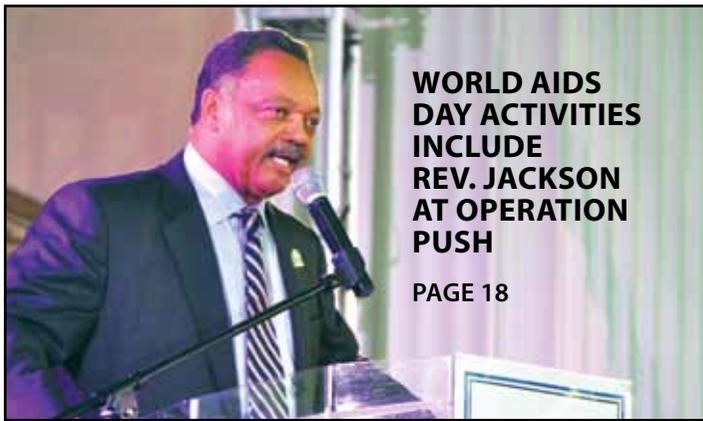


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WORLD AIDS DAY ACTIVITIES INCLUDE REV. JACKSON AT OPERATION PUSH

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CLINTON GIVES MAJOR LGBT ADDRESS

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TALKING WITH PHYLLIS DILLER

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WALMART OPENS IN LAKEVIEW

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CHATTING WITH TORI & DEAN

PAGE 46

Salvation Army defends anti-gay bias

BY JOE FRANCO AND TRACY BAIM

The red kettles and bell ringers of the Salvation Army have become American iconic symbols during the holiday season. Street corners in the city and entrances to countless grocery stores are filled with the sounds of pleas for the help of the needy. The larger question is: Where does that money go?

In recent years, the Salvation Army has been under fire for its anti-LGBT social position. Lt. Col. Ralph Bukiewicz, divisional commander of the Chicago chapter, said that "[a]ny person who comes through our doors will receive assistance based on their need and

our capacity to help.

"We serve 30 million people across the country each year from all backgrounds, including gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender individuals. An individual's religion, lifestyle or sexual identity simply has no bearing on our willingness or ability to provide service. Any instance of discrimination is in direct opposition to our core beliefs and is against all of our policy. Such actions will not be tolerated from our officers, employees or volunteers. Any personal opinions, statements or actions from any isolated individual should never be seen as organizational policy to acceptable standards."

However, according to the Salvation Army's website,

"Scripture forbids sexual intimacy between members of the same sex. The Salvation Army believes, therefore, that Christians whose sexual orientation is primarily or exclusively same-sex are called upon to embrace celibacy as a way of life. There is no scriptural support for same-sex unions as equal to, or as an alternative to, heterosexual marriage." Nonetheless, the organization does go on to say that, "Likewise, there is no scriptural support for demeaning or mistreating anyone for reason of his or her sexual orientation. The Salvation Army opposes any such abuse."

Turn to page 10

2011 HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE



WEEK TWO OF OUR SPECIAL PULL-OUT SECTION



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Sweet rewards



page 48

The World of Chocolate took place on World AIDS Day, Dec. 1, at the Hilton Chicago. More than 1,500 people sampled the offerings of 30 caterers, chocolatiers and restaurants.

You belong here



"People at Elmhurst are accepting and supportive, from the faculty and staff to my friends and fraternity brothers. My experience here has helped me embrace my sexuality and become the person I am today."

JOEY CARRILLO

At Elmhurst, you'll find an exceptionally welcoming campus community. We embrace individual expression. We see our differences as sources of strength. And we clearly, openly, emphatically want you here.

Scholarships for LGBT students

Our Enrichment Scholarship specifically benefits academically qualified students from minority groups—including LGBT students. The scholarship covers one-third of tuition. More than that, it underscores our commitment to affirming the identities and advancing the dreams of each individual student.

A wealth of programs and resources

We support our LGBT students through a variety of campus organizations and events. The student group EQUAL (Elmhurst Queers and Allies) promotes awareness through events and advocacy. SAFE (Staff, Administrators and Faculty for Equality) offers a support network for the LGBT community. An annual guestship and other special events focus on issues of concern to the LGBT community. Our faculty is adding courses in LGBT studies.

