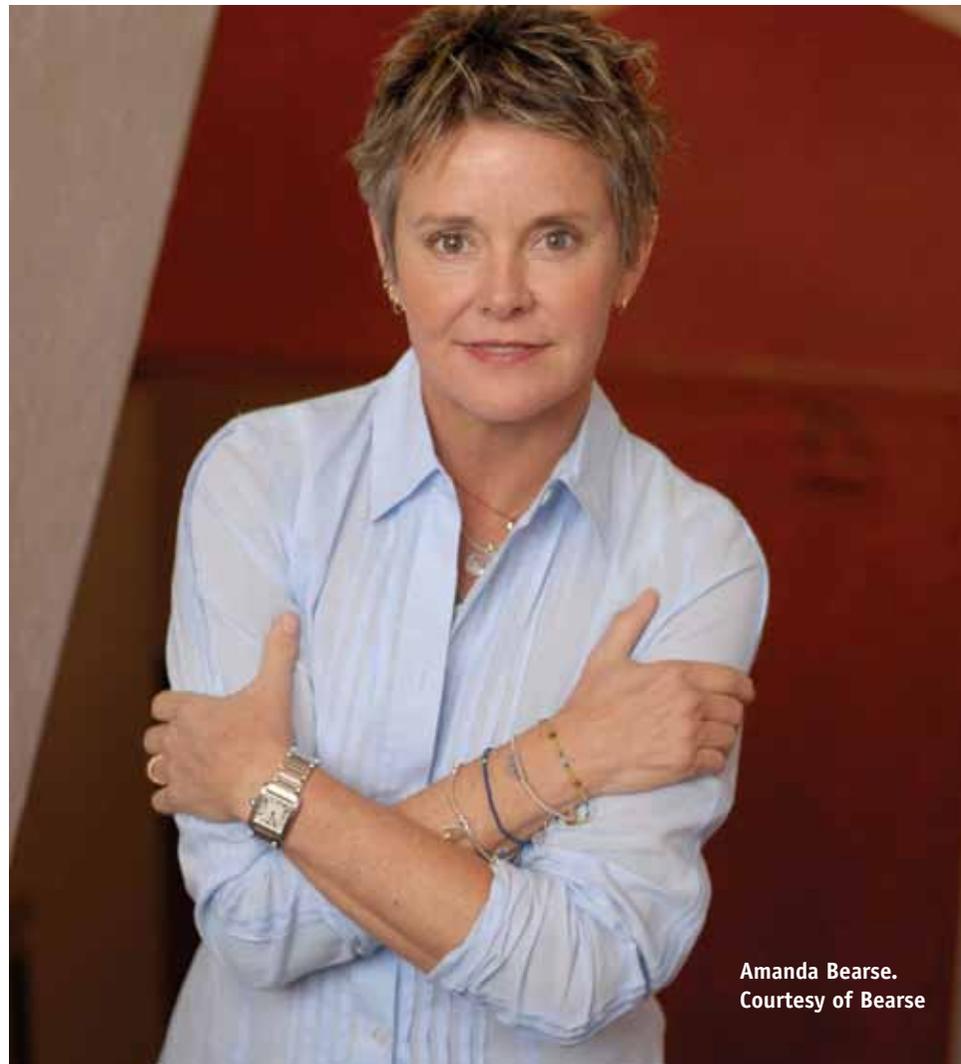
AB: It's kind of a full-circle experience for me. I started my experience behind the scenes in school performances—I loved the tech! Maybe it's because I am just that kind of a dyke. I loved being stage manager and working behind the scenes. I really wasn't focused on acting, but my director in high school at the time really wanted to put me in this particular show so I agreed to do it and then got bitten by the acting bug. It was really fun and I was having a really good time. That was how I got swept up in acting and here I came full circle through my experience [directing] on *Married ... with Children*.

Now [my character] Marcie's role in that show was only going to be kind of what it was—fifth banana. I'd come into the scene, get humiliated, start a storyline off, and she was not really the anchor of the show, but I knew I was going to go down with the ship because I had such a good time playing that part. So given that, I had the thought of, "Where else can I expand my career?" and that's when I decided to study so that when they [the producers] deemed me ready to have my first episode [directing] that I'd negotiated for—I'd be prepared for it. Directing has been a really comfortable place for me to be.

I like the anonymity behind the camera and it's been 20 years now. I've directed hundreds of different episodes of sitcoms. Then I decided to move into sketch comedy and directed in and around six years of *Mad TV*. That was a great place to hang out.

WCT: Can you tell us about your time there on *Logo*?

AB: It was really around the time of the transition into reality television. I'm a scripted director so I didn't really want to go over into that world. So the work got less and less. I was very fortunate that *Logo* decided to become a network and I really wanted to find a way to be a



Amanda Bearse.
Courtesy of Bearse

part of that because it was historic. I heard that Rosie [O'Donnell] was putting together a sketch comedy show called *The Big Gay Sketch Show* so I came in as part of that team. I was a good fit for the show and the show was a good fit for me and that network. We shot three seasons of *The Big Gay Sketch Show* and I was very proud of it.

The unfortunate thing was that *Logo* was just starting up and not really navigating our show very well and, even though I wasn't totally surprised that we didn't go beyond the three seasons, I was disappointed. I felt that we were reflecting our community. Our goal on the show was to have at least one sketch or one character of our lesbian community, because it's so vast. We're all different kinds of people—in all different races and religions. I thought we were really making great strides and making people laugh. Now, as with any comedy, it's subjective. You may not laugh at every sketch, but if we could find some way in our show to make you laugh then we felt like we were succeeding.

I was very proud of that show and very disappointed in *Logo*. *Logo* is not my network. I haven't found anything on *Logo* that I want to watch and I feel that I am not reflected as a lesbian woman on that channel. It's just not there. Everything is all about *RuPaul's Drag Race* and *The A List*. I'll put down my bitter and jaded pill right now.

WCT: World AIDS Day is fast approaching. How has HIV/AIDS affected you personally?

AB: I was in New York in 1981 when the "gay men's cancer" [HIV/AIDS as it was first known] came into our existence. Throughout the past 30 years, I have been witness to the loss of close, personal friends and acquaintances. It propelled me to advocate for HIV/AIDS awareness. I am on the board of the AIDS Memorial Quilt. Cleve

[Jones] founded "The Quilt"—as we always called it. It's been quite a journey—and not always a happy one. I became more involved a couple of years ago because it's important for us to never forget. The celebratory aspect of World AIDS Day is that we have so many people today who are alive and living longer and more productive lives. At the same time, we have to look towards the future and remember how fragile we can be to this disease. We have not found a way to prevent it or to cure it.

There was such courage and conviction that the gay community lived through and it became, in the early years of this epidemic, a unity. Before this disease, gay men and lesbian women did not have as much common ground and you'd think there would've been given the fact that they were all homosexual, but there was this coming together that happened as HIV/AIDS occurred. We united under this duress. Women are normally the caretakers so we naturally stepped into that role as our gay brothers were becoming ill and dying. We nurtured, nursed and cared for our friends. One of the first things I did when I moved to LA in 1984 was become a volunteer with Project Angel Food.

Having lived through the last 30 years of HIV/AIDS, it was a remarkable thing to witness and be a part of in my small way.

More than 56,000 people in the United States become infected with HIV each year. Currently, there are more than 1.1 million Americans living with HIV. Moreover, almost half of all Americans know someone living with HIV.

Amanda Bearse will be honoring World AIDS Day 2011 in Seattle this year in an effort to bring awareness to how far we have come and how long we still have to go in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

Revolution of Hope

BY DAVID ERNESTO MUNAR

AIDS Foundation of Chicago President/CEO David Munar delivered remarks at the U.S. Conference on AIDS opening plenary Nov. 10, ahead of the outgoing director of the White House Office of National AIDS Policy, Jeff Crowley, and U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius. Following are excerpts from Munar's remarks.

Good morning USCA. And welcome to my hometown! On behalf of the entire Host Committee, we are thrilled you're here and proud to let you know what Chicago is all about.

Chicagoans are a roll-up-your-sleeves kinda people. We don't buckle under extreme heat, arctic winds or snow. You're in the City that Works—the City of Big Shoulders. I hope the hearty character of Chicago rubs off on you this week because as AIDS advocates, we have some heavy lifting to do. My friends, it's time to get our hands dirty.

Let's face it—our best efforts against the epidemic are stuck in the mud. The speed of new infections remains unchanged. Too many people with HIV don't know it. And among those of us who are aware of our diagnosis, too many are gripped by shame and fear to seek lifesaving services. And disparities widen every day among gay men, adolescents, women and trans folks.

Sadly, what we see today is a growing viral underclass—their needs are far greater and more complex than just HIV. The crisis is pronounced in communities of color, our poor neighborhoods, our jails and prisons and among those who roam the streets without a place to call home.

The great tragedy in all of this is that we now have the tools and scientific know-how to stop

AIDS in its tracks. Where once HIV was a certain death sentence, ending the pandemic is now technologically possible.

With expanded medical care, essential services, and treatment—among other strategies such as the protection of human rights—we can save the lives of people with HIV and simultaneously reduce the risk of transmission—in some cases by as much as 96%. Combined with other promising advances, a revolution of hope fighting AIDS has dawned.

But with our nation's uncertain political and economic climate, sustained progress is in peril. At stake is whether we march forward as a society to begin to end AIDS. Or whether we face a diminished government response that squanders the many promises, the plans, the unrealized potential.

These are not hypothetical scenarios. The fierce deficit-reduction debates in Washington threaten progress on AIDS. ...

Will the U.S. strive for an AIDS-free generation as envisioned by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in her powerful address at the National Institutes of Health? Or will our policies condemn entire communities to generational HIV and other socio-economic woes? ...

We must fight for fully implemented and fully funded healthcare reform. Fight to protect Medicaid and Medicare; fight to end ADAP waiting lists; and fight to secure an extension for Ryan White. We need evidence-based prevention services funded across the country, legal reform to confront stigma-producing criminalization laws, and increases for global AIDS programs, including PEPFAR and the Global Fund.

This will require much more of us. Put plainly, if you're not actively advocating on an array of these issues, you're simply not on board with

the goal of ending AIDS.

I think many of us in this room identify with the rallying cry of Occupy Wall Street. Somehow I suspect we all here are among the 99%.

Not to confuse matters, but I also invite you to be part of an equally powerful movement aimed at promoting the 96%. News this year that treatment is prevention is a clarion call to raise our voices powerfully—and even obnoxiously if we have to—so our ethical and moral message for immediate AIDS action is heard loud and clear.

We are compelled to court a path to begin to end AIDS, because the science is lighting the way. It's the humane, just, and righteous thing to do. It even makes good economic sense. We will not turn our backs on those whose lives depend on our advocacy. We will rally, agitate, educate, campaign, and yes, even vote our conscience.

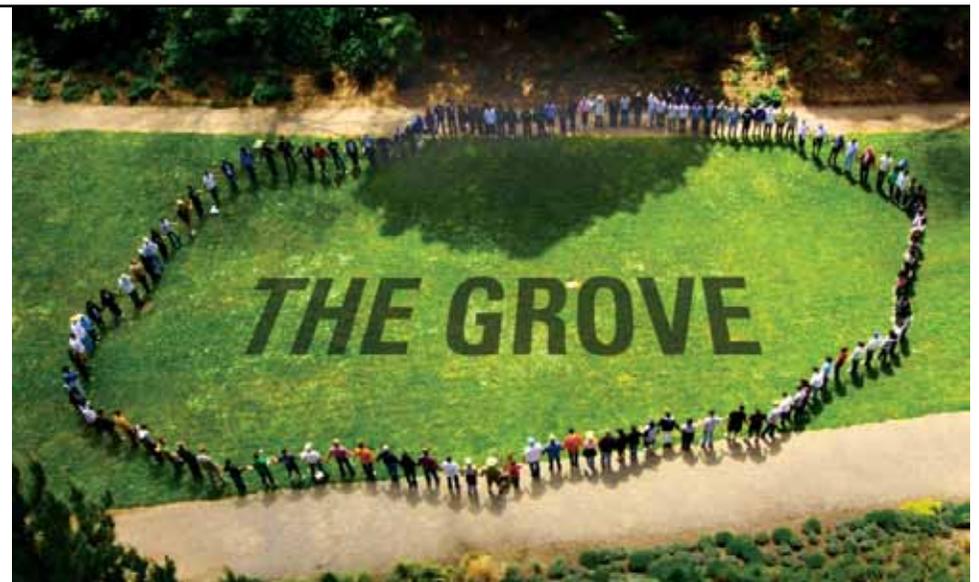
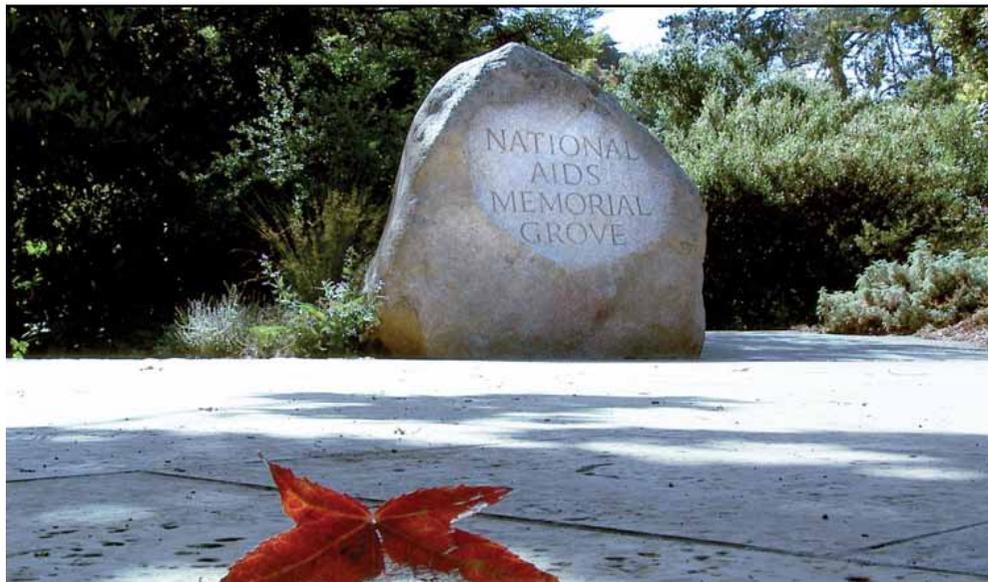
In 2011 and 2012, our country faces several deciding moments about the values we hold dear as Americans. And for HIV/AIDS, the stakes could not be higher. This all reminded me of a favorite poem, "A Dream Deferred" by Langston Hughes:

What happens to a dream deferred?
Does it dry up like a raisin in the sun?
Or fester like a sore—
And then run?
Does it stink like rotten meat?
Or crust and sugar over—
like a syrupy sweet?
Maybe it just sags like a heavy load.
Or does it explode?

Ending AIDS must not be our dream deferred, and with your help we can mobilize even greater support for the 96%.



David Munar.
Photo by
Andrew
Collings



Images from The Grove documentary.

The Grove AIDS film to air on PBS in December

The Grove documentary will be televised hundreds of times across the PBS network on Dec. 1, honoring World AIDS Day with around-the-clock broadcasts throughout the country. It will also air during the month. WTTW-Channel 11 in Chicago is airing it Dec. 20 at 10 p.m. The film also airs on both channels of WYCC at 7 p.m. on Dec. 1, 8 p.m. on Dec. 3, and 4 a.m. on Dec. 4.

More Americans have been lost to AIDS than in all the U.S. wars since 1900. Yet few know about the National AIDS Memorial Grove, a seven-acre sanctuary hidden in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park and a testament to lives lost at

a time when the stigma of AIDS forced many to grieve in silence. As we mark the 30th anniversary of the first AIDS cases in the U.S., how do we remember a time of unimaginable loss, and who owns grief in the public sphere?

A new PBS documentary, THE GROVE shows how a community in crisis found healing and remembrance, and how the seeds of a few visionary environmentalists blossomed into something larger than they could have imagined. But the fight to remember takes an unexpected turn when stakeholders of the Grove seek broader public recognition through an international

design competition, and a battle erupts about what constitutes an appropriate memorial to the AIDS epidemic, and what is the responsibility of a national memorial.

In addition to the national broadcast, an exciting interactive iOS application has been created to complement the film: iMemorial is a groundbreaking app that connects memorials to place and people. Cutting-edge mapping and augmented reality technologies link memorial tributes to "places where memories live." iMemorial will be available in the iTunes App Store in early December during World AIDS Awareness Month.

Co-presented by the Independent Television Service and KQED-TV in San Francisco, THE GROVE is produced by Sundance award-winning and Emmy-nominated filmmakers Andy Abrahams Wilson (Under Our Skin) and Tom Shepard (Scout's Honor). THE GROVE was an official selection at Full Frame and Hot Springs documentary film festivals and was awarded "Best Documentary Feature" at the Seattle Lesbian and Gay Film Festival.

See <http://www.itvs.org/television?film=grove>

Got mine, tough luck bro': The next generation of AIDS funding

BY JOHN-MANUEL ANDRIOTE

Call it the gay version of what is commonly known as "white flight."

You know the term. It's what happens when middle-class people, frequently white, are able to afford a higher standard of living and leave behind the troubled cities for presumably greener suburban pastures.

Like a jet in the sky, white flight tends to leave a vapor trail that looks an awful lot like skywriting. It spells the message, "Got mine. Good luck to the rest of you."

It's an attitude we don't like to associate with the compassionate, generous, progressive-minded LGBT community we want to believe exists in America.

But for a stark illustration of "two gay Americas," look at what is happening to the organizations our community created to care for people with AIDS.

Today HIV-positive middle-class gay men whose private health insurance covers the cost of their medications and specialists don't need the services of the HIV-focused organizations created in the 1980s to serve very sick people with AIDS. They see their private doctor and often keep their HIV diagnosis a well-guarded secret.

As a result, they and their friends who used to donate money to HIV/AIDS service organizations, have either slimmed down their donation or directed their money elsewhere.

This means the organizations are struggling to fund the lifesaving services they continue to provide for gay and bisexual men who don't happen to be white.

These men also are no one's stereotype of privileged gay men. They tend to be working class—working in shops and restaurants in the cities, Walmart and Stop & Shop in America's hinterlands. Most have inadequate medical insurance, if they have any.

In Boston, AIDS Action Committee director Rebecca Haag told me her agency still serves middle-class gay male clients who mainly take advantage of its support groups.

But more typically it sees young gay men of

color who come to MALE Support, AIDS Action's drop-in community center. "We're helping them get into the community and find jobs," said Haag. "Some of them are homeless, sleeping on people's couches. Some are exchanging sex for drugs."

These young men aren't likely to be regular donors to gay political organizations.

Which may explain why you would not know that AIDS continues to kill tens of thousands of American gay and bisexual men a year, a disproportionate number of them young men of color, if you look at the Website of the nation's wealthiest political group.

Buried in a "health" section, a few snippets of outdated information are the only mention of the epidemic that devastated gay America and built the movement that made the Human Rights Campaign's prosperity possible.

Clearly, HRC, like its mostly white middle-class supporters, has moved on.

For the group, "marriage equality" has become a more pressing priority than the health and very lives of young gay men, particularly African-American and Latino, who bear the greatest burden and risk of HIV/AIDS.

Middle-class gay men aren't giving money to organizations because, quite simply, they and their friends no longer personally require the agencies' services.

Call it white flight. Call it selfishness. Call it what you will.

But be warned from one who knows firsthand: You never know when a simple phone call can change your life from employed and insured to unemployed and unsure of anything you thought you could rely on, or from assuming you are still HIV-negative to suddenly realizing your health insurance won't cover the cost of the meds you need to save your life.

You will either be glad there is an organization you can call for help, or you will be alarmed to remember it closed because it couldn't afford to serve clients like you.

John-Manuel Andriote, author of the acclaimed and recently updated Victory Deferred: How AIDS Changed Gay Life in America, has reported on HIV/AIDS since 1986.



John-Manuel Andriote. Photo by Hilary Kline

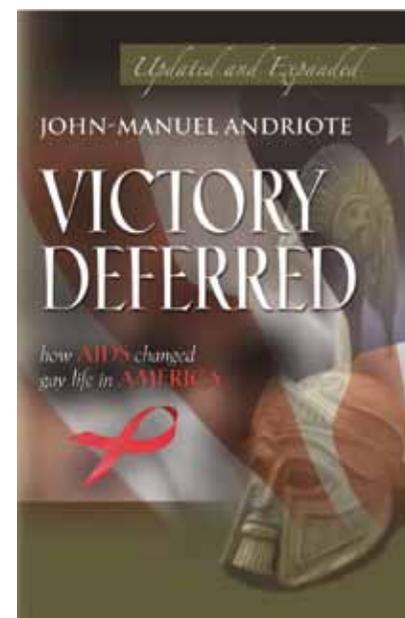
'How AIDS Changed Gay Life' book updated

Compelled by his own 2005 HIV diagnosis, and to mark the 30th anniversary in 2011 of the first reported AIDS cases, journalist John-Manuel Andriote offers *Victory Deferred: How AIDS Changed Gay Life in America*, his chronicle of the AIDS epidemic, in an updated and expanded second edition of the University of Chicago Press 1999 hardcover original.

Victory Deferred examines how AIDS has changed both individual lives and national organizations, from the coming-out revelry of the 1970s to the post-AIDS gay community of the 21st century's first decade.

Based on hundreds of original interviews with those at the forefront of the medical, political, cultural, civic and national responses to the epidemic, *Victory Deferred* blends personal narratives with institutional histories and organizational politics to show how AIDS forced gay men from their closets and ghettos into the hallways of power to lobby and into the streets to protest.

For more than two decades, Andriote reported from the center of national advocacy and AIDS politics in Washington. In 2008 the Smithsonian Institution created the "John-Manuel Andriote *Victory Deferred* Collection" at the National Museum of American History, making available the interviews and other materials used to develop the book. Items from the collection are



displayed in the museum's exhibit marking the 30th anniversary of the AIDS epidemic.

Kirkus Reviews called *Victory Deferred* "the most important AIDS chronicle since Randy Shilts' *And the Band Played On*." The Washington Blade said, "Andriote has honored his mentors, his muses, and his community by preserving an important chapter in gay cultural history."

'Ball' community event on World AIDS Day

In honor of World AIDS Day and the ongoing fight to promote HIV prevention and treatment among high risk groups, the University of Chicago Medical Center will host a mini-ball with the legends and stars of the underground Chicago ball community.

Gay, transgender and bisexual contestants will compete against one another in the lobby of the School of Social Services Administration Friday, Dec. 2. Participants display their dance skills, costume, and attitude, similar to a runway show. In some events they are judged on the "realness" of their drag, in others on the beauty of their clothing and overall style. Each of the seven walk competition categories has a cash prize for the winner.

"Every category requires the creative integration of the AIDS ribbon, the color red, or latex," said Matt Richards, outreach program manager for pediatric infectious diseases at the University of Chicago Medical Center.

Everyone at the ball will see their peer groups promoting safe sex and healthy behavior.

The group with the best table decoration on

the theme "Most Creative Safe Sex Message" will also win \$300. "The more over the top, the more likely you are to win," said Keith Green, co-director for the Chicago Black Gay Men's Caucus and a co-sponsor for the event.

While hosting a ball may seem like an unusual move for a hospital, the University of Chicago Medical Center has a long history of creative approaches to addressing health disparities. Green and John Schneider, MD, MPH, associate professor of medicine, came up with idea of hosting the mini-ball as a way to build bridges between the hospital and the GLBTQ community.

Schneider has advocated for new approaches to AIDS prevention. "We're not doing the typical academic thing for World AIDS Day this year"—a panel of researchers talking about global AIDS and free AIDS testing. Unfortunately, there's no evidence that such events have any effect on HIV infection rates, and it is challenging to engage with community in this manner. "This year, we want to collaborate and fully engage with the community," he said. "And we want to have some fun."

Schneider, an infectious diseases and global health researcher at the University of Chicago, pioneered the use of cell phone data to find the most vulnerable spots for HIV transmission in India. He is now researching how to track and reach at-risk men on the South Side of Chicago through Facebook.

The groups competing in this ball are at the invitation of the Legendary Father Mario Balenciaga, one of the leaders in the Chicago ball culture. DJ GucciRoxx will provide music, and Memphis 007 will emcee.

Richards is part of the Medical Center's Living Positively program, in which HIV+ young people act as advocates to others in their peer group who are at risk. "They help keep young people on their medication, go to the doctor with them, help them disclose their HIV status to their family, and advocate testing and prevention in the community," Richards said. "This is cutting edge behavioral intervention."

The event is free and open to the public. Doors open at 7 p.m., and the walk competition is from 9 p.m. to midnight.

DRAWING from page 18

It's an exciting time for comics right now, to be part of the explosion of the medium's possibility. I'm now working with an international group of medical professionals, academics, and comics artists who are working to integrate comics and the medical experience. This is very exciting to me."

Czerwicz returned recently from a trip to the U.K., where she was speaking about, and listening to, many people exploring this idea, both from a purely academic perspective, but also from the experience of making a comic about something traumatic, and finding that it helps. "It's amazing how people have used comics to make their lives, and hopefully medicine, better," she said. "It was always my intention that the oral history of Unit 371 would be a graphic narrative, and I'm now about halfway finished with that aspect of the project. I'll be sharing images, as well as audio clips, from my graphic narrative during my presentation on Dec. 1."

Event details: Thursday, Dec. 1, 6-8 p.m., Center on Halsted, SAGE Space, \$5 suggested donation to support community and cultural events. RSVPs and questions should be sent to Maura Ross at: mross@centeronhalsted.org.

National Minority AIDS Council helps minorities with HIV

BY STEPHANIE A. TAYLOR

The National Minority AIDS Council's mission was "raising awareness of the impact of HIV/AIDS among minorities," when it started in 1987, in Washington, D.C. Since then it has progressed and has changed its mission twice.

In 1989, NMAC began working with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). This effort was to help build HIV/AIDS services in minority neighborhoods. The new combination changed the mission from "raising awareness of the impact of HIV/AIDS among minorities," to "building leadership within communities to address the challenges of HIV/AIDS". At the 2011 U.S. Conference of AIDS, held in Chicago, their new mission became "to develop leadership in communities of color to END the AIDS epidemic."

what was expected and desired from them. They wanted a voice in Washington to represent their issues with congress and administration, and they wanted an organization and assistance.

Today NMAC is a trading organization that works with and represents approximately 3,000 faith-and-community-based organizations across the United States, providing services and prevention efforts to communities of color. Members include the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and the National Black Leadership Commission on AIDS.

Edwards was executive director from 1987 to 1989. During that time, he worked on the mission and priorities of the organization. NMAC began spreading the word about how hard minority communities were hit with HIV/AIDS. They met with U.S. Surgeon General C. Everett Koop to



Daniel Montoya, deputy executive director of NMAC.

In 1986 the American Public Health Association had its first AIDS workshop, without inviting any minorities to speak on its panel. During that time Craig Harris, a gay Black man and one of the founders of NMAC, walked to the stage shouting, "I WILL BE HEARD." He took the microphone from Dr. Merv Silverman, the San Francisco Health Commissioner at the time.

As a result of the APHA not having people of color on the panel, NMAC was started in 1987 by Paul Kawata, Gil Gerard, Calu Lester, Don Edwards, Timm Offutt, Norm Nickens, Craig Harris, Carl Bean, Suki Ports, Marie St.-Cyr and Sandra McDonald. Although Kawata has been the executive director of NMAC for 23 years, he is not the founding executive director of the agency.

"One thing that I always like to do is recognize that I am not the founding executive director of the agency," said Kawata. "The founding executive director was a man named Don Edwards, and as an organization we will always owe a great debt to him."

Edwards did two things while he was executive director. His first responsibility was to define a mission, determine what they wanted to do and the prioritize for the group of activists who came together to form NMAC. The second thing was to talk with their constituents to find out

discuss this matter. Koop, who had planned to be there 15 minutes, listened for two-and-a-half hours. Materials, prepared with NMAC input and sanctioned by Koop, joined the U.S. Census and tax forms as the only publications mailed out to every address in the United States.

NMAC launched their Live Long Sugar Campaign with Patti LaBelle in 1987. The campaign gave awareness to minorities living with HIV/AIDS about Pneumocystis carinii pneumonia (PCP), which was the largest killer of people living with AIDS in America. During the photo shoot with Patti LaBelle, she kept saying "Live long, sugar."

Daniel Montoya, deputy executive director of NMAC, said "one of the things early on in the epidemic was that in order to address what was going on you need to first understand and educate yourself and build and develop leadership in terms of what was going on so that you can actually do what you needed to do in your particular locale."

"The organization felt the best thing they could do in terms with working with communities of color is to really continue to make sure that it continues. So the whole effort behind our mission is that any work that we do, the underlying priority is how we are developing leader-



Paul Kawata, executive director of the National Minority AIDS Council.

ship. Everything we do has to be taken through that lens."

Montoya elaborates: "We make sure we are keeping in step with the mission. For example, with the programmatic side we develop specific programs that tailor to gay African American males."

The program Montoya is referring to is the Men's Institute of Leadership Excellence and Service. MILES is a leadership program which targets gay Black men and Black bisexual men. It is a two-day curriculum which helps these men gain more knowledge on leadership for staff in community-based organizations (CBOs). MILES also focuses on "organization, development and sustainability ... workforce development, program collaboration service integration and evaluation," according to NMAC's Website.

Another program is called the capacity building assistance (CBA) services for CBOs, which is funded by the Centers for Disease and Control. It aides "organizational infrastructure and program sustainability (OIPS) topics," relating to strengthening HIV services. Topics are:

- CBO Assessment
- Fiscal Management
- Resource Development
- Grant Writing/Proposal Development
- Board Development
- Strategic Planning
- Personnel Management
- Program Development
- Program Evaluation
- Program Marketing
- Leadership Development
- Information Technology Development

The Minority Serving Institutions (MSI) HIV/AIDS Initiative is another program from NMAC. It is sponsored by the Department of Health and Human Services Office of HIV/AIDS Policy (OHAP). MSI serves a variety of people such as African-Americans, Latinos, Asian Pacific Islanders and Native Americans. They compete for grants so they can partake in what the NMAC website calls a "demonstration project." NMAC has training in these categories:

- Peer Education
- Program Implementation
- Program Sustainability
- HIV 101

- Needs Assessment
- Social Media
- Program Evaluation

There were some dark days in the beginning NMAC.

"We are a generation of gay men and lesbians who were caught up in the middle of this epidemic who I think walked away from it very broken and I don't think we realized how broken we were because it was just so overwhelming and impossible to describe to anyone else," said Kawata. Kawata describes these days, the 1980s and early '90s, as "the darkest days of the movement."

"You see a lot of our regular AIDS doctors now addicted to crystal [meth] and losing everything. And I absolutely know that part of what had happened was what they saw in the height of the epidemic," Kawata said.

Kawata flashed back to Timm Offutt. "This is a memory that really sticks out," he said. "We did board meetings around him because he wanted to be included in the meetings. It was the craziness and the loving that we had that we sat around his hospital bed trying to do business, trying to say goodbye and letting him know how much we loved him."

Offutt was not only one of the founding members of NMAC but was also the first executive director of the Kuona Network, located in Chicago. The network was an organization for African-Americans coping with HIV/AIDS.

"I think so often we only remember what happened in the last couple of years," Kawata said. "And we forget the people who were there in the early days who were fighting when there was absolutely nothing. And so I always try to bring up Timm's name when I'm in Chicago and other founder's names in other cities who are no longer with us, or who we lost along the way. I think partially when you're talking to old timers like me who've been there since the beginning, we tend to rap along with our stories because we want our history to be remembered and we want ... these individuals who are forgotten to be recalled."

For more information see www.nmac.org or call 202- 483-6622.