A step ahead of the rest

"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



Hear our students' stories: www.elmhurst.edu/lgbt

Contact us: (630) 617-3400 • admit@elmhurst.edu • www.elmhurst.edu/admission • 190 Prospect Avenue, Elmhurst, Illinois

[facebook.com/ElmCol](https://www.facebook.com/ElmCol) twitter.com/ElmhurstCollege

this week in
WINDY CITY TIMES

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Photos on cover (left, from top): Photo of the Rev. Jesse Jackson by Tracy Baim; photo of Hillary Clinton press photo; vintage Phyllis Diller PR photo; photo of Walmart Market Manager Jack Williams by Erica Demarest; PR photo of Tori Spelling and Dean McDermott



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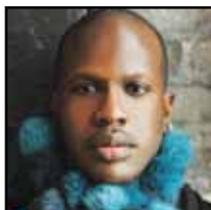
ANN POWER

Read an interview with state Rep. Ann Williams, who talks about adoption and LGBT outreach.

Photo by Erica Demarest



In Bent Nights, Vern Hester looks at books by Pat Benatar (above) and Bob Mould.



Pop Making Sense looks at Beverly McClellan and an upcoming Hydrate fundraiser, which includes RaShaan Houston (above).

PR photo

EATING OUT

Read the latest dining news, including the closing of the Loop eatery Tribute.

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Read about a transgender individual's suit against Midway as well as a report on harassment of LGBT students.

THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT

This week's entertainment round-up includes items on Neil Patrick Harris, Josh Charles and Project Runway.

plus
DAILY BREAKING NEWS

VET TOGETHER



Read about and see photos from Iraq War veteran Tammy Duckworth's recent political fundraiser at Sidetrack.

Photo by Hal Baim



TAKE A QUEER LOOK AT CHICAGO

In 1906 police arrested Julius Duc for dressing in women's clothing in public. At the station, a *Daily News* photographer snapped a series of photographs that remained unpublished until now.

Discover the city through the lens of gender, sexuality and nonconformity at *Out in Chicago* — a groundbreaking exhibition that explores 150 years of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) Chicagoans and their quests for self-identity, family, community and political action.

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One pill.

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Pay nothing for your
first VIRAMUNE XR co-pay.

Then, save up to \$100 off your monthly
VIRAMUNE XR prescription for up to a year.

(Eligibility rules apply.)

One nice savings.

Please see Important Safety
Information on the adjacent page.



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

Ask your healthcare provider about the Co-Pay Savings Program for VIRAMUNE XR today.

Taking Viramune® XR™ (nevirapine) extended-release tablets? If so, you may be eligible for the VIRAMUNE XR Co-Pay Savings Program. The Co-Pay Savings Card may pay the entire cost of your first VIRAMUNE XR monthly co-pay. Then, it may save you up to \$100 off your monthly prescription co-pay for up to a year. It also provides you access to the *Vlife on Therapy*™ program— a free educational support program. Talk to your healthcare provider or visit www.viramunexr.com to learn more about the terms, conditions, and benefits of the card and program.

Terms and Conditions of VIRAMUNE XR Co-Pay Savings Program.

The VIRAMUNE XR Co-Pay Card is not valid for prescriptions purchased under Medicaid, Medicare, or similar federal, state or other government-funded benefit programs. Cash paying customers and residents of Massachusetts (and states where prohibited by law) are not eligible for this offer. This program is only available for individuals 18 years of age or older.

Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals, Inc. reserves the right to change the terms and conditions of this offer at any point. The VIRAMUNE XR Co-Pay Savings Card is issued by The Bancorp Bank pursuant to the license by MasterCard International Incorporated.

The issuers shall not be liable to the users for losses, expenses, claims, or other damages that the user may incur as a result of this card.

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

Ask your HCP if it's the right option for you. Visit www.viramunexr.com for more information.

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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Sec. Clinton delivers major LGBT speech

BY TRACY BAIM

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton delivered possibly the most important international speech ever on LGBT rights, before the United Nations in Geneva Dec. 6. The speech was made in advance of Human Rights Day Dec. 10.

Clinton spoke of the importance of rights for all people, but her focus was on LGBTs, and she went into great detail about the historic importance of equality.

Clinton also announced that \$3 million would be used to start an international fund for work on LGBT issues. The speech was part of a series of steps the Obama White House took this week on LGBT issues. There was a Housing and Urban Development summit on LGBT seniors issues, a U.S. Education Department report on bullying laws and policies across the country, and a major commitment to LGBT issues as part of Obama's foreign policy.