A proposal for a World AIDS Telethon in 2012

BY JOY MORRIS

I first presented the concept of a World AIDS Day Telethon at a World AIDS Day HIV Awareness Chicago Mayoral Candidates Town Hall hosted by McDermott Haymarket and facilitated by my organization, TransActions, and H.E.R.O. (Helping to Educate Regarding Orientation).

We were not able to launch this in 2011, but hopefully we can mobilize the community to get the word out to HIV-supportive foundations to make World AIDS Day Telethon a reality.

As an African-American MTF transgender I've been perturbed by the lack of funding/resources regarding providing HIV support to the Chicago-land transgender community. Just recently, the Centers for Disease decided not to fund a transgender program, along with a cut in the funding of the CDC-funded TWISTA transgender funds. I know in my heart that the CDC is fully aware of the high HIV/STI prevalence and incidence rates of infection within the transgender community.

For the CDC not to fund these transgender HIV interventions to combat new infections is appalling to me. Lives are at stake, young transgender lives.

I attended the National Minority AIDS Council U.S. Conference on AIDS here in Chicago recently, where I met David Furnish, president of the Elton John AIDS Foundation, and we had a brief discussion on the topic of promoting a 2012 World AIDS Day Telethon. Furnish was very excited and thought it was an excellent idea. I expressed the importance of bringing back HIV awareness and new funding to help fight the epidemic. I asked him to visualize the idea of a World AIDS Day 2012 event starring Elton John and all his star-studded friends. Furnish was more than excited; at that point he said he "would love to help" and he would talk to Elton John when he got back home regarding topic. I envision all major networks promote the 2012 World AIDS Day Telethon along major cable network: OWN, VH1, and MTV just to name a few.

If this World AIDS Day mobilization effort is successful and new revenue is generated, my hope is that those communities which have the highest HIV/AIDS prevalence and incidence rates will take precedent when allocating the funding. This endeavor will be epic and global. My vision of the World AIDS Day Telethon is a global concert.

Mobilizers can contact the following HIV/AIDS foundations or any others which come to mind in getting the word out regarding a World AIDS Day 2012 Telethon. Get the word out through social media outlet Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, etc. The world is waiting: Elton John AIDS Foundation, Magic Johnson Foundation, American Foundation for AIDS Research, etc.

I'd like to dedicate the community mobilization effort to the legacy Lois Bates.

Joy Morris is CEO of TransActions, mzjoy773@yahoo.com or see www.transaction-chicago.org.



David Furnish with Joy Morris at the U.S. Conference on AIDS. Photo by Maurice Chapman

News briefs

HIV/AIDS on Memory Wall Dec. 1

A memory wall, a powerful video display of photos and words, will honor those who have died from HIV/AIDS and those who bravely live with the disease everyday at this year's AIDS Foundation of Chicago (AFC) World of Chocolate benefit.

AFC is inviting people across the nation to submit photos and words honoring their loved ones. The submissions will be featured in a prominent multimedia presentation—a living tapestry of memories—at World of Chocolate, AFC's annual fundraiser, Dec. 1. The memories will also be incorporated into a permanent fixture on AFC's website early next year.

The deadline for submissions to be featured at World of Chocolate is Nov. 22, but photos and words may be submitted for the permanent installation at www.aidschicago.org after that date. Submit all photos and words to www.aidschicago.org/memorywall.

World of Chocolate is at the Hilton Chicago, 720 South Michigan Ave.

NAACP explores HIV's prevalence in communities of color

The NAACP spotlighted HIV and AIDS in the Black community during its Forgotten Epidemic Advocacy & Education Summit Nov. 2-3, 2011 in Washington, D.C. The event was aimed at engaging community activists and legislators on the domestic HIV/AIDS epidemic and health issues that disproportionately affect the Black community.

"NAACP leadership has identified HIV/AIDS as a national priority," said Shavon Arline, Director of NAACP's Health Programs. "We realize this is the No. 1 killer among African-American women ages 25-44 and will continue to raise awareness and bring a sense of urgency to this epidemic to save our families."

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Black Americans are 13% of the U.S. population, but make up over 50% of all new cases of HIV and AIDS. That represents an infection rate 10 times higher than the white population. Among women, the numbers are even more shocking: 70% of all new infections among

American women are Black women, and a Black woman's risk of dying of AIDS is 23 times greater than that of a white woman from the U.S.

AIDS Legal Council of Chicago calls for advocate nominees

The AIDS Legal Council of Chicago is accepting nominations for the 2012 Advocates of the Year Awards. The 2012 Selection Committee welcomes nominations for individuals or organizations demonstrating outstanding achievement in HIV care and advocacy, with special attention to those who are distinguishing themselves in advocacy, health care, support services, education/prevention and philanthropic/volunteer support.

The AIDS Legal Council of Chicago has been hosting the Advocates of the Year Awards for 18 years and is delighted to welcome back the Windy City Times as a co-sponsor for the second year. The accomplishments of those serving people with HIV are often overlooked, despite the monumental impact they have on the lives of Chicago's underserved residents. The Advocates of the Year Awards serve as an opportunity for local advocates to be recognized by their peers and by their community for the invaluable contributions they have made to improve the lives of people living with HIV.

All nominations are due by Friday, Dec. 9, 2011. Nominating packets are available by contacting Ricardo Cifuentes (ricardo@aidslgal.com / (312) 427-8990), ALCC's Director of Development, or online through ALCC's website (<http://www.alcc.com>).

Vida/SIDA World AIDS Day programs

Vida/SIDA hosts events Thursday, Dec. 1 for World AIDS Day. First is Altars & Candlelight Vigil, 5-5:30 p.m., 2625 W. Division St.. Then there is a community reception at Clemente High School, 6-8 p.m., free, 1147 North Western Ave.

For more information please call Zenaida Lopez at Zenaidal@prcc-chgo.org or 773-278-6737

Art Institute AIDS events

The Art Institute will observe World AIDS Day Dec. 1 by hosting a gallery talk and a screening of *Untitled*, a film by Jim Hodges, Encke King

and Carlos Marques da Cruz. Both events are free with museum admission.

Screening of *Untitled, Day With(out) Art 2011*, 10:30 a.m.-8 p.m., Price Auditorium. The Art Institute of Chicago, in partnership with Visual AIDS, is observing "Day With(out) Art" by screening *Untitled*. The Art Institute joins more than 55 major museums, arts organizations, community groups, and colleges throughout the U.S. in presenting simultaneous, free public screenings of *Untitled Dec. 1*.

See www.creativetime.org/daywithoutart and www.visualaids.org.

An Art of Remembrance—World AIDS Day, 12-1 p.m., Griffin Court. Remember the lives of artists in the Art Institute collection who died of HIV/AIDS-related causes and discuss the relevance of the illness and human rights issues central to their work. Kate Moili of Museum Education will lead a gallery talk.

A 'goal' for AIDS

Soccer fans can bid on a FIFA 2010 World Cup soccer ball to benefit AIDS.

"We will list one of the four 2010 World Cup Soccer Balls that the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) gave us, on Ebay," said Victor Mooney, executive director of Queens, New York based-South African Arts International (SAAI).

Funds raised will be allocated for the ocean rowboat Mooney will use for a five-thousand mile transatlantic row for AIDS awareness and prevention from Las Palmas Canary Islands to New York. The highest bidder will receive the soccer ball and four lunch certificates to any Planet Hollywood restaurant (worldwide). The campaign will conclude on Dec. 1, World AIDS Day at 2 pm inside Planet Hollywood-New York City. Opening bid is set at US \$10,000.

30 Years From Here on here! TV

here! TV is presenting the original documentary *30 Years From Here*, featuring accounts from the decades-long war against AIDS. See <http://premium.heretv.com/>.

"Focusing primarily on the epidemic and how it unfolded in New York City, we follow a timeline that shows where it began, what has been accomplished, and how we arrived here," said Josh Rosenzweig, here! TV's senior vice president at the network.

Interviewees include playwright Terrence McNally; activist and ACT UP founder Larry Kramer; Marjorie Hill, CEO of Gay Men's Health Crisis; physician Frank Spinelli; director and choreographer Jerry Mitchell; and radio talk show host Larry Flick.



AIDS @ 30: Infectious Ideas

BY JENNIFER BRIER

The following is an excerpt from Infectious Ideas: U.S. Political Responses to the AIDS Crisis, by Jennifer Brier (UNC Press 2009, 2011 paperback). It is from Chapter 3 "What Should the Federal Government Do to Deal with the Problem of AIDS? The Reagan Administration's Response."

Surgeon General C. Everett Koop was the first social conservative in the United States' federal government to produce a document on AIDS for the American people. President Ronald Reagan empowered Koop to write a special report on AIDS in December 1985. Koop had become surgeon general at the beginning of Reagan's first term, but not without a very contentious nomination fight. Democrats fiercely opposed Koop, particularly because of his antichoice stance on abortion, which grew out of his religious convictions as a Christian. Four years later, in the minds of the upper-administration officials, Koop's beliefs made him the perfect candidate to write a special report on AIDS that would emphasize morality, defined as a commitment to heterosexual marriage as the key institution of the American family and nation, rather than condoms and sex education. Much to the disappointment of many conservatives, Koop failed to live up to their expectations.⁽¹⁾

Instead of producing a document that emphasized what was increasingly becoming a kind of conservative dogma about the need to push marriage over frank conversations about sex, Koop stressed his commitment to public health and accumulated a wide range of information about the epidemic. He consulted myriad AIDS Service Organizations (ASOs) and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), from the U.S. Catholic Conference and the National Council of Churches to the AIDS Action Council and the National Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays, to determine their positions on AIDS prevention.⁽²⁾ Koop then wrote dozens of drafts of the report over the course of six months. In the end, he and his staff presented what they considered a balanced report that detailed how to prevent the spread of AIDS.

The final surgeon general's report, released on October 22, 1986, delineated an education program for both school-age children and adults at the same time that it placed a conversation about AIDS in a larger political context. At the press conference to announce the report's release, Koop drew particular attention to the racial disparities of the epidemic, noting that African Americans accounted for 25 percent of all people with AIDS but only 12 percent of the general population, statistics that AIDS workers in San Francisco regularly cited.⁽³⁾ This statistical data allowed Koop to argue that race and racism helped shape the epidemic, a point I have not found in any other contemporaneous document created by the U.S. government.

The most contentious recommendations in Koop's report, however, were his calls for condom usage and AIDS education at a young age: Many people—especially our youth—are not receiving information that is vital to their future health and well-being because of our reticence in dealing with the subjects of sex, sexual practices, and homosexuality. This silence must end. We can no longer afford to sidestep frank, open discussions about sexual practices—homosexual and heterosexual. Education about AIDS should start at an early age so that children can grow up knowing the behaviors to avoid to protect themselves from exposure to the AIDS virus.⁽⁴⁾

Using the terms "frank" and "open" resonated with the rhetoric of contemporaneous AIDS activists, who wanted to instigate discussions about the way people actually had sex. Instead

of shying away from talk of same-sex sexual practices, Koop wanted to "deal with [homosexuality, promiscuity of any kind, and prostitution], but [do] so with the intent that information and education can change individual behavior, since this is the primary way to stop the epidemic of AIDS."⁽⁵⁾ This informational responsibility was best met by the federal government, so long as it never utilized certain forms of intervention, in particular compulsory testing and quarantine. Koop concluded that his work was a central feature of his identity as a Christian. In his memoir he writes, "My position on AIDS was dictated by scientific integrity and Christian compassion. I felt that my Christian opponents had abandoned not only their old friend [Koop himself], but also their own commitment to integrity and compassion."⁽⁶⁾

Koop's "commitment to integrity and compassion" pleased a wide range of AIDS workers. Gil Gerald, the executive director of the National Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays, commended Koop: "because of your positions favoring sex education for school age children, against compulsory mass blood testing, and against quarantining persons with AIDS, ARC, or who test positive for HIV antibodies. To be quite honest the report and your statements exceeded our expectations. Please count on our support for promoting the recommendations you outline in issuing this report. We urge you to use the prestige and influence of your office to see that the federal response to AIDS as a health concern in Black and Brown communities is adequately addressed."⁽⁷⁾

Koop presented his message of scientific reasoning mixed with Christian compassion to the general public. The federal government printed more than 20 million copies for distribution, while smaller organizations helped to disseminate the report; the National Parent Teacher Association, for example, sent out 55,000 copies of the report to parents and educators across the country.⁽⁸⁾ Emboldened by his new position as an AIDS spokesman, Koop went on the road, giving speeches across the country. In an address to the California legislature in March 1987, Koop told the people assembled for the Joint Session on AIDS, "Our decisions regarding the way we pay to care for AIDS patients contaminate our entire social and political decision-making itself. We must not allow that to happen. Such an effect on our public life would be an 'AIDS-related complex' every bit as serious as the more recognizable A.R.C.'s like pneumonia and cancer."⁽⁹⁾

Koop's call for condom use and AIDS education for young people pitted him against other self-defined social conservatives who advised the president. Some conservative activists claimed that Koop had betrayed his Christian roots, including Carl Anderson from the White House's Office of Public Liaison, who in 1986 ended his decades-long friendship and mentorship of Koop over his report's recommendations.⁽¹⁰⁾ William Bennett [then Secretary of Education], too, found Koop's action particularly troubling. Bennett sent Koop's California legislature speech, along with an angry cover letter, to Gary Bauer, who had recently left the Department of Education to work in the White House as Reagan's chief domestic policy advisor. He highlighted sections of Koop's speech in Sacramento as "straight homosexual propaganda, listed out of their tirades: our reaction is a disease too! I warn you: Sooner or later, and probably sooner, [Koop] will endorse school-based clinics."⁽¹¹⁾ Robert Sweet, a senior aide for education, expressed real concerns about condoms: "To date, Dr. Koop has resisted attempts by nearly everyone to modify his promotion of condoms as a solution for the AIDS epidemic rather than to



Jennifer Brier. Courtesy of UIC

promote fidelity, chastity and sex within marriage."⁽¹²⁾

Bauer responded to these warnings by initiating an investigation into Koop's research. Concerned that the government was "preparing materials that [were] offensive to people concerned about their children's education," Bauer called on one of his former aides at the Department of Education, John Klenk, to put together a packet of information on the organizations Koop consulted for his report.⁽¹³⁾ Klenk found references to GMHC and was especially troubled by a series of the group's safe-sex brochures called the "Safe Sex Comix." [A reproduction of the comix appear in the book.] He wrote that the comic books "are obscene. They also present what everybody acknowledges is high-risk behavior—namely anal sex—in an exciting and favorable light. . . . Is this the kind of AIDS information the Surgeon General wants young people to receive?"⁽¹⁴⁾ Klenk sent Bauer several versions of the comics.⁽¹⁵⁾ Klenk's illustrated memo convinced Bauer, who tried to keep Koop from reprinting the report unless he agreed to remove the discussion of condoms from the document. Koop refused.⁽¹⁶⁾

1) In addition to Koop's rejection of his conservative image, people who worked for him came to see him as the antithesis of social conservatism. Willard Cates, who began working for the CDC's Abortion Surveillance Unit in 1973 feared the loss of his job in 1981 when Koop became surgeon general. Much to his surprise, Cates noted that Koop "turned out to be arguably the best surgeon general we've had in my lifetime in terms of a very independently minded, health-oriented, grandfather figure, and it sort of changed my mind about who should be surgeon general" (Willard Cates interview with Rebecca Sharpless. Transcript of audio recording, May 25-26, 2004. Population and Reproductive Health Oral History Project, Sophia Smith Collection, Smith College, Northampton, Mass., 65).

2) C. Everett Koop, "[Notes on the] Surgeon General's Report on AIDS" (1986) <http://profiles.nlm.nih.gov/qq/Views/Exhibit/documents/aids.html> (accessed May 20, 2007).

3) C. Everett Koop, "Statement by C. Everett Koop, M.D.," Oct. 22, 1986, Sweet Files, box OA 16785, folder "[US Public Health Service AIDS Information Packet] [2 of 2]," RRPL, 3.

4) Ibid.

5) C. Everett Koop, "Surgeon General's Report on Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome" (1986) <http://profiles.nlm.nih.gov/qq/Views/Exhibit/documents/aids.html> (accessed May 20, 2007), 4.

6) Koop, C.E. (1991) Koop: The Memoirs of America's Family Doctor. New York: Random House. 216.

7) Gil Gerald, "Letter to C. Everett Koop, M.D.," Oct. 24, 1986, Koop Papers, box 114, file 1, NLM, 1. Editorials in the New York Times and the Washington Post praised Koop's actions, while the editorial at the Washington Times, a much more conservative newspaper, suggested that Koop needed "to

heal himself." See editorial, "A Doctor's Good Advice," Washington Post, Oct. 24, 1986, A26; editorial, "Dr. Koop's Decent AIDS Dissent," New York Times, Oct. 25, 1986, A26; and editorial, "Flying the Koop," Washington Times, Oct. 27, 1986, A26.

8) Koop, Koop, 212.

9) C. Everett Koop, "Speech to the Joint Session on AIDS of the California Legislature," Mar. 6, 1987, Bauer Files, box OA 19222, folder "AIDS VII (5 of 5)," RRPL, 9.

10) Koop, Koop, 134.

11) William Bennett, "Note to Gary," 1987, Bauer Files, box OA 19222, folder "AIDS VII (5 of 5)," RRPL, 1 (emphasis in original).

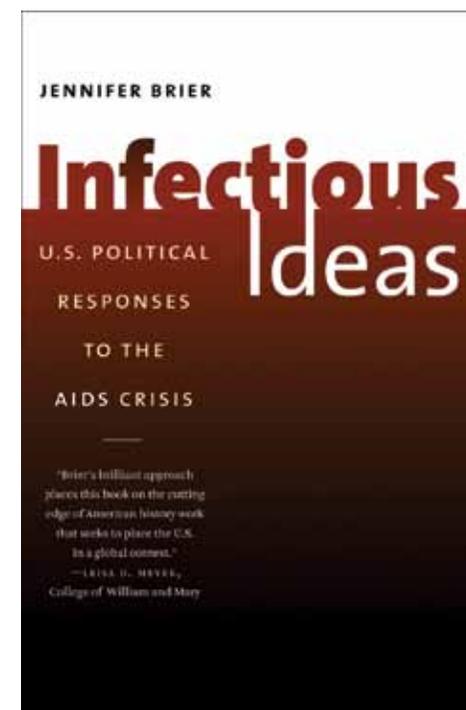
12) Robert Sweet, "Memo for Gary Bauer Re: PHS Plans to Distribute Information on AIDS . . .," Mar. 13, 1987, Sweet Files, box OA 16630, folder "Working Group on Health Policy AIDS [9 of 13]," RRPL, 1.

13) "Minutes DPC," Jan. 21, 1987, Bledsoe Files, box OA 17012, folder "320-AIDS Policy (1)," RRPL, 2.

14) John Klenk, "Note to Gary L. Bauer," Aug. 10, 1987, Sweet Files, box OA 16784, folder "AIDS/Klenk [1 of 2]," RRPL, 1.

15) These brochures would soon resurface when Senator Jesse Helms held them up on the Senate floor and said, "The comic books do not encourage and change any of the perverted sexual behavior [sic]. In fact, the comic book promotes sodomy and the homosexual lifestyle as an acceptable alternative in American society." Helms went on to call for a ban on sexually explicit material in AIDS education, which passed 94 to 2. See Congressional Record, October 14, 1987, S14202.

16) Gary Bauer, "Memo to Howard H. Baker, Jr.," Mar. 24, 1987, WHORM Subject File, ID# 480629, FG 022-10, RRPL; Gary Bauer et al., "Memorandum for Howard Baker (DRAFT)," May 28, 1987, Risque Files, box OA 18383, folder "AIDS Binder (6)," RRPL.



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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.

ALICIA
VEGA

Many voices needed in LGBTQ assessment

In Chicago, there is a phenomenal project in progress that will provide valuable information about our community, The LGBT Metro-Chicago Community Needs Assessment. The LGBT Community Fund of The Chicago Community Trust has partnered with Morten Group to launch this important project. I am on a team is to ensure that LGBTQ people in the Chicagoland area have the opportunity to express what their needs and concerns are by taking an online survey. The team has been working tirelessly across the city and suburbs spreading the word about the importance of this project.

We have showed up at events and left survey drop boxes in every place that will take one. We have also engaged organizations across the city to join us in this community initiative. Although

this has been successful, it is not nearly enough. We need every LGBTQ individual in the Chicago community to take part in ensuring that everyone knows about the survey and gets a chance to participate.

If you are a Chicagoland LGBTQ person and you have not taken the survey, please go to www.lgbtfund.org. The clock is ticking and the survey collection period will end soon. You might be asking, "So what's the big deal if I don't take the survey? I am sure lots of other people like me will fill it out." Don't be so sure. Since the project launched in October, hundreds of people have completed the online survey.

Many politicians are not going to care much about what people have to say if they do not see LGBTQ issues affecting the communities they represent. However, if the numbers are large enough, they can have a significant impact on decisions being made about services, resources, legislation and policy. The LGBT Community Fund of The Chicago Community Trust will be using your opinion to inform decisions about funding to the community and the results of the survey will be shared with the Chicagoland community.

If you are a person who lives in a community that does not get any or little LGBTQ resources, it is imperative that your voice be heard so it can be proved that you exist. We know that LGBTQ people live on the South and West Sides of Chicago, but so far most of the respondents to the survey are from the North Side of Chicago. I remember when I was coming out and someone said, "But you don't live on the North Side!" Believe it or not, the mainstream Chicago



KOKUMO

The end of an era, the start of a movement

The definition of a star is as follows: A celestial object highly visible in the night sky used to light worlds and historically guide the lost.

Most people do not know that stars do not actually fall. Stars simply fade away, providing leeway for a new host of twilight luminaries to do what they did and more.

Lois Bates was a star. She was elegantly visible—not making a caricature out of herself, and being careful to respect her power and others. She lit planets and establishments afire with her mercurial testimonies, convictions and expertise. Also, she guided the lost, ushering them into their higher selves.

Most people do not know that the sun is actually a star. Even fewer people know that in roughly a billion years it, too, will fade away. Lois Bates was a star that has faded away.

I write intentionally to acknowledge her contribution to the LGBT community, but I want to namely speak to the transgender community about how and where are our future stars are gestating. Who will continue to elucidate our plight and champion our intersecting causes? A star only fades away after it has served its purpose. Lois Bates did what the transgender ancestors called her to do.

I ask you, where is the future generation? Who else out there in the multiverse will answer? We must channel the pain from oppression into the joy of a beautiful and necessary struggle.

So, transgender communities, what are we going to do now that our sun has gone? Will we

continue to beg for acceptance amongst identities and bodies that don't respect us? Will we continue to allow ethnicity and class to deprive us of our connection even while in the trenches? Will we continue to allow passing centrism, color complexes and sizism to prohibit us from attaining the freedom our cells ache for? Or can we share the burden of our liberation, as a whole, the way a star named Lois Bates did?

The sun is the biggest star in our solar system and, as I mentioned earlier, one day it will be no more. However, what about the trillions of smaller stars that exist within its proximity? Can you imagine what would happen if they became one?

If we can learn anything from the dwindling ascension of Lois Bates, it should be that your contribution should exceed your reputation. The African-American, womyn, transgender, positive, social-justice and advocacy worlds are now without sun. However, those left in the wake of said tragedy should not just be mournful, but

community does not believe that LGBTQ people live anywhere but the North Side. If you live in any other community, you have the power to significantly change this misperception and potentially bring resources to your community. Without your voice, no one will see the need.

So far, the majority of respondents come from what some might call a privileged status. There can be many reasons for this (lack of access to computers, mistrust of surveys), but the bottom line is that many people are not well represented in the results at this time. This includes people of color, low-income individuals, youth, and transgender members of our community. One of the goals of the project is to bring voice to the diverse parts of the LGBTQ communities that are often left out of the decision making process when it comes to resource allocations.

The LGBT Metro-Chicago Community Needs Assessment can be impactful if all of our voices are represented. Make a commitment. Go to <http://www.lgbtfund.org> and take the survey today. It takes about 20 minutes, it's anonymous and you can qualify to win prizes. If you have already taken the survey, commit to sending it to at least 10 people in the next 24 hours. If you don't have access to a computer, call Jessica at 773-343-5111 and she will get you a paper copy. Remember, the survey will close soon and the chance to express your needs and ideas may not come again for many years. Express yourself. Your voice matters.

Alicia T. Vega, MJ, is a community engagement leader for the LGBT Metro-Chicago Needs Assessment.

eternally inspired to let their lights shine.

KOKUMO is a activist for the transgender, intersex and gender non-conforming communities affiliated with organizations such as Broadway Youth Center, Affinity and The Night Ministry.

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

Letter to the editor: *A time of thanks*

World AIDS Day is an opportunity for our city and churches to pause and remember those who live with and have died of AIDS. It is also a time to be thankful for the many health-care providers, community organizations, research entities and dynamic pharmaceutical research programs that are providing new drugs therapies to combat the disease. We are also thankful for this cooperative spirit in the ongoing fight against this pandemic.

The many faces of HIV/AIDS in Chicago and the world highlight the universality of this disease in affecting the daily lives of so many.

A service will be held at St. Joseph Catholic Church, 1107 N. Orleans St., Thursday, Dec. 1, at 6:30 p.m., with a reception to follow. (Parking is available at the church's parking lot at 363 W. Hill, across the street from the church.)

While Catholics are organizing this service, it is not only for us. We welcome all people of faith to join us on this solemn evening of prayer for people who live with HIV/AIDS as well as their families, friends and loved ones, and those who have go on to new lives.

We understand through Catholic social teaching that is not enough to feed the hungry or shelter the homeless; we must also tend to people's basic needs to help them to live with dignity. We have to promote the dignity of every person and of the whole person.

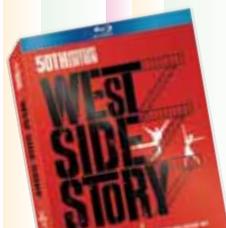
St. Joseph Catholic Church; Immaculate Conception Catholic Church; Alexian Brothers Bonaventure House; and the Archdiocesan Gay and Lesbian Outreach Ministry are sponsoring this service.

All are welcome.

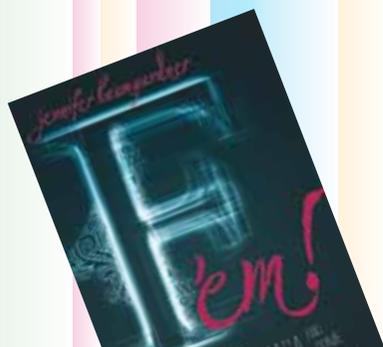
Joe Murray
 Chair, World AIDS Day Prayer Service
 St Joseph/Immaculate Conception
 Churches, Alexian Brothers
 Bonaventure House, Archdiocesan
 Gay and Lesbian Outreach Ministry

WINDY CITY TIMES

2011 HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

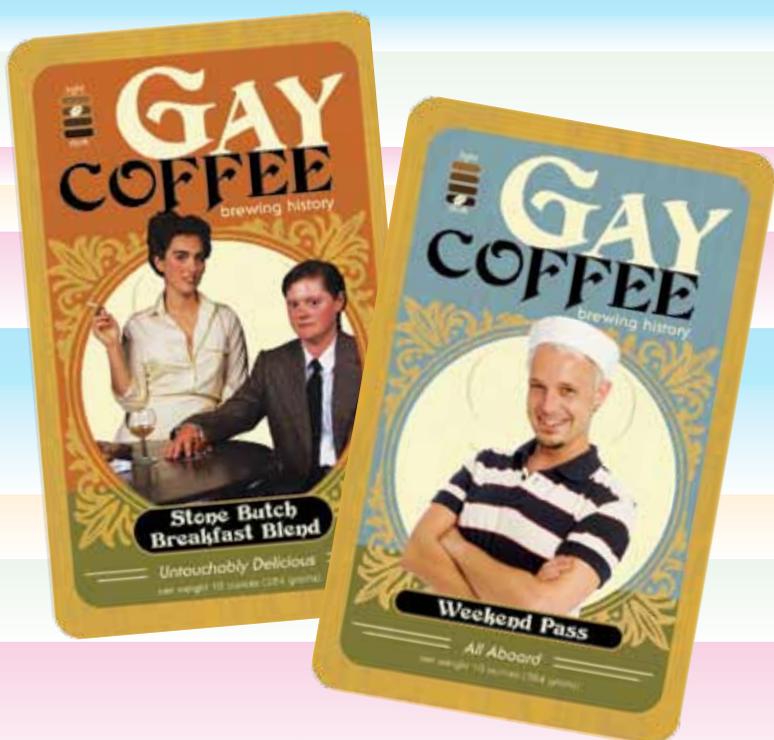


SPECIAL PULL-OUT SECTION



WEEK ONE (OF TWO)





Brew everything

I thought I was seeing things when I saw there is a company called **Gay Coffee** (<http://www.gaycoffee.com>). I thought I was also hallucinating when I saw flavors such as Red Hanky Roast, Weekend Pass, Second Date, Good Morning Mary! and Stone Butch (\$13 each). However, the company and the tasty flavors certainly do exist—and think of the delicious names they could come up for future ones.



Danger zone

Peligroso Tequila (<http://www.peligrosotequila.com>; \$39.99-\$49.99) is no joke—in fact, it's name means “dangerous” in Spanish. Peligroso is a smooth, 84-proof blue agave tequila, grown and harvested on a private estate in Jalisco Mexico, and each bottle is corked and numbered by hand to certify its authenticity. Remember: Tread carefully.



Hat's entertainment

You can't be a wallflower and wear **Jg Hats** (<http://www.jghats.com>; \$360-\$380 each). Designed to catch attention, the hats come with feathers, ribbons, bows and other details—and come with names such as “Christine,” “Samantha” and “Victoria.” Kentucky Derby, here we come!



Bracelets for a cause

Renee Trikolos, the mind behind **Isabella Rose Designs** (<http://www.isabellarosedesigns.com>), has come up with the “Be Aware” collection, handmade bracelets with Swarovski crystals to benefit three different causes—breast cancer, HIV/AIDS and scleroderma. However, there are also other stunning designs in other collections (such as Couture, Luxe and Glo), with bracelets such as the Alexandria, Beverly Gold, Diamante and Josephina.



Being part of the Military

The company **2(x)ist** introduces **Military** (<http://www.2xist.com>; \$20), a line of men's underwear modeled after modern combat uniforms and body armor. Military features a series of bindings and accents that create strong lines to reinforce masculine features. Depending on where you walk around in these, you might need extra reinforcements.



We are family

Family Matrix (<http://www.familymatrix.com>) allows you to be creative. Most people are fine with personalized gifts—but everything from mugs to T-shirts can sport the names of family members and/or friends. Just be ready to explain to your stingy cousin why her name isn't on the family tee.

Feeling saucy

The Chicagoland business **Teaspoon Willie's** (<http://www.teaspoonwillies.com>; \$99) features Everything Sauce—which is a fitting name, because it goes on hundreds of your favorite foods, from tacos to tofu. Also, for the health-conscious, there are only 15 calories per serving and its gluten-free. By the way, this sauce has a little kick—but there's also Spicy Sauce. Have fun with that.