In a memorandum issued at the same time as Clinton's speech, the Obama administration directed all federal agencies engaged abroad to "ensure that U.S. diplomacy and foreign assistance promote and protect the human rights of LGBT persons. Under the Obama Administration, agencies have already begun taking action to promote the fundamental human rights of LGBT persons everywhere. And now, following an inter-agency process coordinated by the National Security Staff, this memorandum directs the first-ever U.S. government strategy dedicated to combating human rights abuses against LGBT persons abroad.

"Today's memorandum applies to the Departments of State, the Treasury, Defense, Justice, Agriculture, Commerce, Health and Human Ser-

vices, Homeland Security, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Millennium Challenge Corporation, the Export-Import Bank, the United States Trade Representative, and such other agencies as the President may designate."

The memorandum directs agencies to:

- Combat the criminalization of LGBT status or conduct abroad.

- Protect vulnerable LGBT refugees and asylum seekers.

- Leverage foreign assistance to protect human rights and advance nondiscrimination.

- Ensure swift and meaningful U.S. responses to human rights abuses of LGBT persons abroad.

- Engage International Organizations in the fight against LGBT discrimination.

- Report on progress.

The White House said that U.S. agencies have already been working to protect and promote the rights of LGBT persons around the world. Since January 2009, Secretary Clinton has directed the Department of State to champion a comprehensive, LGBT-inclusive human-rights agenda.

Clinton's speech was direct and strong, and done in front of a UN that includes member nations with anti-LGBT laws and attitudes. Clinton, when addressing the historic shift on LGBT issues, said she has also developed personally on these issues because of her connection to LGBT people.

Clinton said that no practice or tradition trumps the human rights that belong to all, and that those who try to constrict human rights were wrong, and history reflects this.

She said the U.S. has repeatedly grappled with human rights issues, in the Civil War, on



Sec. of State Hillary Clinton. Press photo.

women's and workers rights, disability rights, and more.

Speaking to LGBTs in countries where they are persecuted, Clinton said "you are not alone." To the leaders of those countries, she said being a leader means standing up for all citizens, even against the beliefs of the people. Clinton added that laws are what can move society forward.

She also said acting alone, minorities can never achieve the majorities necessary to achieve change, so LGBTs need their allies to work on their behalf. She also pointed to the many LGBTs who have championed LGBT rights over the years, some of them giving their life to the cause.

A senior State Department official, in advance of the speech, said that the administration has "instructed ambassadors to challenge laws that criminalize LGBT status or conduct. We're putting some money into it. We're setting up a global equality fund, \$3 million to support NGO activists working on this subject."

Rea Carey, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, was among many LGBTs applauding the speech.

"The United States showed extraordinary global leadership today by affirming the dignity of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people around the world," Carey said. "The presidential memorandum is the first-ever U.S. government strategy dedicated to combating the abuse of LGBT people abroad. History is being made, but more importantly, lives will be improved and even saved. We applaud the president for this monumental step forward, and thank Secretary Clinton for taking to the world stage to send the unequivocal message that LGBT people everywhere should be able to live freely and with dignity."

"Today, Secretary Clinton distinguished herself as a legendary champion of rights for all people, including those of us who are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender," said Human Rights Campaign President Joe Solmonese. "In a remarkable speech to an international audience, the Secretary showed the power of American leadership that calls on the world to live up to the idea that all people are entitled to basic human rights and dignity. There is no question that the

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- Parents complain about Manhunt billboard
- Ex-sheriff's meth-for-sex scandal

administration's record of advancing equality for LGBT people has been enhanced by the leadership of Secretary Clinton."

Solmonese met with Clinton prior to the speech. "When speaking with Secretary Clinton, I thanked her for standing beside LGBT Americans and advancing an American foreign policy that is LGBT-inclusive," he said. "We were able to discuss how much further we have to go—at home and abroad—to secure the rights of LGBT people."

National Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce co-founders Justin Nelson and Chance Mitchell were among LGBT Americans invited to witness the groundbreaking speech and to meet with Clinton and UN human rights officials.

"As a member of the Council on Global Equality and the economic advocate for LGBT business owners and employees in the U.S. and abroad, we are honored to have been asked to be part of such an important moment in the lives of LGBT people," said Nelson, NGLCC president. "From the Caribbean to Nigeria to Russia, LGBT people face not only a struggle for civil rights, but a terrifying persecution because they dare to exist. For these people, Sec. Clinton continues to be a beacon of light in a very dark time."

The Department of State issued a fact sheet on LGBT progress made under Clinton since 2009, when she took over the post. It includes a list of "bilateral and regional engagement" in countries such as Uganda and Honduras and the regions of Africa, Europe and Asia; promoting LGBT human rights in multilateral forums such as the UN; protecting LGBT refugees, asylum seekers and migrants; supporting LGBT human rights defenders and civil society groups; championing human rights through public diplomacy; and strengthening the department's personnel and consular policies to be LGBT inclusive.

Eddie Long to leave pulpit temporarily

Embattled Bishop Eddie Long, who leads the 25,000-member New Birth Missionary Baptist Church in Lithonia, Ga., is temporarily stepping down from the pulpit, the New York Times reported.

Several men accused Long, 58,—a longtime opponent of the LGBT community and marriage equality—of sexual coercion when they were teens; in May, he settled with them for an undisclosed amount.

Long's announcement came after wife Vanessa, 53, filed for divorce Dec. 1. She and Eddie have four children.

During services Dec. 4, Eddie Long told congregants he was still their senior pastor and would continue to provide spiritual direction, but that he needed time to take care of "some family business." Members supported him and said they would stay until he returns.



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Walmart opens in Lakeview, distributes grants

BY ERICA DEMAREST

The Center on Halsted and the Howard Brown Health Center (HBHC) were among local organizations to receive grants from Walmart Nov. 30, as the national chain unveiled a new location in Lakeview.

The 14,800-square-foot Walmart Express, located at 3636 N. Broadway St., is Chicago's second express location; the first opened in late July in Chatham on the South Side. These two stores mark the first stage of Walmart's plan to open at least eight locations within city limits.

With minimal publicity and little fanfare, the Lakeview Walmart Express opened quietly at 7:30 a.m.

Walmart executives and local alderman Tom Tunney (44th Ward) and James Cappleman (46th Ward) were on hand to welcome shoppers, cut the store's ceremonial red ribbon and bestow oversized checks to four local organizations as part of Walmart's community outreach initiatives.

HBHC received a \$25,000 grant. CEO Jamal Edwards, who accepted the check, told Windy City Times he'd work closely with Walmart to determine how best to utilize the grant, which the agency applied for earlier this year.

Center on Halsted CEO Modesto "Tico" Valle accepted a \$12,000 check on behalf of the center. Director of Public Affairs Brian Richardson said the grant will be added to the center's general fund, which supports programming.

Two additional checks were given to the

Lakeview Presbyterian Church (\$11,000) and the Open Arms Church (\$1,000).

Lakeview's Walmart Express, located next door to a Walgreens and half a block from Jewel-Osco, will sell groceries, produce, office supplies and health items. The goal is to offer competitive prices on already accessible items.

"We believe that helping residents of Lakeview save money and live better ... is very important to the community," Market Manager Jack Williams said. "We'll do everything we can to make sure the store reflects the community."

Walmart partnered with the Center on Halsted, Lakeview Presbyterian Church, Open Arms Church, the Northside Workforce Center and the Cara Program to cultivate a staff that reflects the community.

Williams said that 49 new jobs were created, and Lakeview residents filled 75 percent of those. Additionally, several of the new employees are transgender.

While some welcomed the new location, many residents weren't as happy. Earlier this summer, the Lakeview East Chamber of Commerce issued a blog post saying Walmart's "business practices and ethics in which they operate [lead] to a negative impact on small businesses and an entire community."

A handful of community members gathered outside the store Nov. 30 to protest its opening. Members of Chicago Neighborhoods First—a coalition of community, labor and small-business interests—distributed a recent Wall Street Journal article with the headline "Wal-Mart trims



Walmart Market Manager Jack Williams at the grand opening. Photo by Erica Demarest

health care coverage for some."

The Oct. 21, 2011, article detailed Walmart's decision to stop providing healthcare coverage to part-time employees, while dramatically increasing costs for full-time staff. Some staffers, the article said, will see healthcare prices double as benefits decline.

"With Walmart being a leader in the industry, and retail being the largest job creator right now," Chicago Neighborhoods First member Janel Bailey said, "they're really setting the tone for what kind of jobs are going to be available in Chicago."