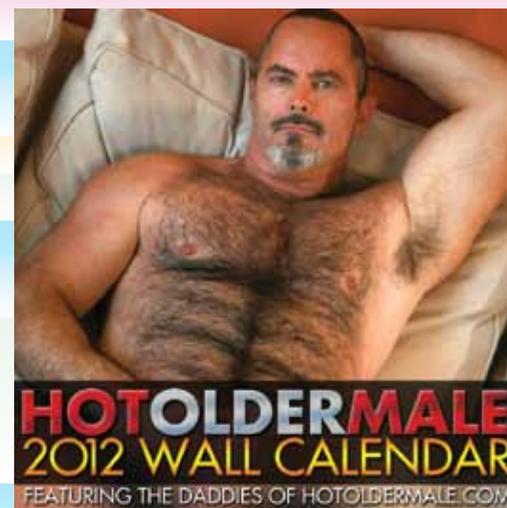
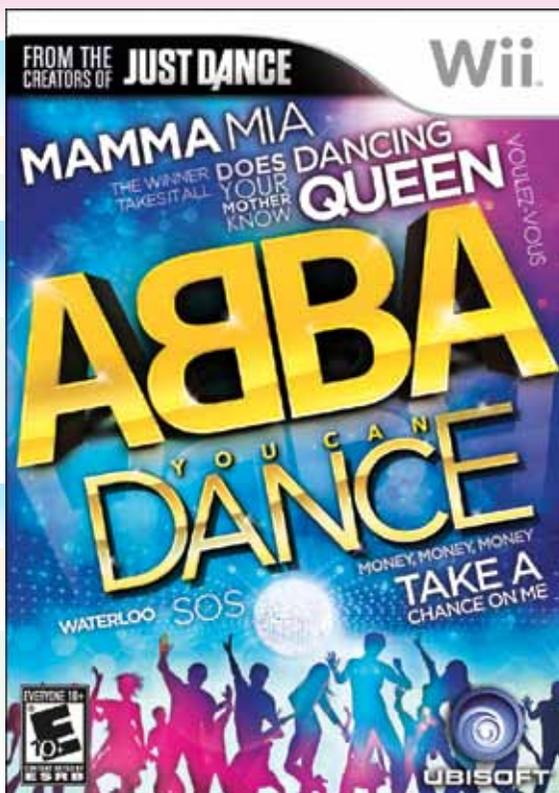
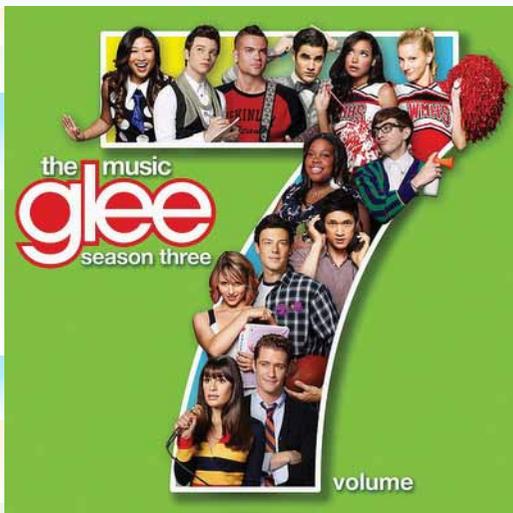
Kitchen duty

Williams-Sonoma (<http://www.Williams-Sonoma.com>) has a variety of items that will make even the most boring kitchen chore seem pleasurable. **The Kuhn Rikon Melon Knife** (\$24.95) has an extra-long microerrated blade that slices through even the toughest rind without bruising the tender flesh. Reward yourself afterwards with **Whammies** (\$19.95-\$34.95), a crunchy-chewy-salty-sweet candy that combines pretzels, peanut nougat, salted caramel and milk chocolate.



Glee whiz

Glee, Season Three: The Music, Vol. 7 (<http://www.amazon.com>; \$11.88) is available Dec. 6, courtesy of Columbia Records and Twentieth Century Fox. This collection is also filled with memorable tracks from the third season of Glee including Michael Jackson's "Man In The Mirror," Beyoncé's "Run The World (Girls)" and Katy Perry's "Last Friday Night"—providing more of the music millions love. If only Harry Shum, Jr. (Mike Chang) came with it.



Dance fever

You know the songs: "Waterloo," "SOS," "Fernando" and, of course, "Dancing Queen." Ubisoft has released **ABBA You Can Dance** for the Wii system (<http://www.ubi.com>; \$39.99), which lets you do everything from unleashing your inner, um, dancing queen in private to performing a mini-musical. Cue the Broadway queens...



Nice dates

Begin every day with a smile with **Penthouse: Swimsuit 2012 Calendar**, **Hot Older Male 2012 Calendar** or the **Provocateur: Studio Men 2012 Calendar** (<http://www.10percent.com>; \$14.99, \$15.99 and \$15.99, respectively). However, be warned: The ones with men feature a fair amount of full-frontal nudity (or, some might say, an unfair amount).



They say vision

Think outside the box this year when it comes to gift-giving. Instead of a normal HD TV, give the gift of a **Hannspree novelty TV** (<http://www.amazon.com>; prices from \$199.99). Hannspree offers consumers televisions shaped as a basketball, apple or even a polar bear. The televisions transmit in full 1080p HD and range in sizes from 19" to 55". No matter who you are buying gifts for this year, the Hannspree novelty televisions will definitely be a fun and unique gift.

'Black' to reality

The book **Black, Gifted & Gay** (<http://www.amazon.com>; \$9.99), by Leyla Farah and Sarah Toce, profiles out African-American artists, entertainers, thinkers and community leaders. Tracy Chapman, RuPaul, Wanda Sykes, Meshell Ndegeocello and Andre Leon Talley are among the many individuals featured.



Goodbye, Norma Jean

Fashion photographer Andre de Dienes' life was changed forever one day in 1945 when he met a lovely young aspiring model named Norma Jeane Dougherty—who became the superstar Marilyn Monroe. **Andre de Dienes: Marilyn** (<http://www.amazon.com>; \$39.99) details his memoirs and photos of Dougherty.

Hey, bud

Show your sophistication in a techno-savvy world with **chicBuds Fauvette Gold Edition iPhone earbuds** (<http://www.chicbuds.com>; \$29.99). The edgy buds combine superb audio output with crystal clear listening capability—and it's equipped with a mic for easy iPhone use.





Saks and the city

Saks Fifth Avenue (<http://www.saks-fifthavenue.com>) has a huge variety of items to entice just about anyone. Some favorites include the Molton Brown gift set (\$62), the Jimmy Choo iPad glitter case (\$495), the Michael Aram pomegranate nut bowl (\$79) and Aquiesse holiday candles (\$30 each).

Ouching Tiger

Anyone would appreciate a stocking stuffer such as **Tiger Balm** (<http://www.target.com>; \$13.99). There are different variations to treat everything from workout-related soreness to tension headaches to cold relief to joint pain. I personally have dealt with all of those symptoms—and that was just in the past week.



Saving face

Facelube (<http://www.facelube.com>) uses the concept of comparing men's skin care with auto maintenance. Sets include items such as an anti-aging cleaner (\$250); a treatment of caviar complex and biopeptides (\$105); and a protectant (\$115) that the company promotes as stimulating collagen production and hiding wrinkles.



Tan of action

You may know The A-List: New York cast member Derek Saahtoff has a spray-tan line—and here it is! **TanSXL** (<http://www.nuance.com>; \$25 for a seven-ounce bottle), which is pronounced "tan-sexual," is hyped as letting the user "practice safe sun" with a spray that's hydrating. Now you can safely look like you just went to Miami while you're actually enduring Chicago's next "Snowmageddon."



Groomer has it

Mangroomer (<http://www.mangroomer.com>) has a variety of products to help guys with their manscaping. There's the Do-It-Yourself Electric Back Shaver (\$49.99); the Essential Nose and Ear Hair Trimmer (\$14.99); and the Essential Private Body Shaver (\$39.99). Your partner might thank you—or vice versa.



Go, Cubs, go

Your favorite Cubs fan will certainly appreciate the **Chicago Cubs Holiday Gift Pack** (<http://www.cubs.com>; starting at \$94, plus tax). Fans can select from six different four-game packages in both the seating bowl and Budweiser Bleachers, with as few as two tickets per game or as many as 12 in each package. Just maybe, the Cubs will lift the curse next year—you never know.

Good, clean fun

Soap & Glory (<http://http://www.soapandglory.com/us/#>) is an award-winning British company—but the names of some of the products alone are enough to get some people to buy. You have the Fab Pore Hot Cloth Cleanser, You Won't Believe Your Eyes moisture serum, The Fill Monty facial-line filler and (my favorite) the Glow Job moisture lotion.



Tool runnings

Any driver is likely to thank you for the **BodyGuard® 7-In-1 Platinum Series Emergency Tool** (<http://www.swisstechtools.com>; \$29.99-34.99). The key-chain rescue tool combines an automatic glass breaker, seat-belt cutter, sonic alarm, a bright LED flashlight and an emergency flasher. If it had a coffee-maker, it'd be perfect.



She's so unusual

Unique Vintage (<http://www.unique-vintage.com>) has hundreds of dresses and other clothing items for those with a different bent. (Let's put it this way: There's a "flapper" section, and some of the other clothes include corsets and prom dresses.) However, guys shouldn't feel excluded: Men can shop for tuxedos, casual shirts and sunglasses.



Leigh club

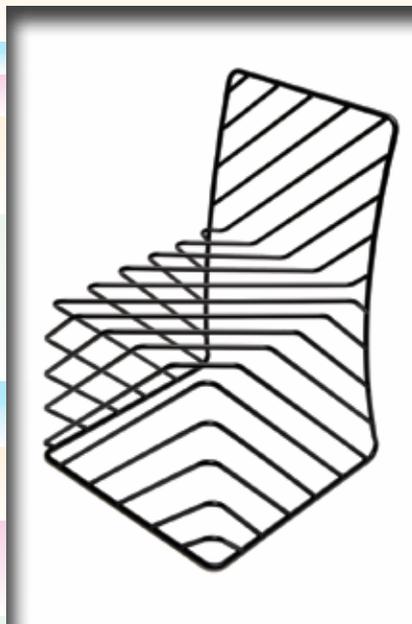
Boystown's The Leigh Gallery sells all types of intriguing art. However, the hand-blown glass **pumpkins** (www.theleighgallery.com; \$40 each) are among the most popular items—and it's easy to understand why: They're almost hypnotic, and they're affordable.

Feel the heat

The **Dyson Hot** (<http://www.dyson.com>; \$399.99) is pretty revolutionary: It heats rooms quickly by employing Air Multiplier technology and oscillating the heat to warm evenly. However, the Dyson Hot fan heater can also be tilted, directing air flow in your preferred direction.

Drawing the lines

The **Nendo Black Lines Chair** (<http://www.nendo.jp/en>; TBD) is the result of a solo exhibition by Phillips de Pury & Company at the Saatchi Gallery in London from the London Design Festival to the Frieze Art Fair in 2010. This does look like it's straight from Chicago's SOFA Expo: functional art—that my cousin would destroy by throwing a tacky pillow on it.



I like mic

The **AKG Perception 120 USB home-recording microphone** (<http://www.akg.com>; \$199) is the perfect gift for the right person. The mic provides high-quality sound for the amateur (or professional) recording artist. Even better, it requires no installation, drivers or reboot—and it supports Windows 7, Vista, XP and Mac OS. I guess it's time to warm up my vocals for X Factor and meet my spiritual husband, host Steve Jones.



Crate expectations

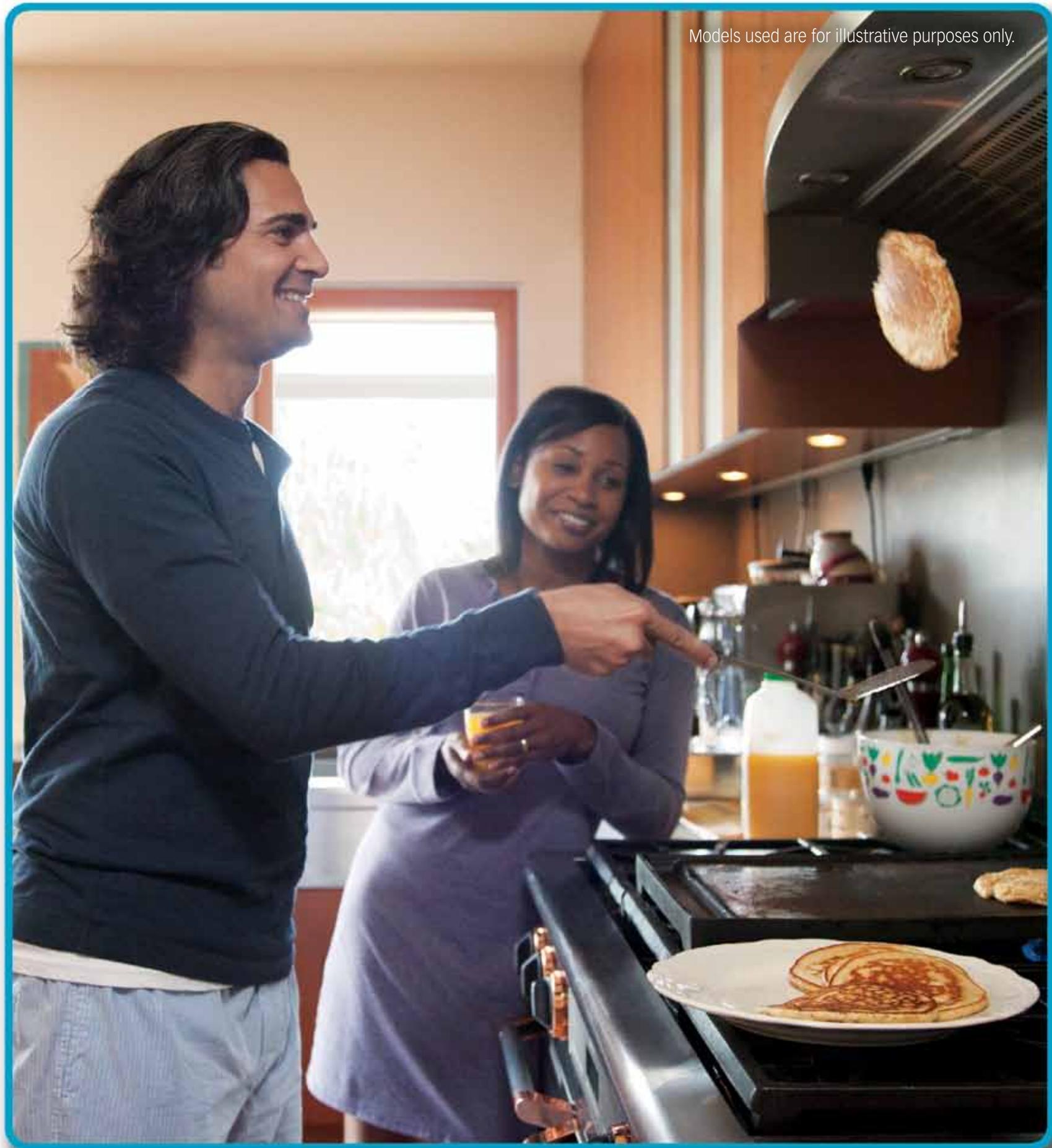
The **Kiwi Crate** (<http://www.kiwicrate.com>; \$19.95) is an educational tool for kids 3-6. Each "crate" is themed (e.g., space, gardening or dinosaurs), gender-neutral and designed to encourage active learning through play. Crates contain at least two projects ranging from arts and crafts to science experiments to imaginative play—and shows that you don't need Playstation 24/7.



Lighting the way

Plumen (<http://www.plumen.com>) specializes in showcasing low-energy light bulbs (\$29.95) in rather inventive ways. Moreover, the Plumen bulb uses 80 percent less energy and lasts eight times longer than incandescent bulbs—allowing you to be eco-friendly with style.

One less pill daily.



Models used are for illustrative purposes only.

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Ask your HCP today if VIRAMUNE XR is right for you. Visit www.viramunexr.com for more information.

Viramune® XR™ (nevirapine) extended-release tablets.

One less pill.

VIRAMUNE XR (400 mg) is a prescription medicine for use in combination with other HIV medicines to treat HIV in adults.



There's one less pill in your HIV regimen. VIRAMUNE XR provides you the effectiveness and safety that your doctor expects with VIRAMUNE—but with just one pill, once a day in combination with your other HIV medicines. Ask your healthcare provider if once daily VIRAMUNE XR is right for you.

Please see important safety information below.

INDICATION

VIRAMUNE is a prescription medication indicated for use in combination with other antiretroviral (ARV) agents for the treatment of HIV infection.

VIRAMUNE XR is a prescription medication indicated for use in combination with other ARVs for the treatment of HIV infection in adults.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

VIRAMUNE and VIRAMUNE XR can cause severe and life-threatening liver and skin reactions that can, in some cases, cause death. These problems can happen at any time but occur most often during the first 18 weeks of treatment, but can occur later. People who have abnormal liver test results before starting VIRAMUNE treatment and people with hepatitis B or C also have a greater chance of getting liver problems. Your healthcare provider (HCP) will closely monitor you and test the function of your liver during the first 18 weeks of therapy. Ask your healthcare provider how to recognize symptoms of liver and skin problems. Do not take VIRAMUNE unless you have been diagnosed with HIV.

You must stop taking VIRAMUNE or VIRAMUNE XR and call your HCP immediately if you have signs or symptoms of liver or skin problems. If you stop treatment with VIRAMUNE because you had any serious liver or skin reactions, you must never take VIRAMUNE again. For some patients, damage to the liver can continue to occur after VIRAMUNE is stopped.

Any patient can experience liver problems with VIRAMUNE or VIRAMUNE XR, but women and patients who have higher CD4+ counts when they begin nevirapine treatment have a greater risk. **If you are a woman with CD4+ greater than 250 cells/mm³, or a man with CD4+ greater than 400 cells/mm³, you should not begin taking VIRAMUNE unless you and your doctor have decided that the benefit of doing so outweighs the risk. Women, including pregnant women, with CD4+ cell counts greater than 250 cells/mm³ are at the greatest risk of severe liver problems.**

Do not take VIRAMUNE or VIRAMUNE XR unless you have been diagnosed with HIV. Do not take VIRAMUNE or VIRAMUNE XR if your HCP has told you that you have moderate to severe liver disease.

VIRAMUNE and VIRAMUNE XR can cause serious side effects, including changes to your immune system (Immune Reconstitution Syndrome) and changes in body fat. The most common side effect of VIRAMUNE is rash. These are not all the possible side effects of VIRAMUNE. For more information, ask your HCP.

You should not take St. John's wort or efavirenz if you take VIRAMUNE or VIRAMUNE XR. Talk to your HCP about the additional drug to drug interactions associated with VIRAMUNE and VIRAMUNE XR.

VIRAMUNE and VIRAMUNE XR do not cure HIV or AIDS, and have not been shown to reduce the risk of passing HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination.

Patients new to nevirapine must start treatment with a lead-in dose of one 200 mg tablet of immediate-release VIRAMUNE once daily for the first 14 days of treatment. The 14-day lead-in period is important because it has been shown to reduce your chances of getting a potentially serious skin rash. If you experience a rash during the first 14 days, immediately contact your HCP and do not increase your dose to VIRAMUNE 200 mg twice daily or start VIRAMUNE XR 400 mg once daily until the rash has resolved. If your rash persists longer than 28 days, stop taking VIRAMUNE and call your HCP for an alternative regimen. If you stop taking VIRAMUNE or VIRAMUNE XR for longer than seven days, talk to your HCP because you will need to restart the 14-day lead-in dose.

Adult patients already on a regimen of VIRAMUNE 200 mg twice daily can be switched to VIRAMUNE XR 400 mg once daily without the 14-day lead-in period of VIRAMUNE.

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 Medication Guide, which includes dosing information and additional important risk information for VIRAMUNE XR, on the following pages.



VIRAMUNE® XR™
(nevirapine)
extended-release tablets

MEDICATION GUIDE

VIRAMUNE® (VIH-rah-mune) (nevirapine) Tablets

VIRAMUNE® (VIH-rah-mune) (nevirapine) Oral Suspension

VIRAMUNE® XR™ (VIH-rah-mune) (nevirapine) Extended-Release Tablets

Read this Medication Guide before you start taking VIRAMUNE and each time you get a refill. There may be new information. This information does not take the place of talking to your doctor about your medical condition or treatment.

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

VIRAMUNE can cause serious side effects. These include severe liver and skin problems that can cause death. These problems can happen at any time during treatment, but your risk is highest during the first 18 weeks of treatment.

1. Severe liver problems: Anyone who takes VIRAMUNE may get severe liver problems. In some cases these liver problems can lead to liver failure and the need for a liver transplant, or death.

People who have a higher CD4⁺ cell count when they begin VIRAMUNE treatment have a higher risk of liver problems, especially:

- Women with CD4⁺ counts higher than 250 cells/mm³. This group has the highest risk.
- Men with CD4⁺ counts higher than 400 cells/mm³.

If you are a woman with CD4⁺ counts higher than 250 cells/mm³ or a man with CD4⁺ counts higher than 400 cells/mm³, you and your doctor will decide whether starting VIRAMUNE is right for you.

In general, women have a higher risk of liver problems compared to men. People who have abnormal liver test results before starting VIRAMUNE treatment and people with hepatitis B or C also have a greater chance of getting liver problems.

You may get a rash if you have liver problems.

Stop taking VIRAMUNE and call your doctor right away if you have any of the following symptoms of liver problems:

- dark (tea colored) urine
- yellowing of your skin or whites of your eyes
- light-colored bowel movements (stools)
- fever
- nausea (feeling sick to your stomach)
- feel unwell or like you have the flu
- pain or tenderness on your right side below your ribs
- tiredness
- loss of appetite

Your doctor should see you and do blood tests often to check your liver function during the first 18 weeks of treatment with VIRAMUNE. You should continue to have your liver checked regularly during your treatment with VIRAMUNE. It is important for you to keep all of your doctor appointments.

2. Severe rash and skin reactions: Skin rash is the most common side effect of VIRAMUNE. Most rashes happen in the first 6 weeks of taking VIRAMUNE. **Rashes and skin reactions may be severe, life-threatening, and in some people, may lead to death. Stop using VIRAMUNE and call your doctor right away if you get a rash with any of the following symptoms:**

- blisters
- mouth sores
- red or inflamed eyes, like “pink eye” (conjunctivitis)
- liver problems (see symptoms of liver problems above)
- swelling of your face
- fever
- feel unwell or like you have the flu
- tiredness
- muscle or joint aches

If your doctor tells you to stop treatment with VIRAMUNE because you have had any of the serious liver or skin problems described above, you should never take VIRAMUNE again.

See the section “**What are the possible side effects of VIRAMUNE?**” for more information.

What is VIRAMUNE?

VIRAMUNE is a prescription medicine used to treat Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), the virus that causes AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome).

VIRAMUNE is a type of anti-HIV medicine called a “non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor” (NNRTI). VIRAMUNE works by lowering the amount of HIV in your blood (“viral load”). **You must take VIRAMUNE with other anti-HIV medicines.** When you take VIRAMUNE with other anti-HIV medicines, VIRAMUNE can lower your viral load and increase the number of CD4⁺ cells (“T cells”). CD4⁺ cells are a type of immune helper cell in the blood. VIRAMUNE may not have these effects in every person.

VIRAMUNE comes in 3 different forms. This Medication Guide provides information about all 3 forms of VIRAMUNE.

- VIRAMUNE tablets
- VIRAMUNE oral suspension
- VIRAMUNE XR extended release tablets

VIRAMUNE XR extended-release tablets are not for use in children.

VIRAMUNE does not cure HIV or AIDS, and it is not known if it will help you live longer with HIV. People taking VIRAMUNE may still get infections common in people with HIV (opportunistic infections). It is very important that you stay under the care of your doctor.

It is not known if VIRAMUNE lowers the chance of passing HIV to other people. Effective treatment combined with safer sex practices, may reduce the chance of passing HIV to others through sexual contact. Always practice safer sex by using a latex or polyurethane condom or other barrier method to lower the chance of sexual contact with any body fluids such as semen, vaginal secretions, or blood. Never re-use or share needles. Take your HIV medicines as prescribed.

Who should not take VIRAMUNE?

Tell your doctor if you have or have had liver problems. Your doctor may tell you not to take VIRAMUNE if you have certain liver problems.

VIRAMUNE is only for people diagnosed with HIV. If you have not been diagnosed as HIV positive, then do not take VIRAMUNE.

What should I tell my doctor before taking VIRAMUNE?

Before you take VIRAMUNE, tell your doctor if you:

- have or have had hepatitis (inflammation of your liver) or problems with your liver. See “**What is the most important information I should know about VIRAMUNE?**” and “**Who should not take VIRAMUNE?**”
- receive dialysis
- have skin problems, such as a rash
- are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if VIRAMUNE will harm your unborn baby.

Pregnancy Registry: There is a pregnancy registry for women who take antiviral medicines during pregnancy. The purpose of the registry is to collect information about the health of you and your baby. Talk to your doctor about how you can take part in this registry.

- are breast-feeding or plan to breast-feed. VIRAMUNE can pass into your breast milk and may harm your baby. It is also recommended that HIV-positive women should not breast-feed their babies. Do not breast-feed during treatment with VIRAMUNE. Talk to your doctor about the best way to feed your baby.

Tell your doctor and pharmacist about all the medicines you take, including prescription and non-prescription medicines, vitamins and herbal supplements. VIRAMUNE may affect the way other medicines work, and other medicines may affect how VIRAMUNE works.

You should not take VIRAMUNE if you also take:

- St. John’s Wort. St. John’s Wort can lower the amount of VIRAMUNE in your body.
- efavirenz (Sustiva®, Atripla®). Efavirenz may cause you to have an increased chance of side effects.
- atazanavir (Reyataz®)
- lopinavir and ritonavir (Kaletra®)
- fosamprenavir calcium (Lexiva®)
- itraconazole (Sporanox®)

- ketoconazole (Nizoral®)
- rifampin (Rifadin®, Rifamate®, Rifater®)
- Birth control pills. Birth control pills taken by mouth (oral contraceptives) and other hormone types of birth control may not work to prevent pregnancy. Talk with your doctor about other types of birth control that you can use to prevent pregnancy during treatment with VIRAMUNE.

Also tell your doctor if you take:

- clarithromycin (Biaxin®)
- nelfinavir mesylate (Viracept®)
- fluconazole (Diflucan®)
- rifabutin (Mycobutin®)
- indinavir sulfate (Crixivan®)
- warfarin (Coumadin®, Jantoven®)
- methadone
- saquinavir mesylate (Invirase®)

If you are not sure if you take a medicine above, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

Know the medicines you take. Keep a list of them to show your doctor or pharmacist when you get a new medicine.

How should I take VIRAMUNE?

- VIRAMUNE is always taken in combination with other anti-HIV medications.
- Take VIRAMUNE exactly as your doctor tells you to take it. Do not change your dose unless your doctor tells you to.
- You should never take more than one form of VIRAMUNE at the same time. Talk to your doctor if you have any questions.
- Do not crush or chew VIRAMUNE XR extended-release tablets.
- You may take VIRAMUNE with or without food.
- Do not miss a dose of VIRAMUNE, because this could make HIV harder to treat. If you miss a dose of VIRAMUNE, take the missed dose as soon as you remember. If it is almost time for your next dose, do not take the missed dose, just take the next dose at your regular time. Do not take two doses at the same time.
- If you stop taking VIRAMUNE for more than 7 days, ask your doctor how much to take before you start taking it again. You may need to begin taking the VIRAMUNE starting dose again, which is taken 1 time each day for 14 days.

Starting VIRAMUNE tablets:

1. Your doctor should start you with 1 dose each day to lower your chance of getting a serious rash. **It is important that you only take 1 dose of VIRAMUNE each day for the first 14 days.**
 - **Call your doctor right away if you get a skin rash during the first 14 days of VIRAMUNE treatment and do not increase your dose to 2 times a day.**
 - You should never take your starting dose for longer than 28 days. If after 28 days you are still receiving this starting dose because you have a rash, you and your doctor should talk about prescribing another HIV medicine for you instead of VIRAMUNE.
 - **Do not increase your dose to 2 times a day if you have a rash.**
2. Day 15, you will take 1 VIRAMUNE tablet two times a day.

Starting VIRAMUNE XR extended-release tablets and this is the first time you are taking any form of VIRAMUNE:

1. Your doctor should start you with 1 dose of VIRAMUNE tablets each day to lower your chance of getting a serious rash. **It is important that you only take 1 dose of VIRAMUNE each day for the first 14 days.**
 - **Call your doctor right away if you get a skin rash during the first 14 days of VIRAMUNE treatment and do not increase your dose to 2 times a day.**
 - You should never take your starting dose for longer than 28 days. If after 28 days you are still receiving this starting dose because you have a rash, you and your doctor should talk about prescribing another HIV medicine for you instead of VIRAMUNE.
 - **Do not start VIRAMUNE XR extended-release tablets if you have a rash.**
2. Day 15, you will take 1 VIRAMUNE XR extended-release tablet each day.

Switching from VIRAMUNE tablets to VIRAMUNE XR extended-release tablets:

1. Take VIRAMUNE XR extended-release tablet 1 time a day.

If you take VIRAMUNE Oral Suspension:

- If you or your child takes VIRAMUNE suspension (liquid), shake it gently

before each use. Use an oral dosing syringe or dosing cup to measure the right dose. The oral dosing syringe and dosing cup are not provided with VIRAMUNE Suspension. Ask your pharmacist for a syringe or cup if you do not have one.

- After drinking the medicine, fill the dosing cup with water and drink it to make sure you get all the medicine.
- If the dose is less than 1 teaspoon (5 mL), use the syringe instead of the dosing cup.

What are the possible side effects of VIRAMUNE?

VIRAMUNE may cause serious side effects, including:

- See **“What is the most important information I should know about VIRAMUNE?”**
- **Changes in your immune system (Immune Reconstitution Syndrome)** can happen when you start taking HIV medicines. Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections that have been hidden in your body for a long time. Tell your doctor if you start having new symptoms after starting your HIV medicine.
- **Changes in body fat** can happen in some people who take antiretroviral therapy. These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck (“buffalo hump”), breast, and around the middle of your body (trunk). Loss of fat from your legs, arms, and face can also happen. The cause and long-term health effects of these problems are not known at this time.

The most common side effect of VIRAMUNE is rash.

Tell your doctor if you have any side effect that bothers you or that does not go away.

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

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 VIRAMUNE?

- Store VIRAMUNE at 59°F to 86°F (15°C to 30°C).
- Throw away VIRAMUNE that is no longer needed or out-of-date.

Keep VIRAMUNE and all medicines out of the reach of children.

General information about VIRAMUNE.

Medicines are sometimes prescribed for purposes other than those listed in a Medication Guide. Do not use VIRAMUNE for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give VIRAMUNE to other people, even if they have the same condition you have. It may harm them.

This Medication Guide summarizes the most important information about VIRAMUNE. If you would like more information, talk with your doctor. You can ask your pharmacist or doctor for information about VIRAMUNE that is written for health professionals.

For more information, go to www.viramune.com or www.viramunexr.com or call Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals, Inc., at 1-800-542-6257, or (TTY) 1-800-459-9906.

What are the ingredients in VIRAMUNE?

Active ingredient: nevirapine

Inactive ingredients:

VIRAMUNE Tablets: microcrystalline cellulose, lactose monohydrate, povidone, sodium starch glycolate, colloidal silicon dioxide, and magnesium stearate

VIRAMUNE Oral Suspension: carbomer 934P, methylparaben, propylparaben, sorbitol, sucrose, polysorbate 80, sodium hydroxide, and purified water

VIRAMUNE XR Tablets: lactose monohydrate, hypromellose, iron oxide, and magnesium stearate

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

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Ridgefield, CT 06877 USA

Revised: May 2011

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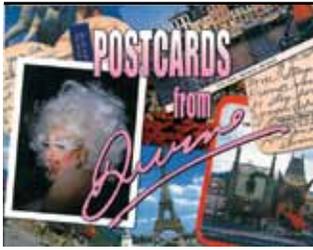
Great Gifts: Books and DVDs for the Holidays

BY TRACY BAIM

Despite the success of ebooks and online video and music streaming, somehow I keep having multiple tall stacks of books and videos to read, watch and review. I simply can't keep up with all the great LGBT, feminist and other content coming out from alternative and mainstream sources. But in an attempt to catch up as best as possible, here are highlights from the mail bin, with more to come in next

week's Gift Guide.