Fewer than a dozen protestors made it to the store opening, a fact that Bailey attributes to Walmart's perceived secrecy about its debut. There was very little press leading up to the Wednesday morning event, and Walmart employees remained tight-lipped with details.

"Why do you think they had an opening at 7 a.m.? They know the community's not up at 7 a.m.," Bailey said. "And why do you think they didn't advertise the date that they were opening

until several days ago? I think stuff like that is pretty telltale."

Bailey said Chicago Neighborhoods First will continue to monitor the store's progress and push to hold it accountable.

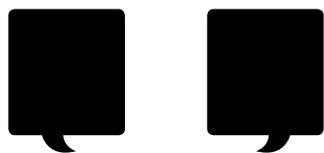
Despite complaints, Cappleman expressed excitement about his district's newest addition.

"Anything in Chicago is going to be controversial, and this is controversial—make no mistake," Cappleman said. "[But] it's vital for the city of Chicago and for this neighborhood to do everything we can to bring jobs into this area to support this economy. [Tunney and I] agree that we also need to do everything we can to increase tax revenue."

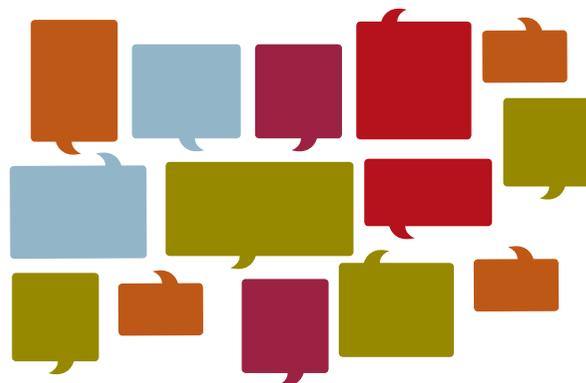
Cappleman said the store will bring more foot traffic to the area, which can help other businesses.

Walmart is slated to open a second, larger Lakeview location at the intersection of Broadway and Surf streets in spring 2012. Other stores are scheduled to open sometime next year in West Englewood, West Chatham and River North.

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Senate bill includes watered-down chaplain amendment

BY LISA KEEN
KEEN NEWS SERVICE

The U.S. Senate passed a defense-spending bill Dec. 1 with only a much-watered-down amendment seeking to enforce the Defense of Marriage Act against same-sex marriages.

The bill is the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for 2012, an annual measure to authorize spending by the Department of Defense. Funding bills can, and often do, include language of a political nature, and the House, in May, passed its defense-authorization bill with three anti-gay amendments.

One House amendment sought to delay repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell"; however, the law repealing the ban on openly gay people in the military went into effect in September, as scheduled.

The other two House anti-gay amendments sought to prevent the military from allowing



Sen. Roger Wicker.

same-sex marriage ceremonies to take place on base facilities and from using military chaplains.

The Senate approved language concerning only military chaplains. The amendment, offered by Sen. Roger Wicker, R-Miss., never mentions same-sex marriages, specifically.

Entitled the "Freedom of Conscience of Military Chaplains With Respect to the Performance of Marriages" amendment, it simply states that a military chaplain, "who, as a matter of conscience or moral principle, does not wish to perform a marriage may not be required to do so."

"The Wicker amendment does nothing new as it relates to the rights of chaplains," said Aubrey Sarvis, head of Servicemembers Legal Defense Network (SLDN). "Indeed, the new Senate language is a restatement of the protections and guarantees that have always been there."

On his Senate website, Wicker made clear his amendment was prompted by a decision by DOD in September to allow military chaplains to conduct marriage ceremonies for same-sex couples, in accordance with the relevant state law.

His co-sponsors, all Republicans, included James Inhofe of Oklahoma, Jeff Sessions of Alabama, Rand Paul of Kentucky and Pat Roberts of Kansas.

Wicker introduced the amendment Nov. 16. On Nov. 30, Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., chairman of

the Senate Armed Services Committee, said that he and Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz.—the ranking Republican on the committee—"cleared" that amendment and more than 30 others. The Senate then agreed to the amendments through unanimous consent, without debate.

A Senate-House conference committee must now agree upon one version of the defense-authorization bill, and the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) would like to see all the same-sex marriage language left out.

"We want to see the NDAA signed into law without any language that would harm LGBT servicemembers or restrict the religious liberties of chaplains," said Michael Cole-Schwartz, HRC's director of communications. "We'll be working with our allies on the conference committee toward that outcome."

The most intense controversy facing that conference committee appears to be a dispute over whether U.S. citizens suspected of supporting terrorist activities can be tried in military tribunals instead of criminal courts.

The Senate bill authorizes the Defense Department to spend \$662 billion in fiscal 2012. The House version calls for \$690 billion.

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Gutierrez denounces Puerto Rico move against civil rights

Press reports from Puerto Rico indicate the ruling party there is attempting to amend the penal code in the legislature to make it harder to charge criminals with hate crimes when crimes are committed against people because of their gender, ethnicity, or sexual orientation.

Senate bill (Proyecto del Senado) 2021 would specifically remove sexual orientation, sexual identity, gender and national origin as protected classes under the hate crimes section of Puerto Rico penal law. U.S. Rep. Luis V. Gutierrez, D-Ill., an outspoken critic of what he has called a civil and human-rights crisis in Puerto Rico issued the following statement:

"To say this is appalling is an understatement. Excluding more people from protections under the law is exactly the wrong thing to do, especially right now. This year, violence has been on the upswing in Puerto Rico, particularly crimes—including scores of murders—against women, against members of the LGBT community and against immigrants, especially those from the Dominican Republic. The ruling party is aggressively rebuking these victims.

"At the same time, the Puerto Rico police department is under a dark and embarrassing cloud for systematically violating people's constitutionally protected civil and human rights, as an extensive Department of Justice probe found. The legislation under consideration condones and excuses the violence and sends the signal that violating someone's civil and human rights is not a crime that should be treated with the utmost seriousness.

"The party in power in Puerto Rico has attacked labor unions, environmentalists, journalists, the Bar Association, students, the Archbishop of San Juan and now they seem ready to add gender, sexual orientation and ethnic groups to the list of targeted individuals who get fewer rights and protections under Puerto Rican law. The attacks by the current government of Puerto Rico against the rights of its own people appear to be limitless, both in scope and audacity."

Report: Latino/a transgender people face the most bias

Latino and Latina transgender and gender non-conforming people face some of the highest levels of discrimination of all transgender people according to a new analysis, Injustice at Every Turn: A Look at Latino/a Respondents in the National Transgender Discrimination Survey.

This report is a supplement to the groundbreaking national study, Injustice at Every Turn: A Report of the National Transgender Discrimination Survey. That survey was pub-

lished in February, revealing widespread discrimination experienced by transgender and gender non-conforming people across the board.

Among the key findings from the report are that:

—Latino/a transgender people had a very high unemployment rate at 20 percent, higher than the overall transgender sample (14 percent); and

—Forty-seven percent of Latino/a respondents reported having attempted suicide.

The report can be downloaded at <http://www.transequity.org>.

ARMY from cover

Bukiewicz was confident that the "The Salvation Army Metropolitan Division for Chicago has not engaged in lobbying" against equal rights for LGBT individuals and went on to allege that the "The Salvation Army has never used its influence to lobby against any individual or group of people." However, in



Chicago Lt. Col. Ralph Bukiewicz (left) and bell-ringer Brian Terrell. Photo courtesy of the Salvation Army

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

Bil Browning—editor of the Bilerico Project, a national LGBT blog—claimed in his Nov. 21, 2011 post, "Why You Shouldn't Donate to the Salvation Army Bell Ringers," that in addition to New York and California lobbying efforts, the Salvation Army has targeted the social policies of both New Zealand and Great Britain. Browning also claimed that when he and his former partner were homeless and in need of assistance, the Salvation Army would not provide them any help unless they broke up. Browning said, "We slept on the street instead and declined to break up, as they demanded."

According to Bukiewicz, the kind of discrimination claimed by Browning just does

not happen. He said that turning away individuals in need because they were LGBT "would be in direct opposition to our core beliefs and policy" and that "an individual's sexual preference has no bearing on our willingness or ability to provide service, and we will never ask about sexual orientation before anyone is welcomed to participate in our programs or benefit from our services." Bukiewicz said, "The Salvation Army has a clear and firm commitment to non-discrimination and to the equality of all people. The Salvation Army has been concerned from its inception with the spiritual and social needs of all people, recognizing that all are equal in intrinsic value."