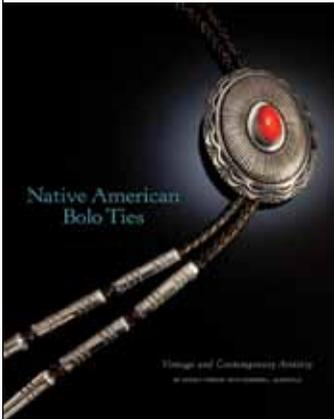
As always, we encourage our readers to purchase their books through LGBT-friendly and independent places such as Women & Children First Bookstore (5233 N. Clark, which also has online ordering, including of e-books), Unabridged Books (3251 N. Broadway), The Book Cellar (4736-38 N. Lincoln), Seminary Co-Op (5757 S. University), 57th Street Books (1301 E. 57th), and other independent stores.



Postcards From Divine compiled by Noah Brodie, Dan Marshall, Frances Milstead and Michael O'Quinn

This is a collection of more than 50 postcards written by Divine and sent to his parents while traveling and touring between 1977 and 1987. The book features personal photographs as well as quotes and stories from friends and colleagues including John Waters, Mink Stole, Mary Vivian Pearce, Channing Wilroy, Susan Lowe, Jean Hill, Tab Hunter, Lainie Kazan, Alan J. Wendl, Ruth Brown, Deborah Harry, Jerry Stiller, Ricki Lake and more. Postcards From Divine also contains a preface written by Divine's mother, Frances Milstead plus a filmography and discography. Divine achieved cult notoriety as star of Waters' films including Pink

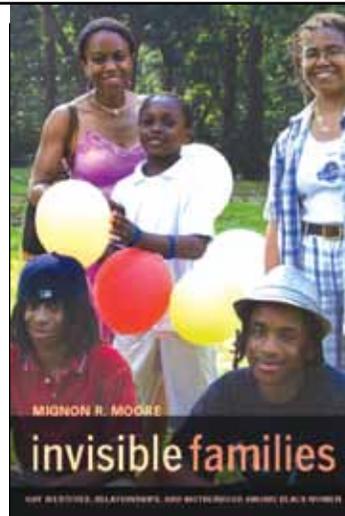
Flamingos, Female Trouble and Polyester as well as Waters' mainstream hit Hairspray. He also had a successful recording career with several hit singles including "Native Love (Step By Step)," "Shoot Your Shot," "Shake It Up" and "You Think You're A Man."



Native American Bolo Ties, Vintage and Contemporary Artistry by Diana Pardue with Norman L. Sandfield

Chicagoan Norm Sandfield is well known for his decades-long activist career, but he is also a collector—of many dif-

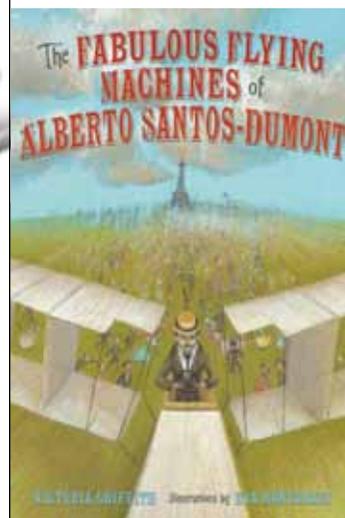
ferent things. His silver seed pot collection was the focus of a long-running exhibit at the Heard Museum and a first-of-its-kind book on the subject. Now he is offering his bolo tie collection for another exhibition and book: Native American Bolo Ties, Vintage and Contemporary Artistry. The bolo ties included in the exhibit come from the Heard Museum permanent collection of more than 170 bolo ties and from the promised gift of Sandfield. His collection consists of more than 1,000 bolo ties, scarf slides and ephemera. The exhibit (now open in Phoenix) and book show the antecedents of the bolo tie including Victorian neckwear, scarf slides and string tie slides. It includes an important early scarf slide from the Heard Museum collection made in the 1930-40s by Leekya Deyuse (Zuni Pueblo). Some TV and movie personalities who brought scarf slides and bolo ties into popularity include the Cisco Kid, Hopalong Cassidy and Roy Rogers. Emphasis is also placed on artistic bolo ties created by American Indian jewelers from the late 1940s through today. See <http://tinyurl.com/843gzq5>.



Invisible Families: Gay Identities, Relationships and Motherhood among Black Women

by Mignon R. Moore

This new book looks at family life of gay women of color. Through interviews and surveys of 100 Black gay women in New York City, it seeks to challenge "long-standing ideas about racial identity, family formation and motherhood." Invisible Families explores the ways that race and class have influenced how these women understand their sexual orientation, find partners and form families. Dr. Moore is a family sociologist whose research examines variation in processes and outcomes among disadvantaged groups. Moore reveals the ways Black women who were born in the 1960s and 1970s in large Northern U.S. cities, Southern U.S. towns, and parts of the Caribbean use these experiences to shape thinking about their own sexuality.



The Fabulous Flying Machines of Alberto Santos-Dumont

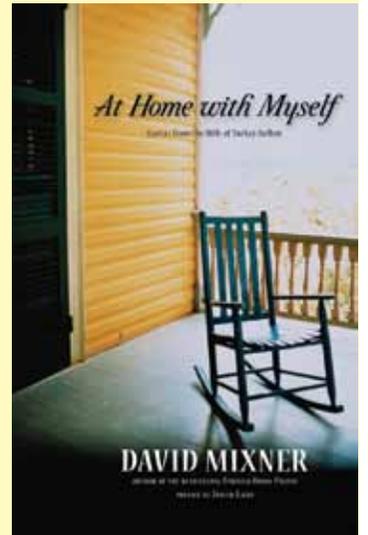
by Victoria Griffith, illus. by Eva Montanari.

A "fabulous" children's book about a little-known Brazilian pioneering aviator, who also happened to be gay. As the book's promo notes: "While

At Home with Myself: Stories from the Hills of Turkey Hollow

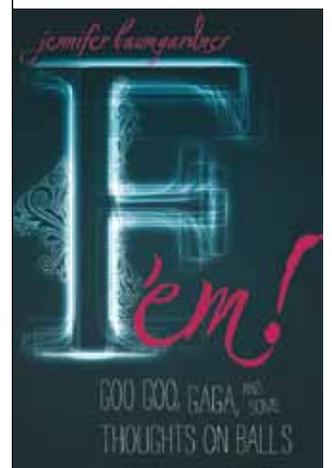
by David Mixner

Bestselling author and renowned presidential campaign adviser (George McGovern, Bill Clinton, Dick Gephardt, Gary Hart) Mixner returns with his first book in 10 years. The book chronicles his return to nature at the age of 60. "No longer willing to do the things young people do and having lost most of his closest friends to AIDS, he felt out of place in the big cities that had been his home all his adult life. So he chose a mountainside home as a retreat from the busy world, a place of meditation on the small, daily wonders of pastoral life, including the beauty of nature and its constant evolution," according to the advance promo for the book, which also looks back at his 40-year political career. See www.davidmixner.com.



the Wright Brothers were gliding over Kitty Hawk, the charismatic Brazilian Alberto Santos-Dumont was making his own mark on the history of flight in Paris. On a chilly November morning in 1906, Alberto commandeered the first ever self-propelled airplane flight in history. ... Alberto loved floating over Paris in his personal flying machine called a dirigible. He would tie it to a post, climb down, and spend the day shopping or meeting friends for coffee. But he wanted to make his invention even better. By 1906, Alberto had transformed his balloon into a box with wings! But now there was competition. Another inventor challenged Alberto to see who would be the first in flight. Alberto's hard work paid off, and his airplane successfully soared into the air, making him the first pilot to lift off and land a completely self-propelled plane. ... Designed for children who have an interest in world history and technology, the book also includes a bibliography, an index and an author's note about Santos-Dumont which touches on the disagreement over who in fact did fly the first plane." And a great side story is his friend Louis Cartier, who invented the first men's wristwatch, for Santos-Dumont, who needed a solution to seeing the time during flight (without pulling out a pocketwatch). While the book does not address his sexuality (he was known as a "dandy" in the press of the day), historians believe Santos-Dumont was gay, and his story is an important part of both aviation and gay his-

tory. He did not acknowledge his sexuality in public, but he was never married and had a live-in boyfriend, the caricaturist known as Sem, while he lived in Paris. Distraught that his flying machines—which he thought would bring peace to the world—were being used for warfare, he killed himself in 1932.



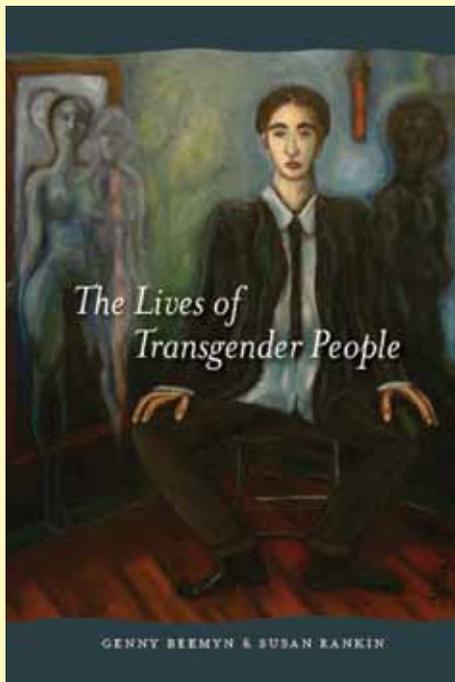
F'em!: Goo Goo, GaGa and Some Thoughts on Balls

by Jennifer Baumgardner

Third Wave feminist Baumgardner presents a collection of her best essays (old and new) and interviews with the women who most inspire her—including Riot Grrrl's Kathleen Hanna, transgender activist Julia Serano and Native American activist Winona LaDuke. At the promo notes: "When many young women in the '90s were feeling let down by Second Wave feminists, Baumgardner was advocating for a new kind of feminism: wearing fishnet stockings and lipstick, questioning the status quo, and helping women

The Lives of Transgender People by Genny Beemyn and Sue Rankin

This new book is based on a survey of nearly 3,500 self-identified transgender individuals and follow-up interviews with more than 400 of the participants, making it one of the largest studies involving transgender people in the U.S. Beemyn and Rankin consider how transgender people experienced their gender identities growing up and how they came to see themselves as transgender. "One of the findings that surprised us was the wide variety of ways that people identified," said Beemyn, the director of Stonewall Center at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and a transgender person himself (a pronoun used by Beemyn to reflect a gender identity that does not fit into conventional male or female gender categories). Said Beemyn: "When asked to describe their gender identities, the participants provided more than a hundred different responses." The Lives of Transgender People documents a transgender spectrum of a broad range of identities, including androgynous, gender-nonconforming, genderqueer, transfeminine, transmasculine, and transgender identities.



Sparks: The Epic, Completely True Blue, (Almost) Holy Quest of Debbie

by S.J. Adams

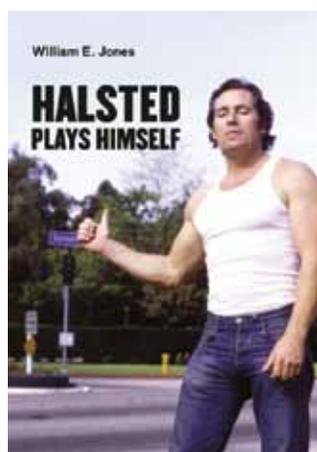
S.J. Adams, who lives in Chicago, worked as the chief of the Smart Aleck Staff, which created the Smart Aleck's Guide to American History by Adam Selzer. As the promo for this fiction book notes: "Debbie is heartbroken; her best friend Lisa, whom Debbie has been secretly crushing on for many years, is now dating the most boring guy in school. In order to build-up the courage to confess her feelings to Lisa, Debbie embarks on a holy quest with two fellow student misfits in Sparks."

understand that they didn't have to change who they were in order to be a feminist." Some readers may know the author for her important "I Had an Abortion" documentary and activist project. Baumgardner is also the author of *Look Both Ways: Bisexual Politics and Abortion & Life*, and the co-author, with Amy Richards, of *Manifesta: Young Women, Feminism and the Future and Grassroots: A Field Guide for Feminist Activism*.



The Silent Hustler
by Sean Meriwether

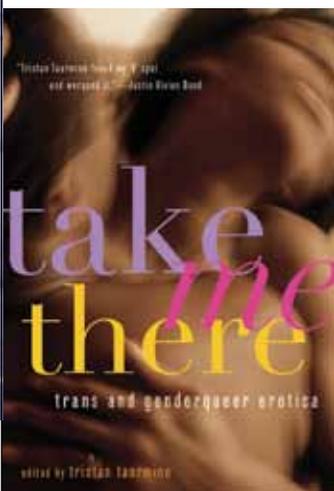
This is not a new book, but it is a continual bestseller for Lethe Press (www.lethepressbooks.com). Meriwether is known as the founder and managing editor of two online literary magazines, *Outsider Ink* and *Velvet Mafia*. The venues were launched in 1999 to publish "homeless" alternative and queer fiction and poetry. *The Silent Hustler*, a collection of short stories, is a blend of literary fiction and queer erotica that the author had published in printed anthologies and online venues over the previous decade.



Halsted Plays Himself
by William E. Jones

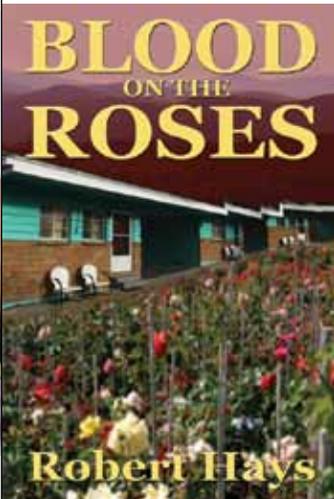
Artist and filmmaker Jones documents his quest to capture the elusive public and private personas of Fred Halsted, gay porn's first film auteur. Jones assembles a "narrative of a now-vanished gay lifestyle, and a now-vanished Hollywood underground, when independent films were still possible, and the boundary between experimental and pornographic was not yet established." He said: "To reconstruct Halsted's story is to

imagine another world, a time when a man with no formal training in filmmaking and a small amount of money could make a sexually explicit film starring himself, and the result could become a hit that enabled him to embark upon a career. It may not yet be possible to salvage the memory of Fred Halsted in opposition to our current cinema of distraction, an era of failed blockbusters and cynical rip-offs." Jones is an artist and filmmaker who teaches film history at the Art Center College of Design in Pasadena.



Take Me There: Trans and Genderqueer Erotica
by Tristan Taormino

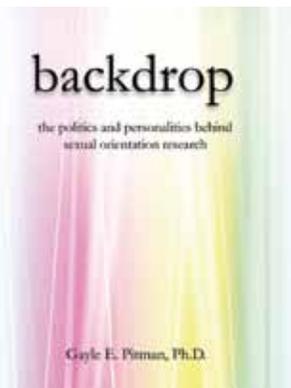
This is the latest anthology from Taormino, a much-published author, columnist and sex educator. This book is by, for and about transfolk, genderqueers, gender outlaws, and gender-variant folks. It features original pieces by Kate Bornstein, Patrick Califia, S. Bear Bergman, Ivan Coyote, Julia Serano, Laura Antoniou, Helen Boyd, Rachel Kramer Bussel, Toni Amato, Alicia E. Goranson and more.



Blood on the Roses
by Robert Hays

Hays, 76, writes a fictional account of 1950s racism in the American South. "People who didn't live through events of that time can't fully comprehend the progress we've made because they don't know how bad it used to be," said Hays, who retired from the journalism faculty at the University of Illinois in 2008. "I love the South, but as a white man who witnessed the evils of

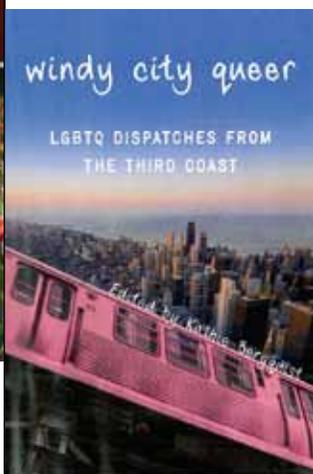
racial segregation first-hand, I felt it was my duty to help make sure that this dark period in American history is not forgotten." The novel tells the story of Rachel Feigen, a reporter sent to Tennessee on a missing person story. She gets caught up in the bigotry she expected to observe when three local extremists decide to teach a lesson to this "uppity jewgirl" and hold her prisoner in a cheap motel along with two Black men.



Backdrop: The Politics and Personalities behind Sexual Orientation Research

by Gayle E. Pitman

Pitman, a Sacramento City College professor, investigates the human factor behind research on LGBT issues. She "pulls back the veil of scientific objectivity practiced in psychological science, arguing that, when it comes to sexual orientation research, we could potentially glean more insights from the 'backdrop' of politics and personalities behind the research than from the research itself." Pitman provides a context to the research that, in her opinion, gives meaning, importance, and nuance to the findings. Pitman reveals the cultural fears that can drive political action and policy (such as California's Proposition 8), and shines a light on the "multiple truths" that exist in the LGBT community.



Windy City Queer: LGBTQ Dispatches from the Third Coast
edited by Kathie Bergquist

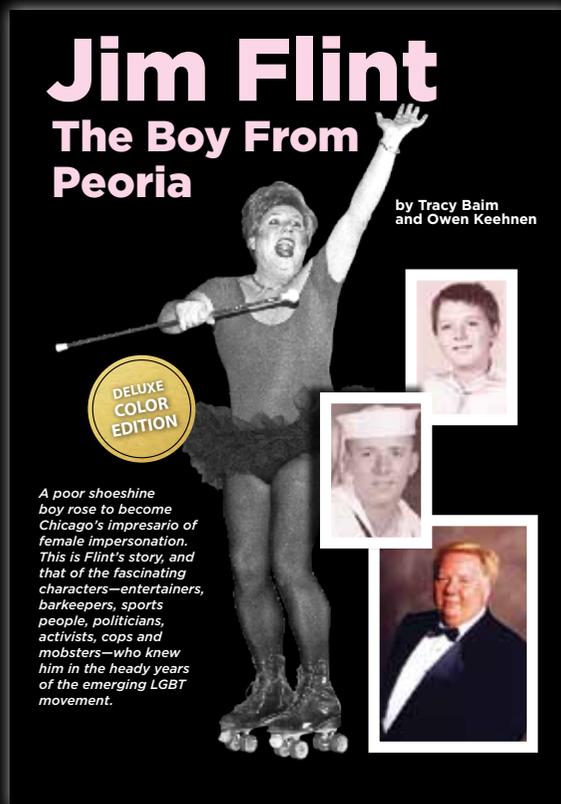
Bergquist has edited a collection of Chicago-area LGBTQ writers. There are both established and new writers, organized along seven themes, such as "emergence"

Turn to page 38

Jim Flint

The Boy From Peoria

A new biography of Chicago's legendary Jim Flint



A new book by
Tracy Baim & Owen Keehnen

Available in both color and black & white
on amazon.com

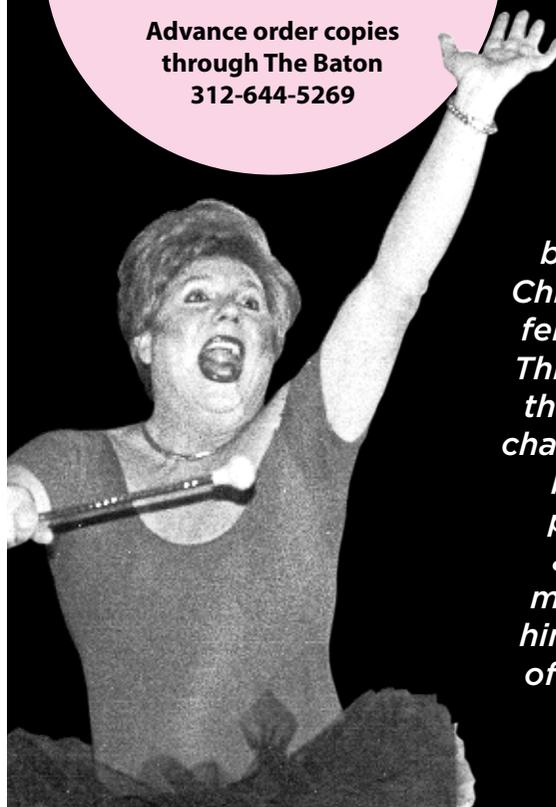
400+ images

Book launch signing and party with Jim Flint and authors Tracy Baim and Owen Keehnen
Wed., Dec. 7, 6:30-10 p.m.,
at 3160, 3160 N. Clark St., Chicago

Advance order copies
through The Baton
312-644-5269

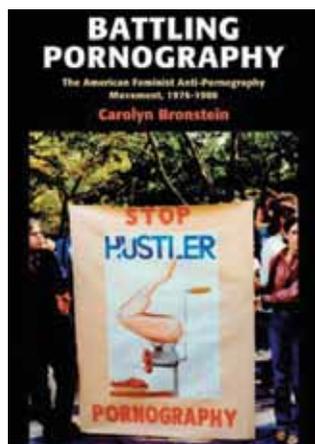
AVAILABLE NOW:
Unabridged Bookstore
3251 N. Broadway
Women & Children First
5233 N. Clark

A poor shoeshine boy rose to become Chicago's impresario of female impersonation. This is Flint's story, and that of the fascinating characters—entertainers, barkeepers, sports people, politicians, activists, cops and mobsters—who knew him in the heady years of the emerging LGBT movement.



BOOKS from page 37

or "in transit." There are poems, memoir, fiction, essay and performance texts, and it is a who's who of queer writers, including: Sharon Bridgforth, Edmund White, Robert McDonald, Cin Salach, Achy Obejas, David Kodeski, Aldo Alvarez, Carol Anshaw, Mark Zubro, C.C. Carter, E. Patrick Johnson, Goldie Goldberg, Owen Keehnen, Yasmin Nair, Gregg Shapiro, Gerald Wozek, Kay Ulanday Barrett, Carina Gia Ferrero, Deb R. Lewis, Karen Lee Osborne, D. Travers Scott, Allison Gruber, Brian Bouldrey, Nadine C. Warner, Emma Vosicky, Jeanne Theresa Newman, Sheree L. Greer, J. Adams Oaks, Rose Tully, Avery R. Young, Richard Fox and David Trinidad.



Battling Pornography: The American Feminist Anti-Pornography Movement, 1976-1986 by Carolyn Bronstein

Bronstein is associate professor of Media Studies in the College of Communication at DePaul University. When I was in college, from 1980-1984 at Drake University, the nationwide pornography wars were in full swing. As a journalism student, I faced a dilemma: the objectification of women through student-sponsored hard-core porn fests (Deep Throat was showing on campus) vs. my support of free speech. So, I created an alternative festival that showed softer and diverse gay, lesbian and inter-racial erotic films. Since the hard-core fest always sold out, we had a lot of overflow into our screenings, which were accompanied by lectures from well-known anti-censorship feminist leaders. The aim was education by way of erotica. Well, Bronstein takes a detailed look at the anti-porn movement in this well-researched new book. Anyone who lived through those days, or who is curious how the right-wing got into "bed" with feminists for a brief unfulfilling fling, should definitely read this book. Catharine MacKinnon and Andrea Dworkin were the two most well-known women fighting what they saw as the link between pornography and violence against women, but Bronstein goes back before

these high-profile battles, and traces the history of key anti-pornography organizations: Women Against Violence Against Women (WAVAW) in Los Angeles; Women Against Violence in Pornography and Media (WAVPM) in San Francisco; and Women Against Pornography (WAP) in New York. "In reality, anti-pornography was a complex and multifaceted movement made up of diverse and overlapping feminist groups who articulated their own sets of ideas and goals," said Bronstein. "These groups never reached consensus on the best way to fight sexualized media violence and they did not simply fall in line behind MacKinnon and Dworkin." This is a highly recommended look at our recent feminist history.

GOD vs. GAY?

The Religious Case for Equality

JAY MICHAELSON



GOD VS. GAY?: The Religious Case for Equality

by Jay Michaelson

Religious scholar and activist Michaelson argues that religious people should favor gay rights because of religion, not despite it. Weaving in his personal "coming out" story and pointing to scriptures from the Hebrew Bible and the New Testament, Michaelson looks at what the Jewish and Christian traditions have to say about sexuality and the holiness of the human relationship. "Homosexuality is natural ... put in stark religious terms, sexual diversity is part of God's plan," Michaelson writes. To support his argument, Michaelson points to passages and stories from the Bible, including: The Creation Story—Eve was not created to make children with Adam, but rather to resolve the existential problem of aloneness, the author argues. The story of Adam and Eve is one of "loneliness and love, not procreation and progeny." The Story of Sodom and Gomorrah—Michaelson claims that the story is not about homosexuality at all, but rather speaks to the cruelty and inhospitality the Sodomites showed their guests. Jesus Christ on Homosexuality—Christ never made any statements regarding homosexuality and His silence speaks volumes, the author said. "Jesus wasn't tacit about the values that mattered most," he writes. "If regulation of homosexual behavior were one of them, the Gospels would not be silent."



Doctor Who: The Complete Sixth Series

DVD \$79.98, Blu-ray \$89.98; 645 minutes, six discs

When my stepdad watched Doctor Who when I was growing up, I pretty much ignored the show. But I am now a big fan, and even can handle the ever-changing cast as they fight the myriad foes of time and space. This perfect gift set combines all 13 episodes of the new season from award-winning lead writer and executive producer Steven Moffat, along with the 2010 Holiday Special, A Christmas Carol, starring Harry Potter's Michael Gambon plus hours of bonus features. The sixth series stars Matt Smith (the Doctor), Karen Gillan (Amy Pond), Arthur Darvill (Rory) and Alex Kingston (River Song). Lots of bonuses for true fans, but even if you've never watched a Doctor, this is very enjoyable entertainment. You don't need any back story to escape into the universe created by this wonderful series.

Baby Jane?

Available on DVD

Film Director Billy Clift and Ariztical films present this feature-length campy tribute to the famous psychological thriller that originally starred Joan Crawford and Bette Davis. Featuring drag superstars Matthew Martin and J. Conrad Frank as those twisted sisters Blanche and Baby Jane, Clift's Baby Jane? uses a cast of almost all men playing the female roles. According to Clift, "I wanted to make Baby Jane? a dark comedy, unlike a typical parody playing it only for laughs." See ariztical.com.



West Side Story

50th Anniversary Edition, DVD and Blu-ray

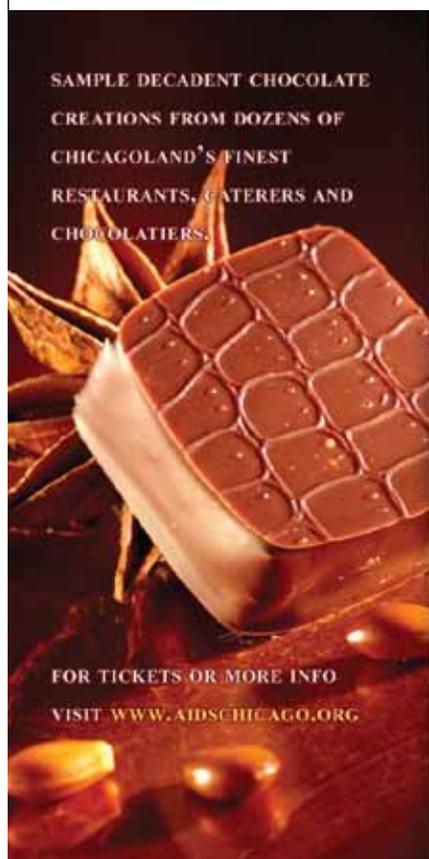
50th Anniversary Edition, DVD and Blu-ray. Limited edition collector's set available featuring two-disc Blu-ray, newly restored DVD and tribute CD along with photo book and other collectibles. Our audience probably doesn't need much reminder on how historic this film classic is. The music (composer Stephen Sondheim, score by Leonard Bernstein), the dancing, the drama: It's all here and beautiful for all generations to enjoy and love all over again. With a record-breaking 10 Academy Awards including Best Picture, Best Directing (Robert Wise) and Best Original Score, the film took home more awards than any other movie-musical in the history of cinema. There are lots of new features to enjoy, including: The Dances of West Side Story—cast members, contemporary filmmakers, dancers and choreographers analyze and illuminate the film's famous dance sequences. A Place for Us: West Side Story's Legacy—a look back at the iconic film and the impact it has had all over the world. Plus song-specific commentary by Sondheim.



Buddy Holly: Listen to Me/The Ultimate Buddy Party

DVD available from PBS

The music didn't die when Buddy Holly died tragically young in a plane crash, but it certainly was stunted. Imagine another 50 years of his creative genius on the airwaves. This new DVD is from a historic concert marking what would have been Holly's 75th birthday. The concert was at the Music Box in Hollywood and among the musicians performing were: Paul Anka, Peter Asher, Michelle Branch, Cobra Starship, Shawn Colvin, Chris Isaak, Lyle Lovett, Raul Malo, Graham Nash, Stevie Nicks, Boz Scaggs and Patrick Stump. There were also special guest appearances by Phil Everly, James Burton and Albert Lee, plus featured tributes by Keith Richards, Ringo Starr, Brian Wilson and Imelda May. Adding to the celebration are other friends and family from Buddy Holly's life, including Holly's widow Maria Elena Holly and Phil Everly, making what may well be his last public musical appearance. This is a fantastic tribute to the legend of Buddy Holly.



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GOINGS-ON

WINDY CITY TIMES' ENTERTAINMENT SECTION



Photo courtesy of Black Ensemble Theatre

SOUL MAN

Kelvin Roston, Jr., shines as the title character in *The Jackie Wilson Story*. See the review on page 40.

THEATER

'Peer' pressure.
Page 40.

Photo by John W. Sisson, Jr.



TELEVISION

All that Jazz.
Page 52.

Photo from OWN



MUSIC

'Chris'-mas.
Page 56.

PR photo of Chris Isaak



SCOTTISH PLAY SCOTT

A 'Prince' among Broadway divas

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

Tony Award-winning actress Faith Prince is coming to Northwestern University's Cahn Auditorium for a special cabaret concert called Total Faith on Saturday, Dec. 3. She then meets with Northwestern students the next day in collaboration with conductor Alex Rybeck and vocal coach Roz Keins for a private master class called Shooting for the Moon—Broadway and Beyond.

Reached by phone at her home in Sacramento, Calif., Prince explained why she likes to include a full-fledged performance in addition to teaching at master classes.

"I just think it's more personable when you get up and do what you do and then the students see it and I can refer to it and it's all right there in front of them," Prince said.

Prince admits that dedicated students can seek out her work online via clips on YouTube, but she feels it's much better for students to see her approach to performing in person. "I think it makes a huge difference," she said.

To the general public, Prince is probably best known for her TV work on shows like *Drop Dead Diva* on Lifetime, *Huff* on Showtime and *Spin City* on ABC. However, for diehard theater fans, Prince has been one of the theater's more prominent leading ladies since her Broadway debut in the 1989 revue *Jerome Robbins' Broadway*.

It was during the 1991-92 Broadway season that truly catapulted Prince to theater stardom, literally going from the lowest of lows to the highest of highs within months.

Prince started out the season in the supporting role of lesbian murder victim Lorraine Bixby

in the massive flop *Nick & Nora*, which closed just after nine performances in December 1991 (though Prince received some of the best notices in that critically reviled musical). Prince then was cast as the long-engaged showgirl Miss Adelaide in a smash revival of *Guys and Dolls*, going on to win a Tony Award for Best Actress in a Musical in June 1992 for her rapturously received performance.

"I think it sort of quantifies the Broadway experience and both [hits and flops] are part of the experience," Prince said when asked about that bumpy 1991-92 season. "You have more things you're working on that don't quite make it. But those are the things that teach you a lot and it's all sort of grist for the mill so that when you do have those things that do hit you know exactly the full intensity of the experience."

Throughout her Broadway career, Prince has proved herself time and time again in many a revival (*Bells are Ringing*, *Noises Off*) and as a replacement star (*The King and I*, *The Little Mermaid*). When asked if she regrets not having the chance to create as many original roles on Broadway (like her Tony Award-nominated turn in the 2008 musical *A Catered Affair*) she said, "Putting your own spin on any role is pretty exciting."

Prince recently finished up an engagement touring with *Billy Elliot The Musical* and is looking forward to filming the second season of *Drop Dead Diva*. However, in the meantime, she's still plotting out her song list for her Northwestern show.

"Because I'm doing it for students, I have stories about off-Broadway shows and Broad-



Faith Prince. PR photo

way shows and summer stock—just a myriad of things of trying to put together a special unit just for them," Prince said. "Some songs are from shows I've done and some of the songs relate to the stories—and sometimes both."

Faith Prince performs her concert Total Faith at 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 3, at Northwestern University's Cahn Auditorium, 600 Emerson St., Evanston. Tickets are \$40, with a limited number of \$10 tickets for full-time students. Call 847-491-7282 or visit <http://www.tic.northwestern.edu>.

Hollis for the holidays

Another actress honing her song list for a special cabaret concert is multi-award-winning Hollis Resnik. (She recently won both the Jeff and Helen Hayes awards for her turn as the Old Lady in director Mary Zimmerman's take on *Candide*.)

Currently appearing through Dec. 18 in Theatre at the Center's Chicago-area premiere of *Another Night Before Christmas* in Munster, Ind., Resnik is also working with music director Doug

Peck for A New Year's Eve Concert Celebration in the Cab Room of Stage 773 in Chicago.

"I haven't picked out the program yet—though I do tend to throw in a few holiday things," Resnik said. "I just sort of play it by ear a little bit, I go through my music and pick out what I know will be surefire things for the audience and some things I feel particularly close to at the moment."

Rather than trot out songs she's recently performed in shows (like her acclaimed rendition of "I'm Still Here" in Chicago Shakespeare Theater's recent *Follies*), Resnik relishes the chance to sing material often doesn't get a chance to sing. And Resnik admits to be slightly averse to creating cabaret shows based around a set theme.

"They tend to be sharing an emotional moment with each song," Resnik said the construction of her cabaret shows. "I tweak things from musicals that maybe I haven't done before."

After Resnik finishes her cabaret concert, she won't be doing much singing for a while since she's been cast in the Court Theatre's upcoming production of Tony Kushner's massive two-part AIDS drama *Angels in America*.

"I'm already delving into it," Resnik said about memorizing her lines to the same roles played by Meryl Streep in the HBO miniseries. "We have a wonderful cast and I'm very excited."

Hollis Resnik continues in *Another Night Before Christmas* through Sunday, Dec. 18, at Theatre at the Center, 1040 Ridge Rd., Munster, Ind. Performances are 2 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays, 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, and 2:30 p.m. Sundays with select Thursday evening and Saturday matinee performances. Tickets are \$36-\$40. Call 219-836-3255 or visit <http://www.TheatreAtTheCenter.com>.

Resnik's New Year's Eve Concert Celebration is at 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 31, in the Cab Room of Stage 773, 1225 W. Belmont. It concludes the Lampkin Music Group Saturday Cabaret Series. Tickets are \$75 (and include champagne and dessert). Call 773-327-5252 or visit <http://www.stage773.com> or <http://www.lampkinmusic.com> for more information.

THEATER REVIEW

Peer Gynt

Playwright: Henrik Ibsen, translated and adapted by Robert Bly
At: Polarity Ensemble Theatre at the Storefront, 66 E. Randolph St.
Phone: 312-742-8497; \$20
Runs through: Dec. 18

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

Once upon a time, there was a lazy lad who runs away from the family farm and his widowed mother. He encounters numerous thrilling adventures, all concluding in his quick wit and flexible morals delivering him from the consequences of his irresponsible actions. Even when death approaches, he demands special dispensation for such a clever person as he claims to be.

The folk legend of the Trickster is found in virtually every corner of Western culture. His Norwegian name is Peer Gynt, his progress inspiring, among other artists, composer Edvard Grieg and playwright Henrik Ibsen, during the latter's early forays into epic romanticism. The essence of the character being universal, it was not unexpected that activist poet/folklorist Robert Bly should see in Gynt's quest for wealth and power—by any means necessary—a metaphor for the capitalist ethos. Bly's subsequent adaptation presents us with a hero of contradictions—selfishly inhumane on the one hand, intractably charming on the other, confident of his ability to “get around” his gullible victims, and viewing each escape as proof of God's favor.

The challenge to performing this picaresque tale within the boundaries of modern theater practice is not so much engaging our sympathies on behalf of a fundamentally repellent hero, but sustaining them for a narra-

tive stretching to several hours in uncut form—albeit pared down by director Jeremy Wechsler to a cool two and a half hours for this Polarity Ensemble production. Brevity is achieved in a variety of ways: Gynt's voyages throughout the world are tracked on a chalkboard map, and a shipwreck is depicted with collage puppets. Scenic designer Heath Hays' ladder-and-platform decor facilitates swift changes of locale in the Storefront's cavelike interior, assisted by Paul Gilvary's stageside string band and a score of sprightly American ditties.

Bryson Engelen and Richard Engling—playing, respectively, the young and old Gynt—deliver marathon performances, augmented by a 16-member chorus doubling and tripling in a roster of auxiliary roles considerably diminished from the original numbers needed to realize the Wagnerian spectacle mandatory to 19th-century drama. Despite the obvious care expended upon this ambitious project, however, a distinctly academic aura cannot help but pervade material of greater value for its historical and social reflections than for its entertainment potential.



Peer Gynt. Photo by John W. Sisson, Jr.

THEATER REVIEW

The Jackie Wilson Story

Playwright: Jackie Taylor
At: Black Ensemble Theater, 4450 N. Clark St.
Phone: 773-769-4451; \$55-\$65
Runs through: Open run

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

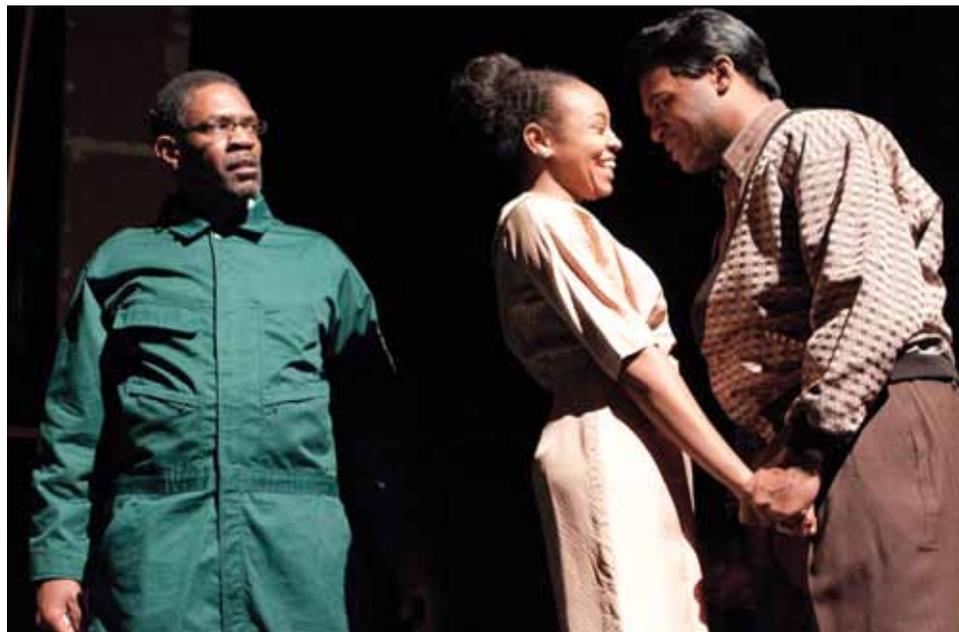
First, the new theater is simply gorgeous: a big sign facing Clark Street, a patio for intermission smoking and strolling, valet parking—in-door garage in the works—and major-route bus stops at the corner, a spacious lobby with latrines near the doors, an elevator to the balcony (balcony!), a checkroom for coats and a concessions stand, all on the ground floor. The auditorium itself adheres to the basic configuration of its resident company's former quarters, with audiences seated around a circular thrust, the band located above the stage where we can see them, and characters parading up and down the aisles to make for maximum actor-spectator interaction. In short, it has everything we loved about the old Beacon Street basement and none of what we didn't.

Included in that survey is the return of The Jackie Wilson Story, Black Ensemble's longest-running hit (nearly two years, before transferring to the East Coast, where star player Chester

Gregory is currently appearing on Broadway). The role of the legendary singer is now played by Kelvin Roston, Jr., recently seen in Court Theater's Jeff-winning Porgy and Bess, delivering his persona's trademark falsetto hollers with ice-cutting clarity, as well as the much-copied gymnastics—one-foot shuffles, no-hands splits, back-bends to the floor—with never a waver in vocal pitch.

The biodrama structure also remains intact. We start in a hospital, with nurses attending the comatose patient that was Wilson. His rise and fall is then chronicled in flashback, concluding with his death, after which the chorus eulogizes him in a rousing “Higher and Higher.” That same chorus, featuring a bevy of BET favorites, provides narrative and musical support for a period rhythm-and-blues score encompassing such showstoppers as “Lonely Teardrops,” “To Be Loved” and a stirring rendition of the Irish lament “Danny Boy.”

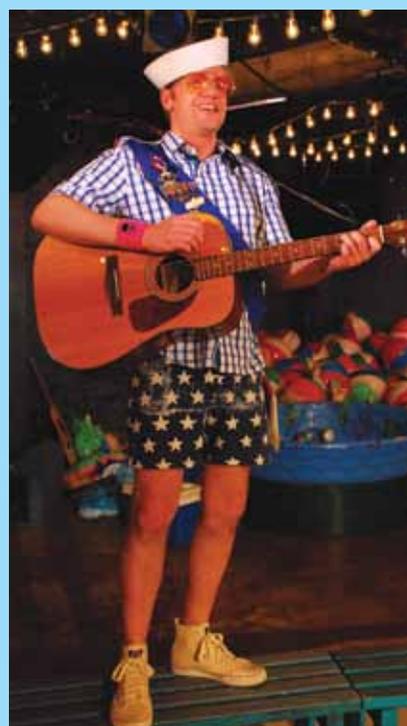
The downside to a bright, shiny, paint-not-yet-dry theater, however, is restricted on-site rehearsal time. So if the tempo was just a wee bit slow at the opening performance, the side-to-side crosses on the wider stage just a few seconds longer and the smiles ever-so-slightly tentative, the practice opportunities offered by a full Wednesday-to-Sunday performance schedule should soon have the show humming with a dynamic energy to set a once-gloomy stretch of Uptown shimmering and shimmying for many months to come.



From left: Trinity Murdock, Melanie McCullough and Kelvin Roston in The Jackie Wilson Story. Photo courtesy of the Black Ensemble Theater

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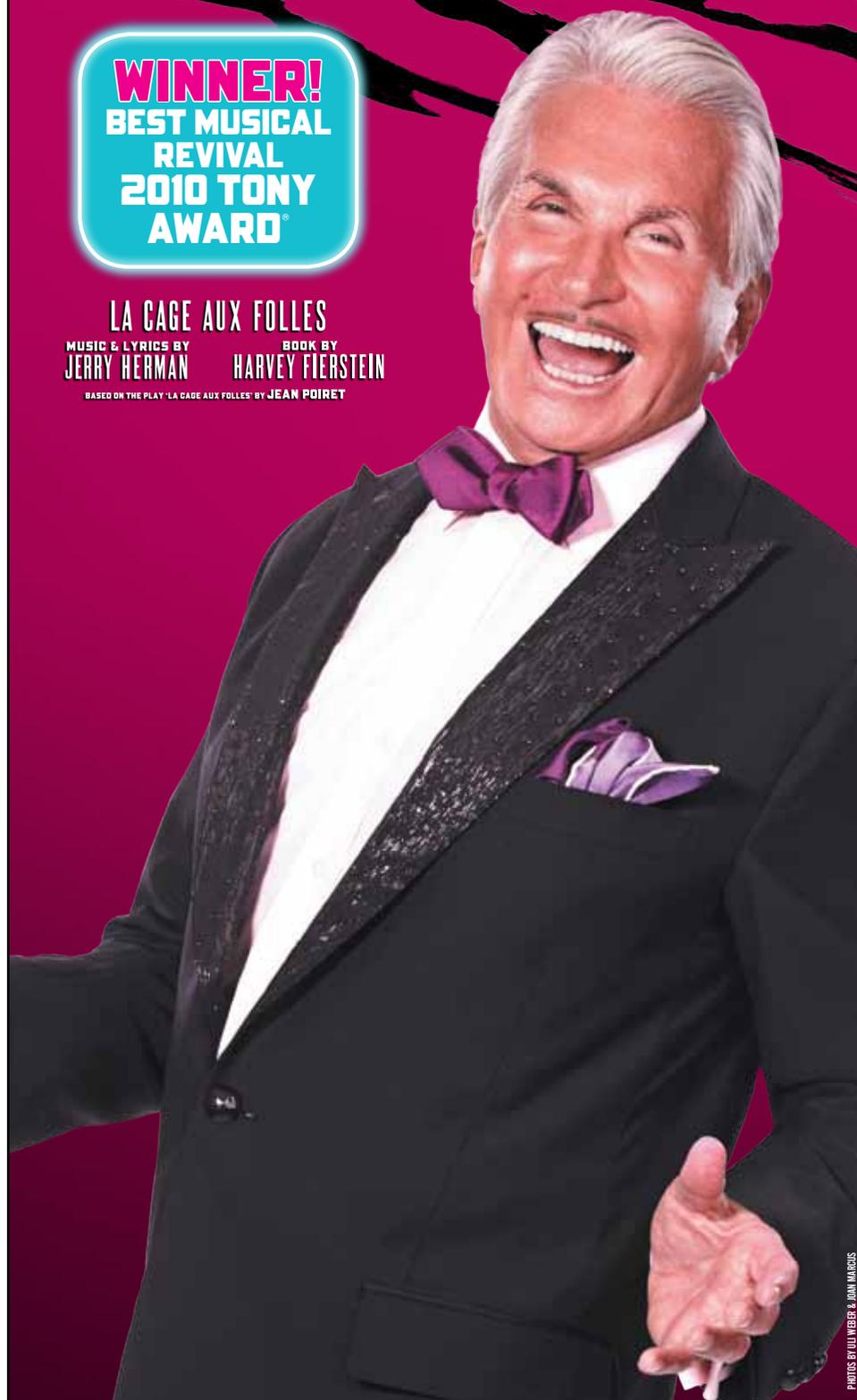
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DOUBLE REVIEW

Season's Greetings

Playwright: Alan Ayckbourn
At: Northlight Theatre,
9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie
Phone: 847-673-6300; \$25-\$60
Runs through: Dec. 18

Burning Bluebeard

Playwright: Jay Torrence
At: The Neo-Futurarium, 5153 N. Ashland Ave.
Phone: 773-275-5255; \$10-\$20
Runs through: Dec. 30

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

People often have lofty expectations of happy and joyful times over the holiday season. However, as two current Chicago-area productions show, those hopes aren't always fulfilled and sometimes things can go horribly wrong.

In Alan Ayckbourn's dark 1980 comedy Season's Greetings, you may find yourself simultaneously laughing and wincing in recognition at the continual clashes (both big and small) of a British holiday gathering of family and friends. Director BJ Jones has whipped up a hilarious and perfectly timed production of Season's Greetings for Northlight Theatre, making sure that the comical sweet moments get as much play as the unhappy sour ones.

You get to savor seeing the characters get annoyed by petty conflicts, and how misunderstandings can snowball into shocking and risky behavior. Season's Greetings requires a true ensemble effort from the cast, and there really isn't a weak link among the company, which includes great characteristic turns by the likes of Francis Guinan, Rob Riley, Heidi Kettenring, Steve Haggard and Ginger Lee McDermott, among others.

While most everything that could possibly go wrong happens on a fictional family-scale in Season's Greetings, it's much more terrifying to hear how a conflagration of errors proved to be so fatal in the Iroquois Theatre Fire of 1903—the real-life Chicago historical disaster that inspired playwright and performer Jay Torrence to create Burning Bluebeard for The Neo-Futurists.

Now the deaths of more than 600 people (mostly women and children) isn't something to be taken lightly, which is why the Neo-Futurists' whimsy-filled and self-aware storytelling approach initially rankles. However, those partially singed storytellers played by Anthony Courser, Dean Evans, Molly Plunk, Leah Urzendowski, Ryan Walters and Torrence gradually pay artistic homage to the event as their characters question the theater folk's culpability in the horrific situation that unfolded.

Director Halena Kays finds powerful ways of incorporating dance movement to insightfully comment on the disastrous events, while sound designer Mike Tutaj truly helps emphasize the sheer terror of the situation near the end.

Lest you think that Burning Bluebeard is all gloom and doom, the cast also finds ways of enlivening the history by critiquing the odd plot and structural deficiencies of Mr. Bluebeard (the show that was playing that fateful matinee of Dec. 30, 1903) and by having the performers question the safety exits of the Neo-Futurarium theater space itself.

With Burning Bluebeard, Torrence and company help bring history to vivid life and will likely prompt audiences to seek out more details surrounding the Iroquois Theatre Fire. (My advice is to read Anthony Hatch's book *Tinderbox: The Iroquois Theatre Disaster, 1903*.) However, Burning Bluebeard also reveals the unforeseen risks that come when audiences gather together seeking escapist entertainment.



Burning
Bluebeard.
Photo by
Maggie
Fullilove-
Nugent

THEATER REVIEW

An Iliad

Playwrights: Denis O'Hare
and Lisa Peterson
At: Court Theatre
Tickets: 773-753-4472;
<http://www.CourtTheatre.org>; \$40-\$60
Runs through: Dec. 11

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

Those thoroughly familiar with The Iliad may find this piece an engaging reconnect with a portion of that work's central narrative, although wedding it to an unabashed anti-war message won't be every classicist's cup of tea. I don't know what those unfamiliar with Homeric legend will make of it, but I'd be a fool to think such people don't exist in an era in which increasing numbers of miseducated and undereducated people pass for presidential candidates.

Suggesting an edited or altered version, this 90-minute work quite properly is called AN Iliad (vs. THE Iliad). It doesn't disguise its incorporation of contemporary commentary and explanation of the ancient mythologies. In a way, this restores the original performance tradition in which a solo poet-performer (going back to Homer himself) would shape the material by additions and subtractions to suit particular needs or circumstance. The single performer here is called, simply, Poet.

As staged by Court Theatre artistic director Charles Newell, An Iliad is given a post-apocalyptic look, with the Poet appearing as a refugee or combatant during or after a time

of war, sheltering himself within the ruins of some industrial infrastructure of concrete and pipes, perhaps the inside of a dam or spillway. Here, the Poet exercises his compulsion—his genuine need—to speak, to tell a story within the Beckett-like confines of a chamber that is both refuge and prison. It reminded me of Hamm's long recitation of a vague past in Beckett's *Endgame*, and also of Ray Bradbury's play, *To the Chicago Abyss*, about a man who remembers what the world was like before the bombs fell. Todd Rosenthal's massive set hellishly spews sand and piercing light and drips water, and yet is richly detailed and textured with the rubble of bricks, concrete and steel.

A distinguished and versatile actor, Timothy Edward Kane, acts the Poet. With beard and shaved head, he looks much rougher than I've seen him. He takes no time at all to warm up the audience, as it were, but jumps immediately into a presentational and mannered performance: anguished rubbing of face and head, arbitrary moves up and down a steep slope within the set, wild emotional responses to his own words. At times, director Newell seems to have Kane move only to make use of the massive set. Such an interpretation is not necessarily inappropriate, but it calls attention to itself and makes one wonder "why." Would this material not be just as effective, maybe more so, with a simpler presentation? The point, after all, isn't the presentation but the tale, the words, and Kane doesn't need the scenic and performing gloss to prove he is master of them, especially when delivering Robert Fagles' vigorous and vivid translation of Homer.

A Christmas Carol at the Goodman: 34 years and counting

BY JOE FRANCO

This year, the Goodman Theatre marks its 34th production of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*. While most are familiar with the immortal tale of Scrooge and his ghosts, the story lays behind the curtain this year.

Steve Scott—a veteran producer, actor and director—returns after 19 years to direct the production. However, playing the role of the Undertaker on stage is his partner of more than 30 years, Ted Hoerl. “It was the casting director’s idea,” said Hoerl. “When I showed up for the audition Larry Yando, who plays Scrooge, asked ‘You’re making him audition?!?’”

Hoerl said that this was not the first time his partner directed him in a play: “It’s not an issue to have Steve directing me. This isn’t the first time. To him, I’m just another actor in his show.”

Scott admitted that he returned to direct *A Christmas Carol* in part because of, as he put it, his “hubris and selfishness.” Scott said, “I love the story and I love its evolution. This year I wanted to enlarge the emotional scope of the show. *A Christmas Carol* is filled with very sad moments, very scary moments and very happy moments. This is an encompassing emotional experience.”

During an era of want and hard times, *A Christmas Carol* resonates more clearly to its modern audience. “There is a line from the play, I think it was Scrooge’s nephew who said that we are ‘all fellow passengers to the grave.’ It’s not so much the line but the sentiment that it carries. We are connected to everyone else,” said Scott. “This time of self-isolation and entitlement? No one is concerned with how we are linked together and I think this play shows that.”

Hoerl added, “When Steve is directing he reminds us that these people are ‘fighting for Christmas.’ Scrooge is the 1 percent; the rest of the players are the 99 percent.”

CRITICS’ PICKS

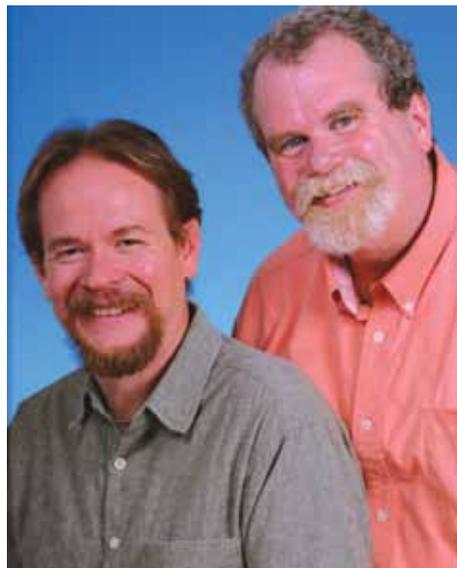
Let My People Come, Street Tempo Theatre, through Dec. 31. Some of the material may seem a tad dated, but this 1974 sex-positive off-Broadway musical certainly shines when performed by this young and exuberant ensemble. SCM

Memphis, Cadillac Palace Theatre, through Dec. 4. Boy doesn’t get girl in David Bryan and Joe DiPietro’s award-winning musical, but together they open up the way to racial equality in America while singing about it bravely and exuberantly. MSB

Momma’s Boyz, Teatro Vista at Chicago Dramatists, through Dec. 4. OK, Candido Tizado’s backwards-in-time portrait of three Latino ghetto friends is a tract play, a bit too obvious, but it’s filled with great comedy riffs and street smarts and acted brilliantly by the three-man cast. JA

The Pitmen Painters, Timeline Theatre at Baird Hall, through Dec. 18. It’s based on a real-life success story, but all success comes at a price, and Lee Hall refuses to send us home suffused in a warm and fuzzy glow (called “*sfumato*,” if you’re an artist) in this deeply moving Timeline Theatre production. MSB

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge and Morgan



Ted Hoerl and Steve Scott in 2007. Photo by Hal Baim

Scott pointed out that this story deals with individuals who are confronted with exceptionally difficult times: “How do you maintain your hope and optimism in the face of such bleakness?” It’s that question he hoped to answer with this production.

Scott found the challenge in directing *A Christmas Carol* did not come from the story, saying, “Through the years, this story has evolved. You don’t start fresh every year. You are dealing with the moments of past directors and past and present actors. It’s the job of the director, I think, to be a collaborator and coordinate those moments from the past.”

Hoerl agreed, saying, “There are some directors that dangle their actors like a puppet master but Steve is genuinely concerned with collaboration.” Scott’s secret in not only collaborating with the cast but also allowing the cast to act as a cohesive team was to “make them feel like a family.” With a cast of nearly 30 actors, that is no small feat.

For many gay couples, merely getting through a day together can be a challenge, and that’s when that couple *isn’t* working together. “We have a rule,” said Hoerl. “We cannot talk about the show at home.” Scott added, “It’s easier to work together now than it had been in the past. It’s not like we’re working side by side in an office.”

The couple first worked together in *Love! Valour! Compassion!* “Oh that was terrifying for me,” said Hoerl. Still, both noted the play and that experience as their finest work. “It was incredibly exciting, artistically, as a director,” said Scott. “Working with Ted was also surprisingly moving.” Hoerl added, “So much of me was exposed through the play.” He then joked, “But you kept casting straight men in the other roles!” “Well at least they were attractive straight men,” said Scott.

Both Scott and Hoerl, in addition to acting and directing, also teach their craft to the next generation. However, each approached the subject with some trepidation. “There is an electronic disconnect with the younger generation,” said Hoerl. “They think their Facebook friends are their actual friends. There is just a tremendous lack of knowledge of what came before them.”

The cultural disconnect is important to an actor’s craft since it is the actor’s charge to emote and without that history and those connections, an actor can lose sense of his role and a

Turn to page 44

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BOOKS

Gay man recalls journey in 'Blind: A Memoir'

BY DAVID-ELIJAH NAHMOD

When you first hear of what happened to Belo Miguel Cipriani, you might assume that he was gay-bashed. At age 26, the San Francisco resident was brutally beaten in the Castro District, the City's legendary "gay ghetto." However, it wasn't an anti-gay attack.

Cipriani's eyes were nearly kicked out of his head by people he considered friends from within the gay community. Although the reasons for the attack remain vague, it appears that the young man's "crime" was choosing going to school instead of going to clubs.

Blind: A Memoir is Cipriani's moving account of his readjustment to life as a gay man in a new, dark city. Written in an almost conversational style, the author shares his hopes of regaining his sight through numerous surgeries.



Belo Cipriani and his dog, Madge. Photo courtesy of Cipriani

For a while, he still had limited vision. But one day, he was forced to face the truth about what had been done to him. His quiet acceptance of his fate, and his determination to live life to its fullest, are inspirational.

Cipriani has to learn how to walk, cook, read and even date in his sightless world. He learns fairly quickly that many doors remain open to him; at San Francisco's Lighthouse for the Blind, he meets Bryce, a fellow blind gay man. Bryce has a sighted partner.

Through it all, he retains his sense of humor, as when he names his walking stick "Citizen Cane."

Sharing his story wasn't always easy. "I think the attack took the longest to write as it brought me back to that moment each time," the writer shared in an email to Windy City Times. "Some consider the attack scene the most dramatic part of the book—it was definitely the most intense for me to write. Other parts of the book helped me to recognize my physical and spiritual growth."

The book moves back and forth in time. The attack scene comes fairly early and then jumps forward to the author's hospital room, where, as he awaits his latest surgery, he takes us back to his days as a semi-closeted young man in San Jose, Calif. In that earlier, more carefree time, his future attackers were his closest friends, introducing him to the gay-club scene.

"I decided to write a non-linear memoir because that is how memories occur," Cipriani stated. "We could be listening to a song on the radio that takes one back to high school or smell something that reminds us of the previous weekend. I believe that memories occur out of chronological order and I wanted to recapture that with my book."

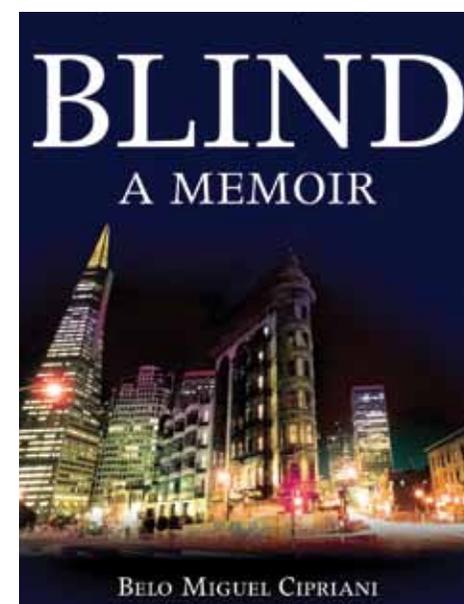
Cipriani's closest companion is now Madge, his beautiful and much-beloved guide dog: "The chapters about Madge helped me to recognize

the major ways in which she contributes to my life by making exploring the world a more manageable task."

The book is definitely having an impact: "The response has been extremely positive. I get weekly messages from parents of blind children; adults dealing with blindness; disabled queer people; Latinos whose parents are losing sight due to diabetes; and students with research interests in the field of queer and disabilities studies. It's also nice that I'm receiving support from outside the gay and blind communities. Univision, a Spanish TV network that has been known to be conservative, has featured me in the 6 p.m. news, and even gave my mom a makeover."

Blind: A Memoir is, in my view, an awe-inspiring tale of courage against seemingly insurmountable odds.

It can be ordered from Amazon.com, in select bookstores or through Cipriani's personal website, <http://www.blindamemoir.com>.



CAROL from page 43

sense of community. "I frequently teach Angels in America and when we discuss what was going on during that time, I might as well be talking about the fall of Constantinople," said Scott. The stories that the so-called "electronic generation" have are frequently external. "When we were growing up there [were] no streaming cable news networks. We listened to old people and their stories. That made the experiences deeply personal," said Hoerl.

With the continuing loss of community, Scott wondered, "Will theatre continue? As we become more disconnected, theatre becomes more and more important." Hoerl added, "There are so few communal activities left."

However, there is hope, and both Scott and Hoerl said that A Christmas Carol is not only significant for its internal lessons but also the community that develops in the theatre itself. "The casting of this play is very significant," said Hoerl. "Steve tried to make it as multicultural and diverse as possible. The point is clear: This is about us as community. Every picture you see is about diversity."

Scott said that he was "very proud to be a part of this production. How much more does it mean to me to have Ted in this production? Words cannot express that personal connection."

A Christmas Carol runs through Dec. 31 at the Goodman Theatre, 170 N. Dearborn St. For ticket pricing and information about the show, visit <http://www.GoodmanTheatre.org>. For more information and to see live interviews of Steve Scott and Ted Hoerl, go to <http://www.chicaggayhistory.org>.

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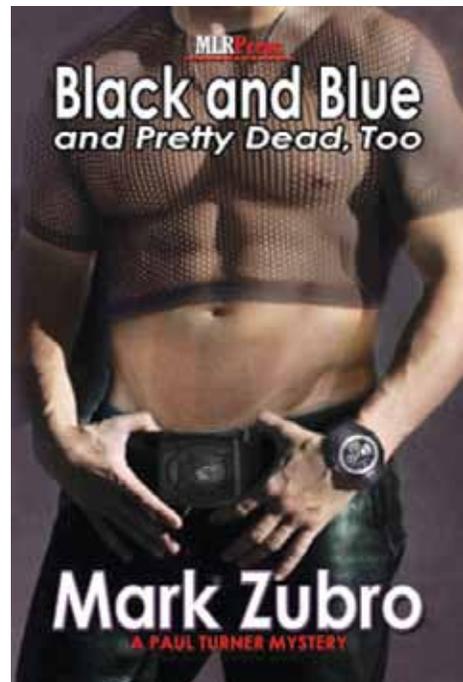
BOOKS

Mark Zubro: Local writer crafts books with strong gay characters

BY BLAIR MISHLEAU

Mark Zubro has written a lot—23 books to be exact. His genre, mystery, isn't groundbreaking. However, the characters—self-affirming, happy gay couples—are. Since 1987 he's churned out nearly two dozen stories that have continuously broken the mold of the industry.

His newest book, *Black and Blue and Pretty Dead Too*, is the tenth in the Paul Turner series



documenting the life of a gay cop. The mystery novel chronicles a murder at the Black and Blue Leather party, hosted in an abandoned train station. It's releasing this month.

Zubro has been writing about gay characters long before mainstream media had any sort of positive gay presence.

"Somebody once said to me, you know your books would really sell a lot better if you wrote straight characters," said Zubro. "That's probably true, I suppose. Books with straight characters tend to tell better than books with gay characters. Well, I can't write not from my imagination. I can only write from what my imagination says."

The retired English teacher, a resident of Mokena, Ill., has a knack for developing plots—evident in the series of books he has written over the past two-plus decades. However, the plot is much thicker than some other series. Zubro mixes in his own personal flavor of activism, politics and a bit of personal revenge to many of the tales.

"There are a whole lot of women mystery writers I've met who said they wrote their first mystery to get back at their first husband," Zubro said. "In a lot of my books, I'm busy getting even with homophobic assholes. And it's kind of fun because I get a bit of chance then to get some of our own back, and to make them suffer. I probably should not admit to how much pleasure I take in that."

Writing can also be a form of catharsis for other issues, Zubro said. A former school union



Mark Zubro. Photo courtesy of Zubro

president, Zubro had a particularly stressful encounter with his district's superintendent.

"I was furious that night. I remember driving home that night, gripping the steering wheel, saying 'somebody's going to die tonight,'" Zubro said. "I got home, and I mowed a character or two down."

Of course, he mentions, you have to be sure the killings fit into the plot, but that's secondary when you're in a bad mood.

The Paul Turner series, presently 10 books deep, documents a happily partnered cop with two children. In his latest adventure, he and his work partner investigate a murder in the strangest of places—in the depths of an old, crumbling train station taken over by a leather party. Mystery comes into play when readers find out who was murdered, and begin to wonder how they ended up at a leather party. Chicago residents will particularly enjoy it, as it notes a bit of Chicago history and architecture, but it can be enjoyed by any reader, Chicagoan or not.

Aside from Paul Turner, Zubro has written a se-

ries, currently with 12 books, based on the character Tom Mason. This series launches Zubro's career as a writer, with the first book coming out in 1989.

Mason's life was intentionally great: He has a wonderful husband, great sex and great kids. This was intentional, Zubro said, as when he started writing books there was an utter absence of positive gay characters.

"[When I started the series] it was 1987, and back then your gay person was most likely suicidal," said Zubro. "If not suicidal, certainly depressed, the villain of the piece. They were some awful thing. And if they had to be a gay person, they certainly were not a happily gay-coupled gay person."

Zubro has also written several short stories, and has been nominated for and won the Lambda Literary Award for Best Mystery.

He's working on a few other projects as well—one's a mystery inspired by Wisconsin's Republican Governor and the issues that took place last winter. He's also working on two LGBT young-adult novels.

After writing so many plots, characters and full books, Zubro is still full of more ideas. The secret, he says, is to treat writing like a trip to the gym. The more you do it, the more mass is built to work with.

"One of the things that I learned a long time ago is, in fact, sitting your butt down night after night after night is way more important than anything," Zubro said. "What happens for me, it really is like going to the gym every day and working out. You're thinking about what you're doing. It's a habit. And yes, it's that very boring word discipline."

Black and Blue and Pretty Dead Too is being released in print and as an eBook this November. This and his other writings are available at independent bookstores throughout the Chicago, as well as printed on-demand and as eBooks. To stay updated on Mark's work, visit <http://www.markzubro.com>.

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BOOK REVIEW

Ten Minutes from Home

by Beth Greenfield

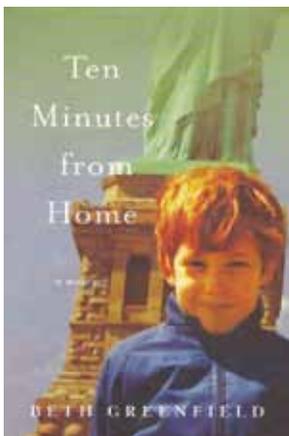
\$24; Harmony Books; 276 pages
REVIEW BY SALLY PARSONS

How would it feel to lose your little brother and your best friend in the snap of an instant? In a car crash—in which you are a passenger? And you're only 12? How long does the grieving process take to resolve and what scars does it leave?

In this memoir Beth Greenfield tells you exactly what it's like, in honest, excruciating detail that is both wise and elegantly crafted. She lived it. And she honors her brother Adam's short life and that of her friend Kristin. (The title, *Ten Minutes from Home*, refers to the point, a short distance from home, where the family and Greenfield's friend Kristen were when tragedy struck as they returned from Beth's ballet recital.)

Aided by a handwritten account she put together in the year or so after the accident, and several writing exercises penned over the years as an adult, plus years of therapy, Greenfield finally put it all in book form to tell this heart-breaking story. (It would have been interesting to read some of her 12-year-old ruminations in juxtaposition to her adult perspective.)

She depicts her parents' grief as well and how delicately they all tiptoed around their individual and collective anguish. For those of us who have been through such a devastating loss, particularly if at a young age, this story may be too painfully familiar. For those of us who have



been spared such a wrenching rift in our lives, there is curiosity, wonder, and beauty in walking at Greenfield's side as she pulls us along through her story. And also, perhaps, comfort in knowing we can survive such devastation, though it may take a long, long time to pull ourselves together again.

She visits her father for the first time in the ICU after the accident, and reaches for his hand: "It felt warm to the touch, and so weak in a way I would have never imagined him capable of being, and when I stroked it with my own I saw tears run down his cheeks. It terrified me."

Greenfield returns to her home for the first time (her parents still in the hospital). She experiences a shock when she opens the refrigerator and spots a half-eaten ice pop that her brother Adam had left. "I reached down and touched it lightly, and thought of eating it, of putting my mouth on the small bite mark that he had left behind, of getting just a little bit of Adam inside of me." She changes her mind, thinking instead it would be better to save it for a scientist, who could collect "... the Adam cells that still clung to the frozen juice, put them in a Petri dish and bring him back."

This kind of aching detail infuses the memoir with the beauty of loss and the strains of the heart to capture the life that has been lost. You might shed a tear, or feel a few moments of sadness reading Greenfield's book. But you will also experience a sense of what love and family mean, and how we struggle to help each other through very tough times.

BOOK REVIEW

The Girls Club

by Sally Bellerose

\$14.95; Bywater Books;
288 pages

REVIEW BY SALLY PARSONS

It's a growing-up tale in a blue-collar community, a coming-out story, a gritty look at family strife, a tale about the "dreaded bowel disease" and ostomy bags. Say again?

Who'd a thought a novel with an ostomy bag as a character could prove so compelling? Some might quarrel with designating the medical device, an essential extension of Cora Rose when she reaches adulthood, as a character. However, at the least, it becomes a key part of our protagonist in this first novel by an accomplished writer.

We first meet Cora Rose, the protagonist of *The Girls Club*, in the ninth grade. It is 1970. She needs to escape class and make a beeline for the restroom. Fast. So we are introduced to the Dreaded Bowel Disease right off the bat. We quickly meet her family, including sisters Marie and Renee, and her special friend Stella.

As she stated in an interview with Susan Stinson on the Lambda Literary website, author Sally Bellerose wanted to tackle a story about someone with an ostomy because she saw it as a hush-hush subject that needed addressing. She knows because she lost her colon in her 20s.

The Girls Club of the title can be taken in several ways—a lesbian bar (which the author most certainly had foremost in mind), but also a closely knit association of the three sisters around whom the novel revolves. There's also a touch of reality—*The Girls Club* is an actual lesbian bar in Chicopee, Mass., the setting for the novel.

One can't help but note that, just as an ostomy creates an opening for the expellation of waste, events in Cora Rose's life create an opening for expellation of anger, anxiety, and fear. Then there is the discomfort created by wearing an ostomy bag—will everyone know by looking at me? Will I be ostracized?—not dissimilar from questions women in the '70s asked themselves coming out as lesbians.

Early on in the book, Bellerose captures Cora Rose's thoughts about her pending ostomy surgery: "I've never even met anyone with an ostomy. ... I guess it's not something you'd talk about. Like dying. Like being a lesbian. I wish people would talk to me about dying. So I could tell them I'm not." At this point, Cora Rose may not be dying, but without coming to terms with her sexual identity, she's not really living either.

Later, sitting in the restroom stall of *The Girls Club* and celebrating that her menses appeared after a long dry stretch, Cora Rose begins to get a grip on who she is (but not yet positively): "In time I'll be entirely liquid—blood, sweat [she's just come off the dance floor], tears. A transformation. Maybe that's how I'll change from a good Catholic, a nice girl, a solid citizen—into a dyke."

Both Renee, and then Cora Rose, grow up to become nurses. This is comfortable territory for author Bellerose, as she too started as a nurse. In *The Girls Club*, all three sisters tiptoe through the land mines of sex, sisterly love and rivalry, and male-female relationships. However, Cora Rose goes her siblings one step further—she gradually realizes she is attracted to women. Her circle of friends expands to include Darlene and other women she meets at the lesbian bar in town.

We struggle along with Cora Rose through various crises in her life, marveling both at how much and how little things have changed since the '70s. Bellerose has a nice touch with language and story development. We care about Cora Rose and the people in her life and wish them well.



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MOVIES

Piper Laurie: On Rock Hudson, Mel Gibson and 'Carrie'

BY RICHARD KNIGHT, JR.

Actress Piper Laurie has had a celebrated film, television and stage career for which she has garnered three Oscar nominations, a Golden Globe and a slew of other awards. The shy, Southern-born actress began at Universal as a contract player in her teens. There, she found herself cast in a series of insipid pictures and poured through the studio's promotion mill.

Rebelling, she broke her contract and headed to New York to really delve into her craft. In 1961, she was lured back to co-star with Paul Newman in *The Hustler*, winning acclaim and new respect from producers. However, Piper (whose stage name was given to her when she signed her Universal contract) opted to retreat into a personal life that encompassed marriage and raising a daughter.

In 1976, however, she was tempted to return to films when her agent sent her the script of *Carrie*—adapted by its director, Brian DePalma, from Stephen King's first novel. The story follows on a lonely teenage girl who exacts revenge with her telekinetic powers on her classmates at the prom from hell and her religious fanatic of a mother, Margaret White—which was Laurie's role.

The movie (for which she was paid a flat \$10,000) went on to garner Piper another Oscar nomination as well as a run of notable films and television parts (with *Twin Peaks* being the most famous). Now, Laurie has written a memoir, *Learning to Live Out Loud*, in which she details her often eye-opening experiences in and out of show business.

Laurie will be in town on Sunday, Dec. 4, for a screening of *Carrie* at the Music Box Theatre, 3733 N. Southport Ave., followed by a Q&A (conducted by myself and David Cerda, artistic director of Hell in a Handbag Productions) and a book-signing in the lobby of the theatre (where copies will be on sale). Still energetic and filled with enthusiasm for her craft at 81, Laurie is far from the scary villains she's often played and is much more like the sweet, tender Southern



Piper Laurie with Paul Newman in *The Hustler*.

belle in the little-seen-but-worthwhile *The Grass Harp*—just one of the films we touched on her our lively discussion.

Windy City Times: *Starlet, "serious actress," sculptor, now author—my goodness, what a fascinating life you've led.*

Piper Laurie: [Laughs] Yes, I think so! A good friend of mine says I'm not just a survivor but a surmount-er. [Laughs]

WCT: *There's a lot to talk about, and obviously we can't get to everything but there are many moments in your career and life that intersect with the gay community, so let's start there. What do you remember about Rock Hudson?*

PL: He was a dear friend and we started out together at Universal—we screen tested together and it worked and they signed both of us. He loved to eat and laugh. My mother loved to cook for him—I lived at home thousands of years before I left. [Laughs] He was a lovely guy—very insecure and very sensitive and I was thrilled that he was able to break out of that and become confident and I think he did wonderful work.

WCT: *You worked with another young actor who became a huge star—Paul Newman in *The Hustler* in 1961. Can you talk a little bit about working with him?*

PL: Paul was a lovely guy; happily married and though we had a lot of chemistry when we worked together it never went beyond that. He was a wonderful, simple kind of actor who never thought he was as good as he was and worked very hard. I think we both took our jobs very seriously and I think we suffered [laughs] more than we needed to over the material.

WCT: *I love how you describe in the book that though you'd worked with him in the past in a minor film. All of a sudden, there he was across the table from you, looking at you with those famous baby-blue eyes.*

PL: Well, that was difficult those first few weeks when I was just a few feet away from him and got a good look at that face and those eyes. I could just hardly breathe. I couldn't speak [laughs] and get the words out at first. Then I decided to just sit back and enjoy it and just looked at him and just indulged in his beauty which I don't really think he really understand that he was such a beautiful thing to look at.

WCT: *You depict him as a very down-to-earth guy, focused on the work. Then we fast-forward decades later to another young man focused on the work and the day you meet your leading man on Tim—Mel Gibson.*

PL: I did not know who was going to be cast in the movie. I thought, "Oh the hell with it, I'll work with whoever they get." I was just looking forward to the trip to Australia and taking my family with me. The first day we were supposed to take pictures together and I was dreading the moment. I was in the wardrobe truck and they said, "Your co-star has arrived." I came down the steps and there was this fellow smiling at me—23-year-old Mel Gibson—and it was an amazing moment for me. [Laughs]

WCT: *Your description of working with him in the book and then sharing an intimate evening with him at the conclusion of the film is very interesting. I also like that you write that in spite of all the controversies swirling about him recently, this wasn't the person you knew and you can still treasure your experience with him.*

PL: I have no idea what was going on—what



Piper Laurie. Photo by David Child

his devils were and how he's dealt with these last years. I've had no contact with him and one never knows but I treasure the experience I had with him for what it was and that's okay.

WCT: *Your career has also included a fair amount of stage work—including a major role in Larry Kramer's play *The Destiny of Me*. We often think of him only as this fiery, angry AIDS activist but he sounds gentler and softer in your book. He's one of our great heroes and we don't hear much about this side of him.*

PL: We were all scared of him because we'd heard he was a very angry person and he insisted on being at every rehearsal from the very start and you know, actors are insecure anyway and then to have someone like that—that we thought we knew—watching over every moment was daunting. But it turned out that Larry was so dear and so open and generous to all of us. He made us feel very relaxed and free. He even accepted a suggestion I had about rearranging some of my speeches. It was wonderful to have an intelligent man that was so generous with the actors and the director.

WCT: *I'm fascinated to know that you read *Carrie* as a comedy and that was your approach when you began in rehearsal.*

PL: I didn't really care for the script and I talked to my husband about it and he said, "Maybe you misread it—Brian DePalma has a comedic approach to most of the things he's done" so I re-read it and thought it was a comedy; a satire and I thought that had more possibilities in that approach. I hadn't made a movie in 15 years and he [DePalma] decided to hire me. So they flew me out to California for rehearsal and by then I'd thought up some bits that I thought would be funny; or pretty broad—like pulling myself around the room by my own hair in anguish.

So I grabbed my hair and did it a couple of times during the rehearsal in Brian's apartment and he stopped me and said, "Piper, you're going to get a laugh if you do that" and I thought to myself, "Isn't that the point?" I suddenly realized I had misunderstood and this was serious so I adjusted what I did but did it with a different motivation.

WCT: *Well I think it's still funny—but horrifically funny which much of the film is—it's nasty funny.*

PL: I think I'm pretty funny in the movie. [Laughs]

WCT: *You're so over the top—it's one of those great performances where you can laugh and be terrified at the same time.*

PL: When the movie first came out people did not laugh and then after they'd seen it a couple of times they felt free to laugh and I think it's funny. I do! [Laughs] You know what helped me? After I'd rehearsed and they flew me back to Woodstock for a month or so before we shot. I went into New York and I went to see his movie *Phantom of the Paradise* which had just opened

and it was so operatic and that really freed me to be as big as I wanted to be.

WCT: *That's very interesting because all the scenes between you and Sissy Spacek are like operatic duos—these arias between mother and daughter. You sort of gasp at how high you two climb—it veers on melodrama; it's so over the top and fun and great all at once.*

PL: Thank you. We shot those early scenes over and over. You see I hadn't acted in front of a camera for 15 years and this was a very unusual experience for me—thinking of it as fun instead of a life or death struggle, which it had been always before. I just gave myself permission to just go for it and be as big as I wanted to be. I have no trouble doing take after take. I was always "full." I did ask that we do the last scene, the monologue, just once without rehearsal because I wanted to be as raw and exposed as I could be in that moment.

WCT: *You write about your take on Margaret White's death scene—that she was happy because she was finally going to meet her maker—but I've always interpreted that as a long overdue orgasm—after years of being pent up. Do you give any credence to that, Piper?*

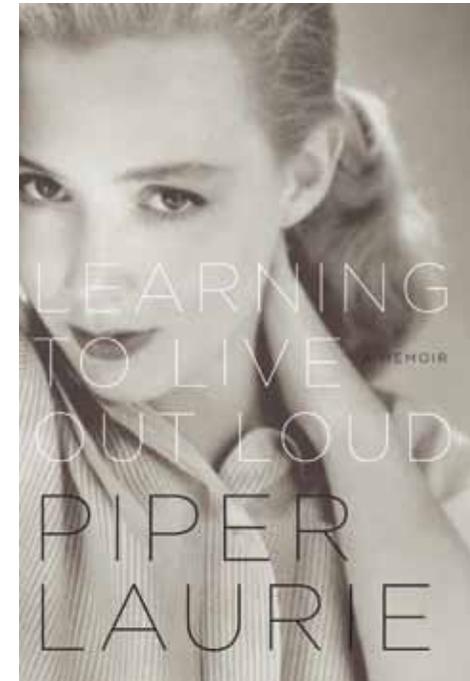
PL: That's just where your mind is! [Laughs]

WCT: *Okay, okay. [Laughs] But every time one of those knives stabs into you...*

PL: What can I say? [Laughs]

WCT: *Your work brought you an Oscar nomination and a lot of villainous roles—like the baddies you play in *Appointment with Death*, *Twin Peaks*, etc.*

PL: You know, I'm not that person and the success of *Carrie* made people want to cast me that way. That was a one-time chance to play-act like children do—the mean person—and draw on all the things you wish you could do but that's not who I am in real life. I've never behaved like that and it upsets me a little bit that that's what they throw at me. I have had other opportunities like the thing I did with Sissy years later—



The Grass Harp.

WCT: *Which is criminally overlooked, I think. It's so unexpected to see you in that delicate, delightful part. It's a lyrical little movie, I think.*

PL: And in real life I'm much closer to that lady and anybody who knows me will say that—maybe with a little laugh! I'm a person who loves nature and is vulnerable; the person who started out in life a little bit damaged and I'm very proud of the fact that I was able to move beyond that and reinvent my life. That was one of the many reasons I wrote my book.

WCT: *Well, we will celebrate all aspects of your career when you're here with us on Dec. 4. Thank you on behalf of your movie fans in Chicago for creating so many indelible movie moments through the years.*

PL: Thank you for that nice tribute. I can't wait to see everyone in Chicago.

Holiday 2011 DVD gift ideas

BY RICHARD KNIGHT, JR.

Although media experts are telling us that DVDs and Blu-rays are soon to go the way of other home-viewing dinosaurs like Beta and VHS, I'm not convinced. Neither, I'm guessing, are a lot of holiday shoppers (or retailers, for that matter) looking for the perfect gift for their favorite cinemaphiles.

After all, there's nothing like a multi-disc boxed set, complete with a batch of bonus features, reproductions of lobby cards, scripts, etc. to whet the appetite of movie fans, right? You can't exactly wrap a movie via Video on Demand and stick it under the tree (although a gift card for just this service is probably a reality). So, in the meantime, here are a few suggestions for your shopping list. (These titles are already in stores or will arrive and/or ship in time for Christmas.)

Tis the season

Make the Yuletide Gay, though a tad on the thin side, is one of the few queer-themed holiday movies that hasn't made me want to toss my eggnog. It's being released on Blu-ray and reportedly a sequel is in the works.

Classics

Bisexual director Vincente Minnelli's 1944 film **Meet Me In St. Louis**, a masterpiece of nostalgia and artifice, showcases the height of the Dream Factory's superlative abilities and is also one of legendary entertainer Judy Garland's acknowledged classics. (For more on Garland's film career and another gift idea, see my Q&A with Garland historian John Fricke on his new coffee table book, *Judy: A Legendary Film Career* in this issue.) Minnelli's film, a Technicolor triumph from beginning to end, has been released in an eye-popping Blu-ray edition that includes

all the bonuses from the previous DVD version (including Fricke's cogent commentary) and features the holiday standard "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas."

The amount of queer talent involved in creating the original musical and the 1961 movie version of **West Side Story** is rather stunning on reflection and for the rabid show tune queen on your list the gift of the four-disc, 50th-anniversary edition on Blu-ray (which includes a DVD copy) is a no-brainer. The lavishly packaged set includes a keepsake booklet, reproductions of international film posters and two bonus discs of extra content.

Malice in Wonderland, a 1985 TV movie, is far from a classic but it focuses on two of Hollywood's most memorable characters from its Golden Age—gossip girls Louella Parsons and Hedda Hopper. Elizabeth Taylor and Jane Alexander have a rip-roaring good time playing the duo in this dishy biopic that details the decades-long feud between the two old biddies and their rise to power.

Recently in theaters

The Help, one of summer's biggest hits, based on the best selling female centric novel starring Viola Davis, Emma Stone, out comedic actor Leslie Jordan, and helmed by out director Tate Taylor, arrives in time to make a lot of chick flick fans happy for the holidays.

Queer audience fave James Franco stars in one of the summer's biggest box office and critical hits, **Rise of the Planet of the Apes**, and (for once) the use of stop-motion animation is expertly utilized in creating the character of the talking monkey that grows up to lead a revolution. Parts of the film are surprisingly moving and, of course, it's also filled with dazzling action sequences.

Cowboys & Aliens, the odd hybrid of the



Circumstance.

western and sci-fi genres that didn't bowl over audiences or critics, is still worth checking out (I liked it a lot more than my fellow critics) and it's got hunky Daniel Craig. Ditto **Fright Night**, which removes a lot of the queer subtext from the 1985 cult fave but is nevertheless a nice reimagining of the original and features another hunk, Colin Farrell, as the nasty vampire/lo-thario at its center.

Documentary

One of the most fascinating documentaries this year had to be Crayton Robie's **Making the Boys**, in which the young queer filmmaker detailed the creation of both Mart Crowley's groundbreaking play *The Boys in the Band* and the subsequent 1970 film version. Both were the first mainstream endeavors to attempt to present the "homosexual lifestyle" to mass audiences as something more than a stereotypical freak show. Robie's entertaining documentary doesn't skimp on character and situational problems within Crowley's work while lauding both events as the queer cultural landmarks they were. Also, the movie is a tribute to the brave actors—many of whom later succumbed to AIDS—who dared risk career suicide by taking the parts.

Queer-themed

Here's yet another shout out for writer-director Mike Mills' autobiographical **Beginners**, the bittersweet dramedy about a father's coming out at 75 after becoming a widow and its impact on his relationship phobic heterosexual son. Christopher Plummer and Ewan McGregor shine in this deeply tender film.

Circumstance, one of the year's most compelling lesbian romances, focuses on two teenage girls in conservative Iran. It's a rewarding drama that exposes a lot of the female/queer prejudices inherent in Iranian culture and also spotlights the country's thriving underground.

Mangus!—a comedic parody with lots of white-trash characters and situations produced and costarring out actor Heather Matarazzo (yet another recent film shown at Reeling)—is also out on DVD in time for the holidays.

Velvet Goldmine, queer writer-director Todd Haynes' under appreciated 1998 homage to the bisexual glitter rock craze starring Jonathan Rhys Meyers, Ewan McGregor, Christian Bale, and Toni Collette comes to Blu-ray.

Wolfe Video is helping you get into the gift-giving spirit with two separate queer romance collections from its extensive LGBT film library.

The Big Gay Love Collector Set includes *East Side Story*, the charming and sexy Hollywood je t'aime, Mr. Right and Chicago's own enchanting musical, *Were the World Mine*. For the ladies, there's **The Big Lesbian Love Collector Set**, which includes *The Four-Faced Liar*, *My Normal*, *And Then Came Lola* and the hilarious *Itty Bitty Titty Committee*.

TV time

There's **The L Word: The Complete Series**—a whopping 25-disc set that delivers the entire lesbian-themed cable series, along with a batch of special features delivered in fetching coffee table book-type packaging. Ladies, you may start your engines.

Happy holiday shopping to one and all.

THE CITY OF CHICAGO COMMEMORATES

WORLD AIDS DAY

DECEMBER 1, 2011



The Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) is commemorating World AIDS Day by raising awareness to stop the spread of HIV.

World AIDS Day was established in 1988 to educate and motivate people around the world about HIV and AIDS. This year marks the 30th year that HIV is part of our lives. Currently, there are about 26,000 Chicagoans living with HIV. By taking a simple step like wearing a condom you can protect yourself and others from HIV and other sexually transmitted infections.

Chicago Community Condom Project is a CDPH Healthy Chicago initiative with a goal of distributing 10 million FREE condoms through community partners and local businesses.

To find free condoms or to get involved as a distribution partner visit www.CityofChicago.org/Health or call 311.

To find an HIV testing site near you call 1-800-AID-AIDS (243-2437).

You can also connect with CDPH at:

Twitter: @ChiPublicHealth

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/ChicagoPublicHealth>



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Batons and Beauty Queens: Biography on Jim Flint includes Mafia, sports, politics and more

BY TONY PEREGRIN

Conformity may have been king in Chicago in the 1960s and '70s, but Jim Flint wasn't afraid to rule as a queen. Using beer crates and plywood as a stage, Flint opened the world-famous Baton Show Lounge more than 40 years ago, at a time when running a gay bar—especially one that featured female impersonators—meant placating corrupt cops and dealing with shadowy Mafiosi. During his career, Flint also headed a gay motorcycle group, created the now-nationwide Continental Pageant system, and became a founder of the gay sports movement.

For their new book, *Jim Flint: The Boy From Peoria*, authors Tracy Baim and Owen Keehnen interviewed more than 150 individuals to chronicle the life story of Flint who is considered by many to be a pioneer of the modern LGBT community.

Earlier this year, Baim and Keehnen published another book on a key figure in the LGBT movement, titled *Leatherman: The Legend of Chuck Renslow*. With *Jim Flint: The Boy From Peoria*, the authors once again reveal the history of an LGBT icon that is equal parts comedy and tragedy with triumphant tales of overcoming adversity.

"When you tell Chuck's story or Jim's story you are also telling the story of the LGBT movements," said Keehnen. "What attracted me about both of them was that they were these huge personalities, and yet their stories were even bigger than themselves. Their stories told more than their story, their stories told a history."

"I think for those who do not know Jim Flint, this book also provides a great deal of information about Chicago history in general," added Baim. "Also, while Jim did own a leather bar, he is most connected to the transgender and female performer sides of the community, the 'lace' so to speak, while Chuck is fully 100% the leather side."

In the following interview, Baim—publisher and executive editor at Windy City Media Group, which produces the *Windy City Times*—and

Keehnen give readers a back stage peek at Flint (also known as "Felicia"), and how this boy from Peoria transformed into a leader of the modern LGBT community.

Windy City Times: You've written that Flint took the "art of female impersonation and made it into a profession worthy of respect both from the audience and the performers." To do this, Flint did so much more than simply opening a drag bar—how so?

Owen Keehnen: Jim was—and continues to be—very concerned that it stays classy. That is, he frowns upon profanity on stage, drug use, anatomical jokes, and anything that would undermine making this a professional and respectable field. He is a stickler for things like perfect gowns, hair and makeup. He likes it to be polished and professional. He took something that was often frowned upon and misunderstood—and gave it back to the world as dazzling and consistent entertainment. In the process, he also contributed on another level by creating a huge extended family with the performers at the Baton as well as the Continental [Pageant] family. "Family" is a word you will run into again and again in this book.

Windy City Times: The list of bold-faced names that have attended shows at the Baton over the years is impressive. What are some of Jim's favorite stories regarding VIPs dropping by the Baton?

Owen Keehnen: Oh, cocktails with Joan Crawford; kicking out Chris Farley; eating fried green tomatoes with Janet Jackson; Madonna dropping by during the time she was filming *A League of Their Own*, and Mimi Marks performing 'Vogue' for her. So many celebrities have walked through the doors of the Baton: Linda Clifford, Queen Latifah, Robert Wagner, Sarah Vaughn, Joan Rivers, Jennifer Hudson, Goldie Hawn and Oprah Winfrey. The list (which is included as an appendix in the book) goes on and on and on!

Windy City Times: The Baton is famous for being a being a popular destination for straight bachelorette parties. Is Flint annoyed by this or does he embrace it?

Flint as Felicia, 1970s.



Owen Keehnen: Jim is a businessman and in that respect he is very much a realist. The demographics of the Baton were the inevitable outcome of doing the talk shows—Donahue, Oprah, Springer, etc. As the River North neighborhood changed from being a gay mecca in the 1970s to being more straight in the 1980s and beyond, it was those same tour buses and bachelorette parties that actually saved the business. It would not have survived if it hadn't become a destination spot for tourists. That said, Jim also rules

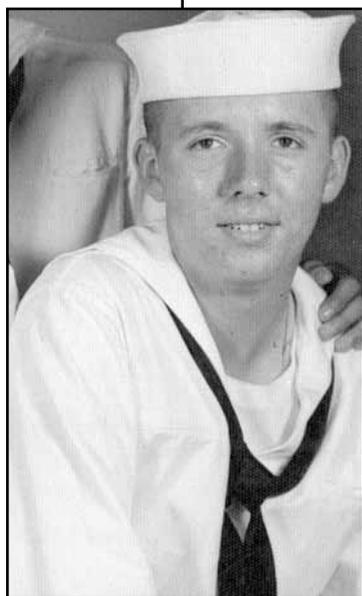
the roost regarding his clientele and suffers no fools. He makes it a rule that while you are there you behave, and if you have any problems with anyone—gay, straight, trans, Black, white—it all stays outside. When you are at the Baton everyone gets along and has a good time.

Windy City Times: Jim was an early supporter of sports for gays and lesbians—helping to put Chicago on the map, particularly in the areas of softball and basketball. Talk a little about Jim's interest in sports, and where this

TIMELINE The life and legend of Jim Flint



Jim Flint: The boy from Peoria.



Flint in the Navy.



Flint in Acapulco, 1966.



Flint as Felicia, white gloves and all.



Jim Flint leads a 1979 march against police harassment.

came from, and why having an active gays sports league in Chicago is so important for the LGBT community overall?

Tracy Baim: Jim did twirl the baton in high school, but he was not an athlete. He loved professional sports, but did not get active in gay sports leagues until the 1970s, first as a sponsor of men's and women's softball teams. He then started pitching in the straight leagues on his teams, and when the gay leagues took off, he sponsored teams in softball, bowling, basketball, volleyball and other sports. He was a key early leader of gay sports in Chicago, and that helped provide additional outlets for the growing gay movement. Sports is a safe place for gays to come out and then become part of the larger gay community. Sports teams and athletes have helped raise millions of dollars for various LGBT and AIDS charities over the decades.

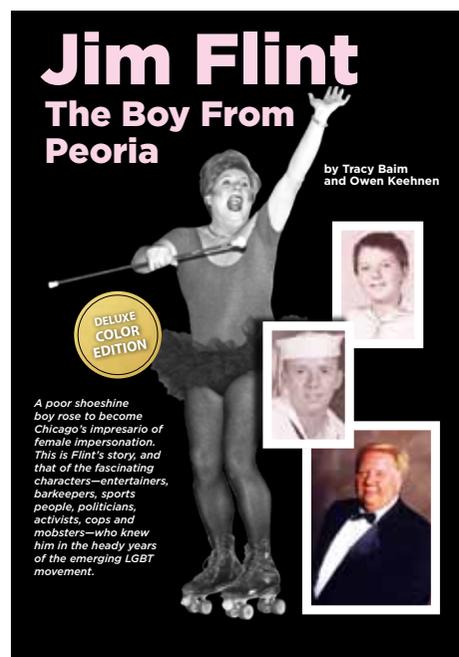
Windy City Times: Competition seems to be a running thread through Jim's life, in LGBT sports and in the Miss Continental pageant system he helped promote.

Tracy Baim: Jim is super-competitive, something he very much admits. It may be because he came from a large family and was very poor growing up. He left home young, entered the Navy at 17, and really had to fight to create the life he has today.

Windy City Times: Based on your conversations with him, what do you think Jim Flint is most proud of regarding this career and professional life? And what do you think is his biggest regret thus far?

Owen Keehnen: Jim has a huge legacy in community service, politics, activism, and entertainment. I think he was most excited about the various things he did for the community—the service organizations and funding and such. This man has an enormous number of things to be proud of right down to the fact of there being so many people who in many respects have a career because of his trailblazing efforts. His biggest business regret was owning a business out of town. His biggest personal regret you'll have to read the book to discover.

Tracy Baim: I also think Jim did not even remember all of the things he had done, especially during his peak activism from the mid-1970s to late 1980s. He ran for Cook County board and received the endorsement of the Chicago Sun-



Times, when it was owned by Rupert Murdoch! He testified against the Mafia. He avoided testifying against the police. He ran a gay motorcycle group. He was one of the people who helped found Chicago House and pushed for AIDS education in the early 1980s. He led a march against Mayor Jane Byrne after gay bar raids. And much more.

Windy City Times: Earlier this year you both published Leatherman: The Legend of Chuck Renslow about another Chicago gay icon. You've written that Flint and Renslow are "polar opposites while at the same time being two sides of the same coin." Can you elaborate on this?

Owen Keehnen: They both molded a large part of the gay world in Chicago and both did so by being themselves, so in that way, although they are very different people, they are also very much alike. They never hid who they were and they never tried to fit in. Both Jim and Chuck created these extended families around them, and they did what they thought was best for the community. They were doers. They didn't talk about doing something—they did it.

Windy City Times: Talk about the process behind researching and writing the Flint book as compared to the Renslow book. How were

you able to research and publish these books so quickly—what's your secret?

Owen Keehnen: For me, both these stories were very easy to be passionate about and that usually involves a fair amount of obsessive-compulsive behavior. Seriously though, we were capturing these amazing men and their contributions and doing it for future scholars or just people curious about their legacy. It was a compulsion that was very easy for me to justify because it was, and continues to be, so important. We also were very good about dividing the material and researching and sharing our findings. As to the rapid pace, I think in some ways both these stories need to be told with a deadline in mind or else they can just go on indefinitely.

Tracy Baim: My approach to these books was as a journalist. Owen and I interviewed more than 150 people between us. We started the research and work in June and finished in September. That incredible pace was due to the quick response of interview subjects, the full cooperation of Flint (including all the photos he allowed us to scan), and most important, because Owen and I have written about this community for decades—we know where to look for the source material. We are not academics looking at this from a distance—we actually covered a lot of these events and knew these people. I started reporting in gay media here in 1984, so I have my stories, photos, and research materials going back that far. Chuck Renslow shared the 1970s GayLife archives with us, and Marie Kuda and other scholars shared their materials. Plus, Bill Kelley and Jorjet Harper, who edited both books, are incredibly knowledgeable about the Chicago LGBT community. Our designer, Kirk Williamson, is super-fast and creative as well. So, we have a great system and team. We also wrote it as journalists, with the sources of our findings right in the text, not with footnotes.

Windy City Times: In conducting the interviews and doing the research for this book, what surprised you most, concerning Jim? What was your biggest "ah-ha" moment?

Owen Keehnen: As to understanding the man? I think for me it was seeing this boy who grew up poor learning the value of money at a young age and then after the Navy wanting to be a missionary brother and then quickly moving into the gay bar scene. Combine those things so at

this formative stage you have this kind of Horatio Alger drive for success and at the center of this is a guy who wants to help people with a drive to better himself. That young man moves into the gay bar sphere and a place that happens to have a drag show. Boom. It's like harmonic convergence. As a result in many ways the LGBT community became his mission work and he combined that with this business savvy and this influence of female impersonation with this tendency to create a family. It all makes sense, but you could have never predicted it.

Tracy Baim: Even though I had covered him since 1984, I really had no idea how many things Flint had done until we started work on this book. But as to research: Jim had always remembered the early 1980s Mafia trial as something he had avoided. But I went to the National Archives and found the testimony, and it ran more than 70 pages. None of it was very incriminating, but it was extensive. And other gays had also testified, and one bar owner went into witness protection, while the other, Mother Carol, had died of natural causes, that may have been hastened because he was wearing a wire for the FBI. What did Jim do? He basically told the Mafia he couldn't pay off (during that time anyway) because the FBI was snooping around. And even the Mafia guys were recorded saying that Jim "had balls" to stand up to them. He did pay off police and Mafia members at other times, just not this time. All of the Mafia and police stuff was very fascinating to me—and then he decided to run for office, countywide, in 1985. It was all so interesting.

Jim Flint: The Boy From Peoria, by Tracy Baim and Owen Keehnen (Prairie Avenue Productions, 528 pages). The book is available now from Amazon.com. The black-and-white version is \$29.95 and the deluxe color edition is \$89. The book is available locally at Women & Children First Bookstore, Unabridged Bookstore and Baton Show Lounge.

The Chicago book launch party for Jim Flint: The Boy From Peoria will be Wednesday, Dec. 7, from 6:30 to 10 p.m. at 3160, one of Flint's clubs, at 3160 N. Clark St. Flint will be joined by authors Baim and Keehnen. There will be a limited number of color copies available at \$60 each that evening.

A selection of photos chronicling the life and accomplishments of Jim Flint, compiled for the book *Jim Flint: The Boy From Peoria*.



Flint rides in the St. Patrick's Day Parade downtown, campaigning for office.



Flint with the winners of Mr. Annex 2 in 1982.



Flint wearing a jacket for his Redoubt softball team, Windy City Athletic Association (WCAA), early 1980s.



Flint with Miss Continental 1997, Tasha Long.



Flint celebrated his 70th birthday at the Park West in 2011. Photo by Hal Baim

TELEVISION

Transgender pre-teen Jazz Jennings on her documentary

BY JERRY NUNN

Jazz Jennings is facing life-changing decisions at the tender age of 11. From a very early age, her parents believed Jazz was exhibiting gender-identity disorder as Jazz gravitated towards female objects and clothing.

Jazz's story has been featured on 20/20, The Rosie Show, and now a new documentary, *I Am Jazz: A Family in Transition*, is on the Oprah Winfrey Network. Through interviews and opening their family home, the Jennings wrestle with decisions to possibly block hormones and fight discrimination in Jazz's everyday life.

Windy City Times spoke with Jazz and mother Jeanette right before the documentary aired.

Windy City Times: Hello, Jeanette and Jazz.

Jeanette Jennings: Jazz has been singing and dancing around all day. She has an audition tonight for 101 Dalmations. She wants a part—not a big part, but she wants a part.

Jazz Jennings: I do want a big part.

WCT: So you're not turning down any offers...

Jeanette: If she gets the lead of Cruella de Vil then that would be great, too.

WCT: You both just visited Chicago to be on The Rosie Show. How was the trip?

Jazz: It was pretty awesome!

WCT: And how was Rosie?

Jazz: It was a really cool experience.

WCT: You got to meet Chaz on the show.



Jazz Jennings. Photo courtesy of OWN

Jeanette: We didn't get to talk a long time after the show because we had a limo waiting but we did get a few moments. Chaz invited us out to California since he works with the kids out there.

WCT: In what area of the country do you live?

Jeanette: It is private. We keep our identity, last name and location a secret as long as we can, just because of the crazy people out there. I don't even do local media. If I can avoid somebody from another state tracking us down then I will.

WCT: There are many people online voicing opinions about your family on YouTube and other websites.

Jeanette: Yes, YouTube has some nasty comments on there. The beautiful thing is that others come to my rescue that I have never met in my entire life. They get in long heated arguments but I love the fact that I don't have to say anything because other people say it better than me. I have had educated professors go on and talk to people about this and educate them. It is really cool.

WCT: How was making this documentary and being filmed in your home?

Jazz: It was fantastic. I was excited that the cameras were here because I really want my voice to be heard. I wanted people to learn what it is to be transgender. I want them to judge me in a good way. I want to help other people understand.

WCT: How was it for you, mom?

Jeanette: It was a lot better than I thought. I thought I would be annoyed and people would be all in my house. I need my privacy but even though there was a lot of filming in a short period of time, everybody was so respectful, so warm and friendly. They bought food for us when they ordered out. It wasn't as invasive as I thought and we had a good time with it. If we didn't like something that was taped then they said they wouldn't use it. I thought there was a layer of respect with them.

Jazz: They made us feel comfortable.

WCT: There was a scene with a doctor in the documentary. Could you talk about that?

Jeanette: First of all, it was very hard to find a doctor. I had been looking for quite some time because there are pediatric and endocrinologist doctors but not tons of them that are willing to treat a transgender child. I was willing to go to another part of the state or go out of state. I was fortunate to find a doctor who understands and is compassionate and willing to treat her, which is fabulous.

WCT: What options are there?

Jeanette: At this point the only option is if you want to continue to look like a girl then you can't go through male puberty. Little kids all look the same if they grow their hair out. You can't tell the difference on a lot of them because they have these little faces. Once puberty hits boys develop very differently and you have to intervene if you are transgender. I know Jazz does not want to look like her brothers. They will put puberty on hold and later introduce hormones to make her develop feminine.

WCT: Then she will be older and can make more decisions.

Jeanette: Right. As she gets older the doctors feel more comfortable with their decisions. If a 9-year-old makes a decision I think they get nervous, but at 14 they feel much more comfortable.

WCT: What age did you discover there was something different?

Jazz: Oh my gosh, ever since I was born! I never referred to myself as a boy, just a girl. I always thought I was a girl until I looked in the mirror one day.

Jeanette: It has been since she had language. Since the beginning they are told what a girl thing is and what a boy thing is. The dad likes to throw a ball and mom is in the kitchen. We are so segregated by gender in this society that kids get it right away. If I handed her the blue thing then she would reach for the pink thing. It wasn't because she knew girls like pink, she was just attracted to it.

WCT: I played with dolls as a child.

Jeanette: Not every child that plays with dolls is transgender. In fact a very small part of these kids are transgender. You can tell a difference because they may play with dolls but not want to be a girl. They may just like girl things. My child was not saying that. My child was saying, "I'm a girl and there has been a mistake. I want to be like my sister or you. I don't want to be like my brothers." She was insisting that she was

a girl from age year and a half.

WCT: Are there support groups for people in your situation?

Jeanette: At the time when she was 3 and I got a diagnosis I didn't know where to go. I found one support group online and they were incredible. There were people on there but not close with age; the closest was a 6-year-old, already into elementary school. So I kind of felt alone but at least other parents knew what I was feeling.

The Internet is a lifeline for parents like me. Since then, there are more support groups and a lot more people talking about this. There are even local support groups not in my area but I know in other parts of the country. Kids will even get together. I wish we had that in our area. She has met some at conferences but there are very few where we live.

WCT: Jazz, do you want to be a performer? I noticed you can sing.

Jazz: Yes, that is one of many hobbies that I have. I love to sing, act and dance. I am also very athletic and I love doing sports, such as lacrosse and, obviously, soccer since I have been discriminated against in soccer. I also like art and writing.

WCT: You could do what I do! What is the one thing you want for the holidays this year?

Jazz: I have always wanted a professional mermaid tail. I have been wanting one made of silicone. I have been researching it for five years.



Jazz at age 3. Photo courtesy of OWN

I attempted to make one but it didn't turn out that well. I don't want a Lycra one like the one I have right now. I always wanted the real hi-tech ones.

Jeanette: Tell him what the price is.

Jazz: The lowest price is \$1,600 but some go for \$100,000.

WCT: Ouch! I wish I had a mermaid connection to help you.

Jazz: I think we already have people working on it.

Jeanette: The executive producer is researching it and trying very hard to get her a mermaid tail.

WCT: Anything else you want to say about the documentary?

Jeanette: What I really want to do by doing this documentary is help other kids. Not all of them are as fortunate as Jazz. The homeless, drug, and prostitution rates are astronomical. So we started an organization called the Transkids Purple Rainbow Foundation. I really want people to check it out. Even if people can donate a dollar it goes right to the kids. With many other causes people are very sympathetic. With this one people don't understand this topic enough to help.

Jazz: All the money that we received from the documentary we put it all into the charity.

WCT: Dancing With the Stars and this documentary will hopefully open some minds.

Jeanette: Definitely.

I Am Jazz is in reruns after Nov. 30. Click on the "schedule" button at <http://www.oprah.com/own>. For information on donating to Purple Rainbow Kids visit <http://www.drewchristopher.com/transkidspurplerainbow>.

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TEXT AND PHOTOS BY ROSS FORMAN



Elementary school music teacher
Bill Marsland



Bill Marsland has, on numerous occasions, been called "Mr. Schuester," and some have even said Marsland looks quite like Matthew Morrison, who portrays the fictional character from the FOX-TV comedy-drama Glee.

Marsland, though, leads a middle-school choir.

"The TV show Glee definitely helps some of my [students]," Marsland said. "It shows them that, yes, choir can be something fun, something cool to do."

Marsland watches Glee weekly on his DVR—and not just for Schuester. Marsland admits he "loves" the Jane Lynch character, Sue Sylvester. In fact, when Lynch appeared in Chicago Oct. 9, Marsland and boyfriend Zak George wanted to attend her Andersonville appearance, but the duo was running the Chicago Marathon that day.

They finished the 26.2-mile run—the first marathon either had run—in 4:48. Marsland actually finished one second ahead of George, he said with a smile.

Marsland and George were participants in the Team To End AIDS (T2) endurance-training program, which benefits the AIDS Foundation of Chicago (AFC). Marsland raised \$1,300 for AFC this summer.

"I had so much fun training for the marathon, and race day itself, much more than I thought I'd have," Marsland said. "The excitement of the crowd, all of the different neighborhoods that we run through, it was a great experience."

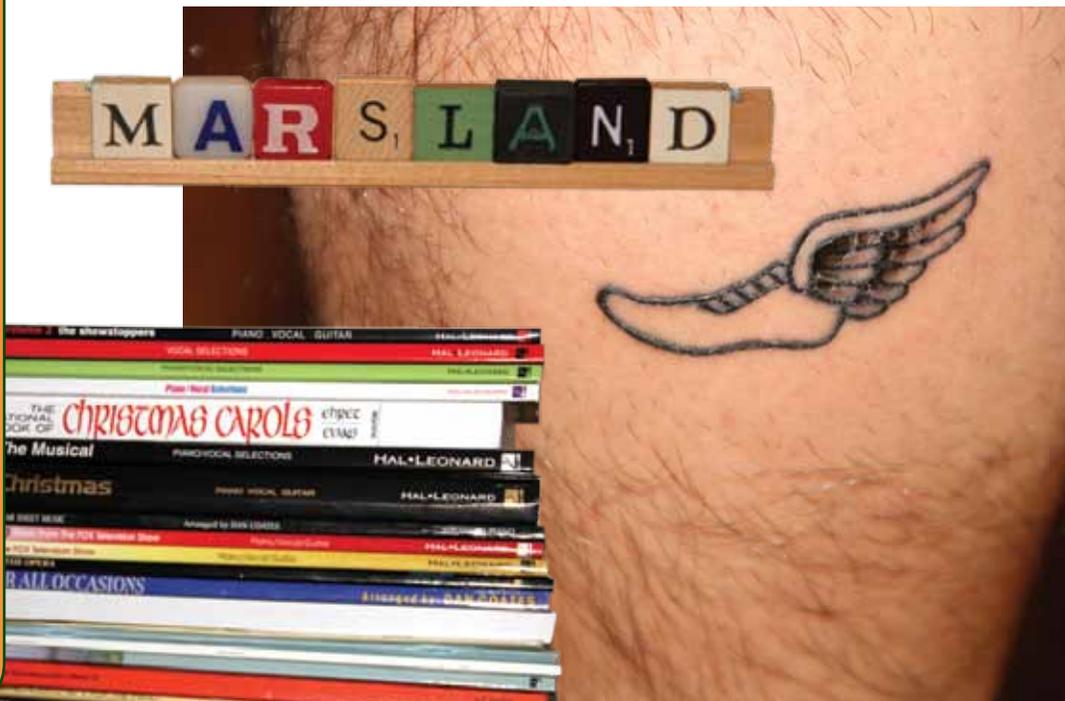
"The training from T2 was incredible. On race day, I knew I could do it; there was no doubt in my mind, thanks to the training we had received."

Marsland said he's "already excited" to run with T2 next summer, and is eyeing a faster finishing time in 2012. Plus, he's considering running marathons in other cities, too.

Marsland also is chair of the board of directors for Windy City Performing Arts, in which he is a tenor. He has been part of the LGBT chorus for six years and previously was its assistant conductor.

"I really enjoy singing and my leadership role within the group," he said.

The next Windy City Performing Arts show, titled Sassy! Brassy! Classy!, is Dec. 3-4 at Senn High School, 5900 N. Glenwood Ave., and will feature holiday favorites. See <http://www.windycitysings.org>.



the stats

Name
Bill Marsland

Age
31

Relationship status
In a relationship

Neighborhood
Andersonville

Hometown
East Providence, R.I.

Favorite Chicago restaurants
Hema's Kitchen and Tapas
Las Ramblas

Favorite Chicago restaurants
Big Chicks and Hopleaf

Ink
Has multiple tattoos, including a recognizable running shoe design on his left calf, which he got two weeks after completing the 2011 Chicago Marathon.

It's a fact
Is working on a Master's degree in educational technology through Michigan State University, which includes three summers overseas. He spent four weeks in 2010 and 2011 studying in Rouen, France. He will be in Dublin, Ireland next summer.

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Bear Down, Bear
North: Alaska Stories**

**Saturday, Dec. 17
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Sappho's Solstice
Salon Presents: The Lesbian
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WEEKLY DINING GUIDE IN WINDY CITY TIMES



BY MEGHAN STREIT

Club Lucky

I love our city's many modern restaurants, with sleek minimalist décor and chefs experimenting with the latest culinary trends. However, sometimes you just want satisfying comfort food in a classic Chicago joint. You know what I mean—the kind of place where you can imagine your grandparents, dressed to the nines, in the 1940s.

Nestled on a side street in Bucktown, Club Lucky is without a doubt one of those places. Decades ago, the space was a dance hall, and when you step inside, you feel like you're stepping back in time. Red leather booths, an original tin ceiling, swing jazz music heard faintly beneath the chatter of gregarious groups of friends sharing huge bowls of penne Bolognese and sizzling platters of shrimp scampi make Club Lucky quintessentially old-school Chicago.

In keeping with the décor, the menu features expertly-executed Italian classics. Don't expect any truffled polenta, wild boar papardelle or tiny portions. Club Lucky serves up generous portions of the Italian comfort food that we all know and love.

Start with a bottle of robust red wine. I always like Chianti with traditional Italian food, and Club Lucky has several nice bottles for less than \$40. The main dishes are so ample, you don't need an appetizer, but to miss out on the golden-brown fried buffalo mozzarella with tangy marinara dipping sauce would just be foolish. Also, try the calamari, which is served three different ways: grilled, fried or sautéed in calabrese cherry peppers, roasted garlic, white wine and fresh herbs.

When it comes to the main courses, it's hard to go wrong. Fettuccine smothered in rich creamy Alfredo sauce, chicken tortellini drenched in Club Lucky's irresistible vodka sauce or just a simple lasagna piled high with layers of thin pasta, creamy ricotta, fresh spinach, and bubbly mozzarella. If you don't want to go into a carb coma, try one of meat or fish dishes like lamb chops served with sautéed spinach and roasted potatoes or the salmon "Oregonato," a simple fish cooked in white wine, oregano and parsley.

My personal favorite is the eggplant parmesan. It's not hard to find eggplant parmesan in Chicago, but it isn't easy to find one quite as good as Club Lucky's. Super-thin slices of eggplant are layered with melted provolone cheese and doused in zesty tomato sauce. The mountain of eggplant (which is roughly the size of a brick) is served with a totally unnecessary but delicious side of penne pasta. You'll get at least two, and possibly three, meals out of this extraordinary eggplant parmesan.

By the time you roll around to dessert, you'll be stuffed and happy, but you may as well finish what



Left: Fettuccine with shrimp and spinach. Right: Tiramisu. Photos by Meghan Streit

you started. You'll find the kinds of sweet treats an Italian grandmother would—spumoni, cannoli, profiteroles and traditional Italian cookies. For a sure bet the whole table will love, order the tiramisu, a scrumptious combination of espresso soaked lady fingers and sweet, creamy mascarpone that is good until the very last forkful.

If you're looking for unpretentious food in a cozy and nostalgic atmosphere, Club Lucky is a top-notch choice any time of the year. However, during the holiday season, the restaurant is decked in twinkling Christmas lights, festive garlands, glittering snowflakes and colorful oversized ornaments, making it the perfect spot for a celebratory meal and gift exchange with friends, an old-fashioned Christmas Eve dinner with family or a romantic New Year's Eve date night.

Club Lucky is located at 1824 W. Wabansia Ave.; call 773-227-2300 or visit <http://www.clubluckychicago.com/index.php>.

Do you need some more Sugar & Spice in your life? Follow me on Twitter: @SugarAndSpiceMS – for inside scoop and commentary on Chicago's dining scene.

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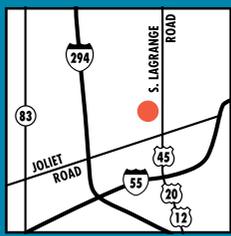



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NUNN ON ONE: MUSIC

Chris Isaak talks music, fans and flashy suits



BY JERRY NUNN

Musician Chris Isaak hit the music scene after being featured in David Lynch's film *Blue Velvet*. He hit it big with the single "Wicked Game;" it landed him on the Top 10 and was accompanied by an unforgettable Herb Ritts video.

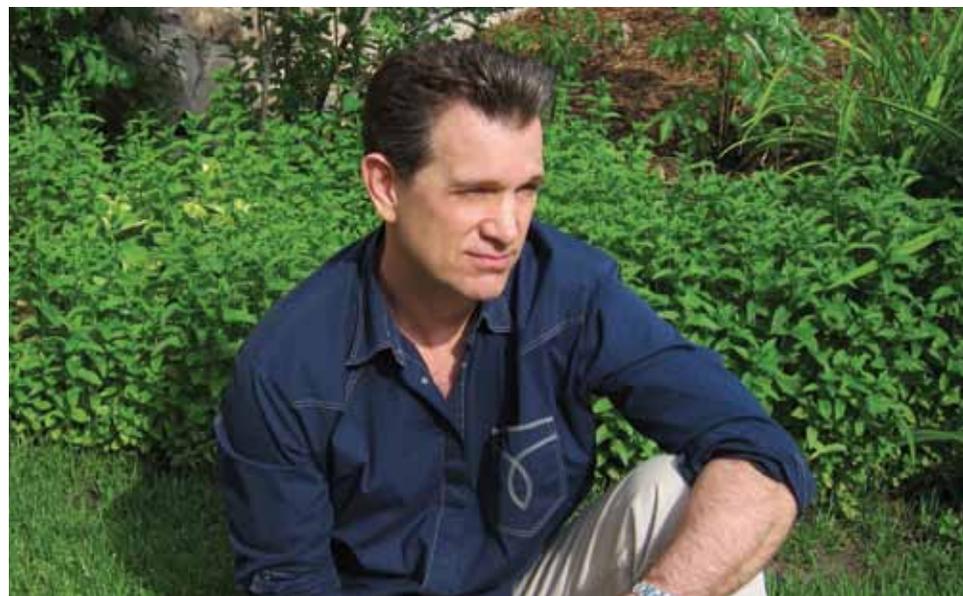
Isaak followed this by creating another song with a video by Ritts, "Baby Did a Bad,

out going to Sun Studio. I fell in love with the Sun sound way back as a kid listening to my folks' records. Then later in my life I was boxing as a light-heavyweight in Japan and feeling homesick, and I happened upon on a copy of Elvis' Sun Recordings. It changed everything for me! So walking into the same little studio that Sam Phillips had recorded Elvis, Johnny Cash, Roy Orbison [and] Jerry Lee Lewis ... was like coming home.

WCT: Have you seen the show *Million Dollar Quartet*, with many of them as characters in it?

CI: I felt like one of those Star Wars fanatics who points out details no one in the world cares about but other fanatics: "The walls of the studio are actually off-white caustic tile not red tuck and roll." But it doesn't matter if the acting and the story is good, and the show was a knockout! It's a great show and it's turning a lot of people on to some real music! And I love that they don't lip-sync; they play.

WCT: Is your song "Lovely Loretta" about Loretta Lynn?



Chris Isaak. PR photo

Bad Thing," which was linked to another movie: Stanley Kubrick's *Eyes Wide Shut*. He then starred in his own Showtime television series, *The Chris Isaak Show*, for three seasons.

His newest album, *Beyond the Sun*, pays tribute to classic artists with covers of their legendary songs and was recorded in Memphis, Tenn., at Sun Records Studios. In an email interview, he discussed the new CD, Christmas songs and his reflective suit.

Windy City Times: Hi, Chris. What went into the decision making for your choices of covers on *Beyond the Sun*?

Chris Isaak: I confess, I didn't have any big plan. I just picked songs that I loved to sing. I have been singing some of these songs since I was a kid. My dad used to play a lot of this music around our house and when I finished the album I brought my folks the first copy. My dad doesn't ever say a lot but I saw him whisper something to my mom and later I asked my mom what he said. He told her, "That's the way I would have sung it."

WCT: I grew up in Tennessee. How was recording in Memphis?

CI: I love Memphis, a city with a lot soul. I don't think I could have made this record with-

CI: Well, she sure is lovely! I wrote that song but I ain't telling!

WCT: How do you decide what songs to play live?

CI: I try to play songs people came to hear. I could never understand artists getting so high and mighty that they stop playing the songs the audience came for. I'm happy playing "Wicked Game" or "Baby Did A Bad Bad Thing" or "Somebody's Crying." I love playing stuff off the latest record and mixing it up!

We kind of do a show within the show where we bring out a stand-up bass and an upright piano and kick into "Ring of Fire" and songs like "It's Now or Never." I love people to be entertained. We dress up in flashy suits, we talk with the crowd and we have fun. When we have a piano catch fire and smoke pours out during "Great Balls Of Fire," I'm having a ball! We have a 20-foot inflatable pin-up girl that blows up while we are playing "Oh, Pretty Woman." I would say we decide what to play by deciding what will be fun. We play ballads but we don't let it get sleepy.

WCT: Are you possibly going to play something from your Christmas album?

CI: Yes, I love Christmas songs and I wrote

a bunch that I put on my Christmas album. I wanted it to be Christmas music that sounded good in the background while you open presents and have a meal. It's very pretty, but also enough up stuff so that when the relatives start fighting you can turn up the music!

WCT: I love "We Let Her Down." Is there any chance of playing that in Skokie?

CI: I wrote it so I know it, but I'm not sure if I'm going to get that and "Blue Christmas" in the same set!

WCT: You mentioned flashy suits. Are you going to wear your disco-reflective silver suit?

CI: Say ... who is running this show? Yeah. It weighs about 35 pounds and is covered in real mirrors but I will bring it out!

WCT: You usually meet fans after your show in the merchandise booth. Are you doing this after the show in Skokie?

CI: I love talking to the fans after, before and during shows! I don't know how far we drive after the show but even when we are in a rush we usually get to meet fans! I don't think the merchandise folks like us going into the booth because Kenney [Dale Johnson], my drummer, kept giving things away! He has a heart as big as a jail.

WCT: Your music is well-known for being romantic. Have you ever been asked or sang at a wedding before? You could sing at my future gay wedding!

CI: I sang at only one wedding: my brother's. Weddings scare the hell out of me!

WCT: How do you feel about the song that sounds just like "Baby Did a Bad, Bad Thing" as the theme song on HBO's *True Blood*?

CI: I haven't heard it. I need to watch more TV!

WCT: More acting in the future?

CI: I love acting. It's just a fun thing to get to do. You get to dress up; pretend to be somebody exciting or crazy or wonderful; and they feed you a giant free lunch and dinner. Who wouldn't like that? I have always been a huge fan of old movies so being part of that world is a treat for me. Even when I was boxing in Japan I was working as an extra in films and having a ball. I got to be in a film with [the late actor] Vic Morrow and because I was the only English-speaking guy on set, he would talk to me a lot. He always looked pissed off but was really nice.

WCT: Now David Lynch is making music. What do you think about that?

CI: Great! Music is good at everything he puts his mind to. I don't think I have met anybody with more talent! He can direct, write, act, draw, make furniture, and now music! I have composed music for his film and talking with him it was obvious in a minute that he had great musical understanding and a great ear. I'm a big fan!

WCT: Thanks for taking my questions. I look forward to seeing you for the third time live in concert!

CI: Thanks for your time. If you make it to the show, say hello! Happy holidays to you and yours...

For more info on Isaak visit <http://www.chrisisaak.com>. Look for ticket information at <http://www.northshorecenter.org> for the Dec. 10 show at the North Shore Performing Arts Center, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie.

Dave Koz concert Dec. 2; has new 'Christmas' CD

Openly gay saxophonist Dave Koz will hold his annual "Dave Koz & Friends" concert Friday, Dec. 2, at the Auditorium Theatre, 50 E. Congress Pkwy., at 8 p.m.

Trumpeter/composer/producer Rick Braun, South African singer/guitarist Jonathan Butler and Dutch saxophone star Candy Dulfer will join Koz for the 14th anniversary of the tour. The four will perform hits from their respective catalogues and jam on new arrangements of holiday favorites.

Koz has released *Ultimate Christmas*. The 18-song CD covers songs such as "Winter Wonderland" and "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" but there are also new tracks, like "Welcoming the Season (Prelude)" and "Welcoming the New Year (Coda)."

Koz's previous studio album, *Hello Tomorrow*,

debuted at number one on both Billboard's Top Contemporary Jazz Albums chart and iTunes' Jazz Album chart. iTunes also named it the "Best Smooth Jazz Album of 2010."

Tickets to the show are \$55-\$100 each; visit <http://www.ticketmaster.com>.



Major League Baseball to ban anti-gay bias

BY ROSS FORMAN

Major League Baseball (MLB) took a major step Nov. 22 to help any closeted gay player if he chooses to come out while still active on the field.

MLB announced that its new collective bargaining agreement will prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, as the *New York Daily News* reported.

The National Football League made the same change in September.

"I think this is an important step forward for MLB," said Brian Redar, a gay baseball fan from Chicago. "Not only does it add needed protections for gay and lesbian employees; it sends a message to fans that discrimination in the sport will not be tolerated. It is inevitable that an active Major League Baseball

player will come out soon, and I think this will help make that process easier."

Several MLB teams this year released "It Gets Better" videos after the San Francisco Giants were the first. The Chicago Cubs was among the teams that produced a video. The Cubs also was a major sponsor of the Gay Softball World Series, held in Chicago and the suburbs this summer.

The White Sox has not released an "It Gets Better" video, nor did the team sponsor the Gay Softball World Series, even though local organizers repeatedly requested the team's involvement and one of the Sox players (Gordon Beckham) jokingly wrote an anti-gay message ("GETZ IS GAY") in the infield dirt during a game this year to friend and former teammate Chris Getz.

Getz is straight, and no active MLB player or coach is out.

Laura Ricketts is a co-owner of the Cubs,

Turn to page 62

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'Zine scene

Chicago IRL, a "queer Chicago collaboration of culture and class(lessness)," celebrated the release of its second issue, Nov. 26 at Parlour, 6341 N. Clark St. Photos by Kirk Williamson



Funny business

A queer sense of humor was on display when OutLoud!: Chicago's Queer Comedy took over Zanies, Nov. 22. The diverse slate of entertainers included Adam Guerino, Kyle Shire, Tamale Sepp, Joel Kim Booster, Caitlin Bergh and Nightspots columnist Homer Marris. Photos by Dave Ouano



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Wed., Nov. 30

Celestial Bodies - World Premiere In 17th century Italy, Galileo Galilei is making the discoveries that will place him among the world's greatest scientists. Marina Gamba wants to learn from the great professor, but can only do so disguised as a man. When her secret comes to light her life and the exploration of science are changed forever. 6:30pm-8:30pm, 312-369-6126, Getz Theatre at Columbia College Chicago, http://www.colum.edu/theater_center/main-productions/index.php

Southside LGBT Bowling Party The Southside's only LGBT bowling party. Free; includes three games of bowling and shoes. 5 domestic beers for \$12, \$6.25 premium drink specials. Raffles. May lead to a formation of a bowling league. Burr Oak Bowl, 3030 W. 127th St., Blue Island, IL; 7pm-11pm, 708-389-2800, Burr Oak Bowl, 3030 W. 127th St., Blue Island, <http://www.burroakbowl.com>

Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra with Rockapella The Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University (ATRU), 50 E. Congress Parkway) will be filled with holiday cheer when the world-renowned Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra joins with critically acclaimed a capella group Rockapella - for the first time ever in Chicago. Tickets start at just \$32 and are on sale now, available online at www.ticketmaster.com/auditorium, by calling (800) 982-2787 or at the ATRU Box Office. 7:30pm-9pm, <http://www.auditoriumtheatre.org>

Jason Aldean, Lady Gaga to perform The Grammy Nominations Concert Live: Countdown To Music's Biggest Night; 10pm, on CBS, <http://www.cbs.com>

IT'S MINT TO BE Thursday, Dec. 1

AIDS Foundation of Chicago's World of Chocolate is among various events around town marking World AIDS Day.

Photo from last year
by Kat Fitzgerald



Thursday, Dec. 1

World AIDS Day World of Chocolate AIDS Foundation of Chicago's (AFC) 10th annual winter soiree is a one-of-a-kind event where guests indulge in sweet and savory morsels from more than 30 of Chicago's finest chocolatiers, restaurants and caterers, while raising funds for the fight against HIV/AIDS. \$125 at the door. 6pm-9pm, 312-334-0935, Chicago Hilton and Towers, 720 S. Michigan Ave; <http://www.aidschicago.org/chocolate>

MK Czerwiec's oral history of Illinois Masonic's HIV/AIDS ward MK Czerwiec worked at Illinois Masonic Hospital's dedicated HIV/AIDS ward, known as Unit 371, during 1994-2000, and brings her oral history of the unit to the Center on Halsted on World AIDS Day. \$5 suggested donation to support community and cultural events. RSVPs and questions should be sent to Maura Ross at: mross@centeronhalsted.org; 6pm-8pm, Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted St.

The Art Institute observes World AIDS Day with Untitled In partnership with Visual AIDS, "Day With(out) Art" gallery talk 12-1pm remembers the lives of artists in the collection who died of HIV/AIDS-related causes and discusses the relevance of the illness and human rights issues central to their work. Also screening of the film by Jim Hodges, Encke King, and Carlos Marques da Cruz. Both free with museum admission. 10:30am-8pm, The Art Institute of Chicago, 111 South Michigan Avenue, <http://www.artic.edu>

Voices for Change Youth Choir Competition World AIDS Day. Questions to Harold Cherry 773-701-4234 or Mark Shaffer 773-701-4231. Please call to confirm event time. 2pm, South Side Help Center, 10420 S. Halsted St.

HIV/AIDS in Africa and Beyond: The Story the Media Missed Jonny Steinberg, lecturer in Africa Studies, Oxford University and author "Sizwe's Test: A Young Man's Journey Through Africa's AIDS Epidemic" and previous books on the lives of Liberian refugees living in New York and the pandemic in Africa. 4pm, McCormick Tribune Center Forum, 1870 Campus Dr., Evanston

Vida/SIDA World AIDS Day 2011: Altars & Candlelight Free. For more information call Zenaida Lopez at Zenaidal@prcc-chgo.org or 773-278-6737; 5pm-5:30pm, Clemente High School, 2625 W. Division St., <http://www.vidasida.org>

Vida/SIDA World AIDS Day 2011 Community Reception Free. For more information please call Zenaida Lopez at Zenaidal@prcc-chgo.org or 773-278-6737; 6pm-8pm, Clemente High School, 1147 N. Western Ave., Chicago, <http://www.vidasida.org>

World AIDS Day Prayer Service St. Joseph, Immaculate Conception, and Bonaventure House will hold a prayer service as part of World AIDS Day. A reception will follow immediately after the service. Parking is available. 6:30pm, St. Joseph Catholic Church, 1107 N. Orleans Ave., <http://www.ic-sjchurch.org/>

Friday, Dec. 2

Mondo Fashion designer, reality TV star and public advocate speaking and meet and greet. Mondo is perhaps most famous from Project Runway. He also made headlines by coming out as HIV-positive on the runway, becoming one of the few reality TV stars in history to do so. 7pm, Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted

'Ball' community event on World AIDS Day Mini-ball with the legends and stars of the underground Chicago ball community. Gay, transgender and bisexual contestants will

compete against one another in the lobby of the school, display their dance skills, costume and attitude, similar to a runway show. Free. 7pm, University of Chicago Medical Center, School of Social Services Admin, 969 E. 60th St.

World AIDS Day Event Song, dance, spoken word and raffle all going to benefit Howard Brown Health Center in honor of World AIDS Day. Tickets are \$20. Reservations are encouraged. 8pm, Davenport's Piano Bar and Cabaret, 1383 N Milwaukee Ave, <http://www.davenportspianobar.com>

Chicago Gay Men's Chorus Holly Follies CGMC shows will feature a variety of songs, including Aretha Franklin's "Kissing by the Mistletoe;" "The Christmas Samba;" and two new Hanukkah pieces. 8pm, 773-296-0541, Athenaeum Theatre, 2936 N. Southport Ave., <http://www.cgmc.org>

Saturday, Dec. 3

Sassy, Brassy, Classy: Windy City Performing Arts/ARIA concert Windy City Gay Chorus and Aria are wrapping up a triple, sugar plum treat: a concert filled with a little sass, a little brass, and a lot of class. Through Dec. 4. 5pm-7pm, Senn High School Hall, 5900 N. Glenwood Ave., <http://www.windycitysings.org>

CAKE Chicago - Michael Jackson Theme Original old-time country songs and covers by Band Practice (Sam Worley and Lewis Wallace) and slam poetry from Chicago luminary Kris De La Rash. 9pm-11pm, 773-274-5463, Red Line Tap, 7700 N Glenwood Ave., <http://www.facebook.com/cakechicago>

Happy Birthday, Britney! Celebrate Britney Spears' 30th birthday with world famous Britney impersonator Derrick Barry. Snap a photo by Britney him/herself. \$5 in advance, \$10 at the door. 8pm-11pm, Hydrate, 3458 N. Halsted

Sunday, Dec. 4

Vital Bridges brunch Local HIV/AIDS agency Vital Bridges Center on Chronic Care, a division of Heartland Health Outreach, will hold its holiday brunch, "Celebrate the Spirit," 11 a.m.-3 p.m., at the Four Seasons Hotel, 120 E. Delaware Pl. This year's Food for Life Award recipients are MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger and former Vital Bridges CEO Ron Nunziato. Tickets start at \$250 each; see <http://www.VitalBridges.org>

Rainbow Brunch North Shore Rainbow Brunch is a way for LGBT men and women in the suburbs to meet new friends and socialize in a low-key, friendly environment. 10am-12pm, Old Country Buffet, 8780 W. Dempster, Niles

10th Annual Dance-Along Nutcracker Join the Lakeside Pride Symphonic Band at the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs tenth annual Dance-Along Nutcracker. Free to the public; 12pm-2:30pm and 3-6pm, Chicago Cultural Center's Preston Bradley Hall 78 E. Washington St., <http://www.lakesidepride.org>

Madonnarama 7th Anniversary Sky fits heaven as Berlin celebrates 7 years of Madonnarama with DJ Riley York. Commemorative T-shirt giveaway. 10pm, Berlin Nightclub, 954 W Belmont Ave, <http://www.berlinchicago.com>

Monday, Dec. 5

GayCo Productions presents the preview of LIT! GayCo's Marché de Noël Christmas markets provide a great opportunity for a winter break. They exude a fantastic atmosphere and offer great shopping opportunities not to mention replenishing wine stocks for the Christmas season. 10am-7pm, Chicago French Market, <http://www.frenchmarketchicago.com>

Salsa Lessons with Anna Marie every Monday. Stick around for open salsa dancing. Bring your partner or come alone; 7pm-11:30pm, 708-358-8840, Velvet Rope, 728 W. Lake St., <http://velvetropoulounge.com>



THIRTY MINDS

Friday, Dec. 3

Hydrate, 3458 N. Halsted, will celebrate Britney Spears' 30th. (Note: Spears is not slated to appear.)

Recovery Over the Rainbow New Narcotics Anonymous sponsored/governed meeting, geared toward GLBTs and open to the public. Questions to Anthony Oltean; 8pm-9pm, Haymarket Health Education, 20 N. Sangamon

United House: A Night of Unity in House Music Join Hydrate Nightclub, ChicagoPride.com, and host Cyon Flare for United House: A Night of Unity in House Music, featuring Resident House DJ Semaj; 9pm, Hydrate, 3458 N. Halsted, <http://www.hydratechicago.com>

Tuesday, Dec. 6

Pow Wow Tuesdays Bring your poetry every Tuesday. \$5 cover, food at 7:30pm, open mic at 8:30pm. 7:30pm, Jeffery Pub, 7041 S Jeffery Blvd

Bottoms Up Bingo! Join Miss Tajma Hall every Tuesday as she hosts Bottoms Up Bingo! The balls start rolling at 9:30 weekly. 9:30pm-11:30pm, 708-358-8840, Velvet Rope, 728 W. Lake St., <http://velvetropoulounge.com>

Drag Race with Frida Lay Chicago's only amateur drag contest, hosted by Frida Lay! A hit at Roscoe's since its premier in 2000. 10pm, Roscoe's, 3356 N Halsted St, <http://www.roscoes.com>

Wed., Dec. 7

Jim Flint book release party Celebrate the book launch of Jim Flint: The Boy from Peoria, Tracy Baim and Owen Keehnen's anticipated biography of founder and owner of the world-famous Baton Show Lounge in Chicago-where the finest of female impersonators have been strutting their stuff onstage for more than 40 years. Also revisits the gay movement of the 1960s through the 1980s. 6:30pm-10pm, 3160, 3160 N. Clark St.

Home for the Holidays: Holiday/End of Year Support Group This is a brief support group for LGBTQ community; 7pm-8pm, Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted St., <http://www.centeronhalsted.org>

Gay Liberation Network Organizing Meeting Monthly organizing meeting of Chicago's direct-action LGBTQ group, focusing on how the activity of people in our community, not the politicians, is what brings about change. 7pm-9pm, 773-209-1187, Berger Park Fieldhouse, 6205 N. Sheridan Road, <http://www.gayliberation.net>

Thursday, Dec. 8

Chicago LGBT Medical/Law Holiday Mixer Hosts Jim Chen and John Litchfield. Meet peers in medicine and law with a mixer in support of Equality Illinois' statewide LG-BT-rights work and for networking, socializing and holiday cocktails. Advance-purchase tickets \$10 include two cocktails. Buy on-line at www.tinyurl.com/7pttw24 and/or the door. 7pm-9pm, Scarlet, 3320 N Halsted



VITAL SIGNS

Sunday, Dec. 4

The Vital Bridges Center on Chronic Care will hold its holiday brunch at the Four Seasons Hotel, 120 E. Delaware Pl.

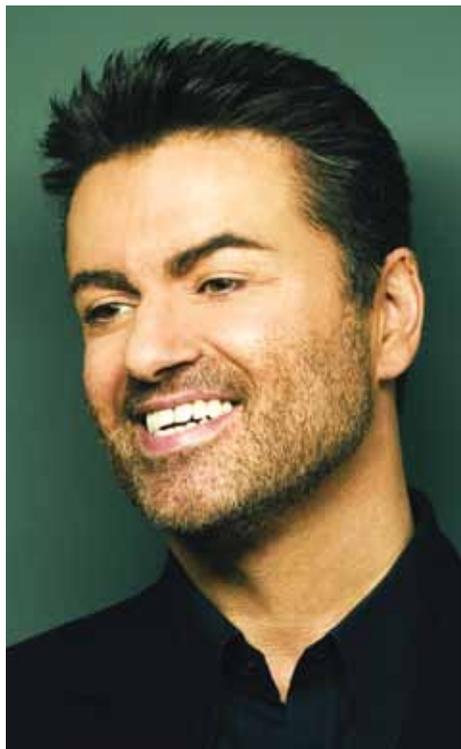
Photo from last year by Kat Fitzgerald

BILLY MASTERS

"That was the best kiss I have ever had. It was deep, it was intense and it was a long time coming."—Jason Segel talks about the on-screen kiss he shared with Paul Rudd on Saturday Night Live that included, dare I say, licking. Of course, it wasn't his only same-sex kiss. However, it appears to have been his favorite.

Did you have a happy Thanksgiving? I did. Being in Boston always puts me in the holiday spirit. Alas, my trip got off to an unfortunate start after I was forced to see the latest Twilight film with a longtime friend. In truth, we both loathe these films, but we get enormous pleasure out of grumbling about how painful each and every moment is. Also, I suppose I can be thankful that Kellan Lutz's part has been beefed up to match his physique. In the latest flick, he actually has nine—count 'em—nine lines! I know extras who have had more to do in a film. Of course, most of you probably went to ogle the lovely and often-shirtless Taylor Lautner, and you wouldn't be alone. At the L.A. premiere, a male fan was overcome near the end and screeched, "Taylor Lautner, you're a sexy fuck!"—a quote that could show up in an upcoming ad campaign.

My favorite part of the holiday season is "Billy's Holiday Gift Giving Suggestions," where I share some gifts suitable for fans of this column. Kicking off this holiday season, we're recommending two items which can be given together or separately. Back in 2000, Dustin Lance Black got the chance to write and direct his first feature film. The result was The Journey of Jared



George Michael (above) wants Fadi Fawaz's sex—or is it Isaac Mazar's?

Price, which is a tantalizing glimpse at the work he'd do later and has the feel of a gay indie after-school special. It also contains more than a bit of nudity, and who'd complain about that? Corey Spears, as Jared, gives a genuine and nuanced performance. More recently, he shared another side of himself in a collection of poetry entitled "P-Town Diaries." This chronicles a summer where Spears loved, lost and lived. While both of these products are lovely on their own, taken as a pair they have even more substance. I'd suggest heading to Amazon.com, where you can not only pick them up, but even watch Jared Price online.

Let's turn our attention to George Michael—who is currently hospitalized in Vienna with what is being called "severe community acquired pneumonia." This begs the question, "Who

could George have acquired this from?" Earlier this month he was rumored to be dating both a hairdresser and porn star. First, we got photos of George stepping out with celebrity hairstylist Fadi Fawaz, who was born in Austria, is of Lebanese decent and works in London. These photos were taken in Venice—which makes this a very international item.

Days later, we got snaps of George on the balcony of the Hotel Danieli in Venice with someone who looked like a porn star who appeared in Match Maker for Cazzo Studios in Berlin under the name Isaac Mazar. Since I doubt this is a name that appears on a birth certificate on either side of the Brandenburg Gate, I did a bit more digging and discovered that Fadi Fawaz and Isaac Mazar are one and the same! We don't really know if this is a tryst, a fling or a full-out *affaire de coeur*, as they'd say in French—a language I'm using solely to show off my multi-lingual skills. However, I can tell you that Isaac shows off his anal-lingual skills in his porno flick. It's a real penetrating performance, which I'm sure helped seal the deal with Georgie. We'll share the photos and video over at BillyMasters.com.

Let's move along to our "Ask Billy" question, which comes from Randy in Washington, D.C.: "I need you to settle a bet. My friend says Thomas Jane went full-frontal nude on Hung. I'm sure I'd remember that. Who wins?"

If Thomas Jane is naked, we ALL win. Up until recently, the answer would be that you win this bet. But it's entirely possible that your friend is slightly psychic. For the benefit of the readers, this question was sent Oct. 16. On the episode of Hung that aired Oct. 23, we did indeed get a glimpse Thomas Jane's nether regions. In one role-playing scene, he's wearing a jock strap. After he takes it off, the camera pulls back to reveal a good ... oh, I'd say, four inches of a rather plump penis dangling betwixt his legs. From the looks of it, that was only the beginning. See for yourself on BillyMasters.com.

Before we end, let's slip in one more tiny penis ... and, alas, I do mean tiny. Several fans wrote in after my item about that hot guy who wears a lot of mascara from The A-List Dallas posting a nude photo of himself. (I not only can't recall his name, I can't summon up enough interest to look it up.) On The A-List New York, Austin did some test shots for Playgirl and these fans wanted to know when those shots would surface. According to Danny Nardicio at the mag, the photos weren't ever going to be published. "It was a publicity stunt created by [Austin] to try to be the star of the show," said Nardicio. What? You mean something on a reality show was staged? I'm SHOCKED! Danny did paint a visual picture for us: "He was insecure about the small size of his penis, which is why I was so complimentary. I always have to stroke models' egos, but he was understandably embarrassed. Soft, it's tiny. It made me think of the Dolly Parton song 'Little Sparrow.'" It could have been worse. It could have reminded him of "Is That All There Is?"

When I'm quoting Peggy Lee songs, it's time for me to end yet another column. But first, let's quickly send out congrats to my buddies Christopher Sieber and Kevin Burrows on their Thanksgiving NYC nuptials. Well done, lads. For all the best stories around, check out www.BillyMasters.com, where you will also find my more personal revelations in Billy's Boudoir. And, like the real-life thing, my online boudoir is open to anyone at any time. If you've got a question, I say just shoot it along to Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before we find out how hung Thomas Jane really is! Until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible.

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Suit involving bisexual softball players results in settlement

BY ROSS FORMAN

A settlement has been reached in the federal lawsuit brought by three bisexual softball players whose team was disqualified from competition following a protest hearing at the 2008 Gay Softball World Series, played in Seattle, it was announced Nov. 28.

The National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR) filed the lawsuit in April 2010 in Federal Court after the Washington Human Rights Commission decided to pass on the case. The plaintiffs asserted various discrimination and privacy claims against NAGAAA, and asked the court to bar the North American Gay Amateur Athletic Alliance (NAGAAA), which hosts the annual event, from enforcing its rule in any future Gay Softball World Series.

In the settlement, according to NCLR, NAGAAA recognized that disqualifying the players was not consistent with NAGAAA's intention of being inclusive of bisexual players. NAGAAA now recognizes the players' team, D2, as a second-place winner of the 2008 Gay Softball World Series, and will award the team a second-place trophy. In addition, NAGAAA expressed regret at the impact the 2008 protest-hearing process had on the players and their team, according to the NCLR. NAGAAA confirmed that its records will be amended to reflect the players' participation in 2008, including the results of all games played by their team.

The 2011 NAGAAA World Series was held this summer in Chicago and although teams were

disqualified this year, too, no team or players were removed because of a player's sexual orientation.

NAGAAA changed its rules in 2011 to be fully inclusive of all bisexual and transgender players. The rule changes permit an unlimited number of bisexual or transgender players to participate on a Gay Softball World Series team.

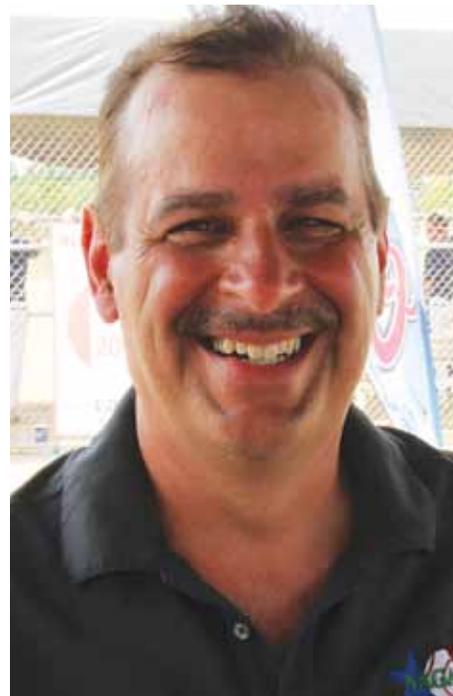
"We have been vindicated by the judge's First Amendment rulings," Roy Melani, NAGAAA commissioner, said in a statement. "This lawsuit threatened not only the purpose of our organization, but also its future. We fought hard to protect ourselves and our core identity and I am relieved this issue is finally behind us.

"It's the Gay Softball World Series. It's important we defend our right to maintain that identity. How else could we send our message that openly LGBT athletes can excel at team sports? We are a thriving and vibrant community. We compete. We socialize. We look after each other.

"This [settlement] is a complete win for us," Melani said.

The three plaintiffs had been playing together in the San Francisco Gay Softball League for years. Their team had gone to the Gay Softball World Series before, but had never finished better than fourth place. In 2008, the team made it to the championship game; however, their eligibility to play was challenged based on a NAGAAA rule at the time limiting the number of non-gay players who could play on a World Series team.

NAGAAA's protest committee voted that the



Roy Melani. Photo by Ross Forman

three plaintiffs were "believed to be heterosexual," according to the NCLR, and their team was disqualified from its second-place finish.

The three plaintiffs have now identified themselves as bisexual, but they did not do so during 2008 protest hearing or in their original complaints, NAGAAA officials said. "If all three players had just said they were bisexual at the time, the lawsuit would never have happened," Melani said.

"It means a lot to me that NAGAAA is going to recognize our second-place finish in 2008," LaRon Charles, one of the plaintiffs in the case, said in a statement. "I am happy NAGAAA has also made rule changes to let players like me know they are welcome. I look forward to continuing to play ball with my friends, teammates and community in NAGAAA's tournaments."

"As a result of this case, NAGAAA has clarified that all bisexual and transgender people are welcome to play at its tournaments as full members of the LGBT community," NCLR Legal Director Shannon Minter said in a statement. "Every

LGBT organization should strive to be a safe and affirming space for everyone, including bisexual and transgender people, people of color, and those who are questioning their sexual orientation. NAGAAA's decision to amend its rules is a welcome step in that direction."

The 2012 Gay Softball World Series will be held in Minneapolis, and will feature a panel discussion about different ways to create and maintain LGBT inclusive sports organizations, including discussing participation rules based on sexual orientation, and ways to eradicate homophobia and discrimination.

NAGAAA's executive board sent an open letter to all 41 member leagues, including Chicago, and also posted the two-page statement on its website. NAGAAA wrote:

"It's over! We are pleased to announce that after a series of court rulings in favor of NAGAAA, the parties have reached a final settlement in a lawsuit that had questioned the legality of NAGAAA's rules regarding the Gay Softball World Series (GSWS). The Court has vindicated NAGAAA's First Amendment right to determine for itself how to fulfill the organization's mission. NAGAAA's mission is to serve the LGBT community and to send a message through the annual Gay Softball World Series that athletes can play competitive team sports as openly gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender individuals. In order to fulfill its mission, NAGAAA has adopted a rule that the majority of players on teams competing at the annual Gay Softball World Series must be athletes who identify as members of the LGBT community. Any individual player can play in the Gay Softball World Series, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, but team rosters must comply with various eligibility rules, including Rule 7.05 of the NAGAAA Softball Code, which limits the participation of non-LGBT players to only two per team."

Jack Neilsen, commissioner of Chicago Metropolitan Sports Association (CMSA) open division softball and NAGAAA representative for Chicago, was the lead Chicagoan responsible for Chicago's bid to host the 2011 Series. On Nov. 28, he said, "I am excited to see that the lawsuit has come to a close. I look forward to the organization moving forward without the lawsuit looming over our heads."

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Q) When my partner died I discovered that he owed \$75,000 in charge card bills and \$110,000 in unpaid hospital bills. Everything that he owned (the house and the bank accounts) was held in joint tenancy with myself. He also had several life insurance policies and IRA accounts which named his children as beneficiaries of these accounts. Do I have to sell the house to pay my lover's bills? Do his children have to use the money from the life insurance and IRA accounts to pay their father's bills?

A) First, the law says that a person can't transfer their property to defraud their creditors or get out of paying their bills. If, however, you and your partner owned the house and bank accounts in joint tenancy before the debts arose then that property will pass to you as the surviving joint tenant owner without deduction for payment of your lover's bills.

Creditors of a deceased person may only go after property in the deceased person's probate estate, which means property your partner owned in his name alone, and does not include joint tenancy property. Also benefits paid under a life insurance policy or IRA account with a named beneficiary is not considered part of someone's probate estate and is not subject to the claims of creditors. Accordingly, the life insurance and IRA money would go to your partner's children and would not have to be used to pay creditors.

If you and your lover have entered into a Civil Union, my answer would change depending upon the nature of the debt. Illinois Civil Union Couples would be subject to "Family Statutes" 750 ILCS 65/5 and 750 ILCS 65/15 (also known as the Family Expense Act). They provide that spouses (after a Civil Union your partner is now considered your spouse) are not generally liable for one another's debt. The statute states also that your wages, earnings and separate property are not liable for the separate debts of your spouse. However, 65/15 does hold both spouses jointly and separately liable for the "expenses of the family."

The law defines such "expenses" to include medical and funeral expenses, as well as many other services and goods that benefit the family. Therefore any medical bills, including those from a hospital, doctor, clinic, laboratory, etc. would be chargeable upon your property if the creditors look to you for payment.

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BASEBALL from page 56

and she is believed to be the first openly gay owner of a major-league sports franchise.

Ricketts was unavailable for comment Nov. 22 about the MLB announcement.

After the NFL added sexual orientation to its nondiscrimination policy, Rafael McDonnell of Resource Center Dallas wrote a letter to MLB Commissioner Bud Selig calling for pro baseball to follow suit, according to the Dallas Voice. McDonnell received responses from both Selig and MLB Executive Vice President Robert Manfred Jr.

"While it is my policy not to comment on matters currently on the table, I think it is safe to say the issue you have raised will be addressed in a positive way," Manfred wrote to McDonnell, the Voice reported.

McDonnell has also written a letter to the National Basketball Association calling for the it to also ban anti-gay discrimination, but he said he has yet to receive a response.

Here is the policy from the official summary of the Major League Baseball Players Association/Major League Baseball labor agreement:

X. OTHER

a. Participation in the All-Star Game will be required unless the Player is unable to play due to injury or is otherwise excused by the Office of the Commissioner. Players Trust will receive an increased contribution and players will receive additional benefits.

b. All Players will be subject to a policy governing the use of Social Media.

c. Weekend waivers during the regular season will be implemented beginning in 2012.

d. The parties will agree upon a comprehensive international play plan in which Clubs and Player will visit countries in which games have not been staged in the past.

e. Non-discrimination protections based on sexual orientation were added to Article XV.

f. Instant Replay will be expanded to include fair/foul and "trapped" ball plays, subject to the Office of the Commissioner's discussions with the World Umpires Association.

g. Modifications to Fourth Option and Outright Assignment rules.

h. The parties agreed to an improved process for challenging official scorer decisions.

Summitt receives award

University of Tennessee women's basketball coach Pat Summitt has received the Mildred "Babe" Didrikson Zaharias Courage Award this year, according to ESPN.com.

U.S. Sports Academy director of communications Duwayne Escobedo presented Summitt with the award before the third-ranked Lady Volunteers' 89-57 victory over Pepperdine Nov. 13.

Summitt, 59, revealed in August that she had been diagnosed with early onset dementia, Alzheimer's type. She said she revealed her diagnosis to hopefully help others understand they could still live their lives after being diagnosed with Alzheimer's.

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

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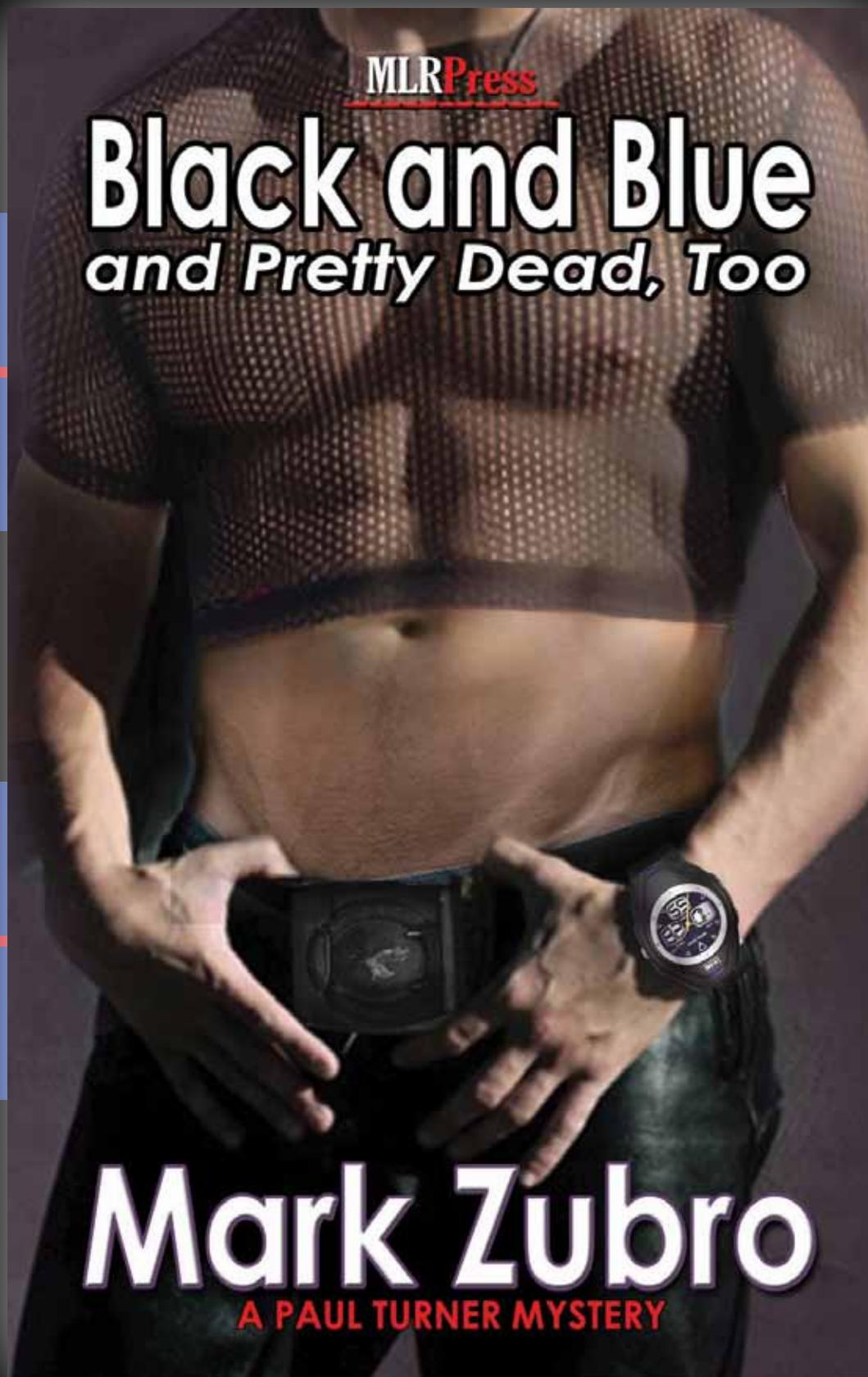
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