Browning would disagree with Bukiewicz, having stated, "The Salvation Army has a history of active discrimination against gays and lesbians. While you might think you're helping the hungry and homeless by dropping a few dollars in the bright red buckets, not everyone can share in the donations."

Chicago history with the Salvation Army

During the 1970s and 1980s, the now-defunct Chicago Knights Motorcycle Club held fundraising events for the annual Toys for Tots campaign.

In 1982, the benefit raised \$22,000 for various charities, including the Salvation Army. The Knights received media coverage that year after the Salvation Army refused its \$1,400 donation because of the nature of the gay club. The Salvation Army claimed the decision was in "harmony with our philosophy," and the anti-gay nature of the organization has been under scrutiny ever since.

Gay activist Harley McMillen spoke about the Knights to Sukie de la Croix for his "Chicago Whispers" column in the Sept. 27, 2000, issue of Windy City Times: "We did try to give money to the Salvation Army and they refused it because of who we were. We got quite a bit of publicity over that. Even Mike Royko wrote about it in one of his [Chicago Sun-Times] columns, in terms of 'why wouldn't they take the money, and what about the people that need help?' The general public opinion was very much in our favor. Since then I have never given the Salvation Army a dollar, but that's just my personal thing."

In making the donation, the Knights did inquire about the financial situation of the Salvation Army's youth program, and GayLife, in a Sept. 3, 1982, editorial, wondered if that request for information was what was really behind the refusal of funds.

de la Croix also reported that Salvation Army Lieutenant Col. Earl A. Polsley, the day after he returned the check, backed down and told the Knights he had made a mistake and wanted to correct it. The group demanded an apology. None was given, so the Knights issued a press release Aug. 27. Mike Royko's column appeared in the Sun-Times Sept. 1, 1982, de la Croix wrote.

Part of this article is excerpted from the new book, Jim Flint: The Boy From Peoria, by Tracy Baim and Owen Keehnen.

Illinois Dept. of Revenue announces same-sex filings

BY KATE SOSIN

Just six months after the Illinois Department of Revenue (IDR) announced that it would not allow civil union couples to file taxes jointly, the agency has reversed the decision and updated its system to include same-sex civil-union partners.

The directive came directly from Gov. Pat Quinn, said Sue Hofer, a spokesperson for the IDR.

"The governor said that being in a civil union in Illinois is the equivalent of being married in Illinois, and married people file jointly," Hofer said.

Civil-union partners will now be allowed to file jointly on their state returns. However, because of the Defense of Marriage Act, they will still be required to file separately at the federal level. That requirement meant some fancy footwork for officials trying to make it possible for same-sex couples to file jointly, Hofer said.

Because Illinois tax law requires spouses who file taxes separately at the federal level to also file separately with the state, civil-union couples who want to file jointly in Illinois will have to fill out their federal tax forms twice. The first form, which will be used for federal tax purposes, will list a spouse as an individual. The second will be used as a kind of mock form, where both partners are listed. The two forms allow spouses to legally file jointly, Hofer said.

"There is a limited amount we can do with the federal law," Hofer said. "I don't think this is the last of this."

LGBT activists have hailed the news a leap forward in same-sex partner recognition.

Bernard Cherkasov, Equality Illinois CEO, commended Gov. Quinn and IDR Director Brian Hamer. "We are grateful to them and their respective staffs for their commitment to equal treatment for same-sex couples," he said in a Nov. 29 statement.

Several groups, including Equality Illinois, consulted with IDR on the policy changes, said Hofer.

According to Equality Illinois, Illinois is the tenth state, along with Washington D.C. to allow same-sex partners to file taxes jointly.



Bernard Cherkasov. Photo courtesy of Danny Maurice

Joint filings will allow civil-union couples to claim the same deductions and take advantages of any tax benefits granted to married partners. However, the win might be more symbolic that pragmatic for most.

"This is a question of fairness and equity more than it is a question of dollars and cents," said Hofer.

Anthony Martinez, executive director of The Civil Rights Agenda, might agree. Martinez said that the news raises questions about strategy for LGBT activists.

"Although this is a positive step forward for couples in a civil union, I am concerned this will hinder our movement towards equal relationship recognition for same-gender couples in Illinois," he said. "I had hoped that we could work on a parallel path, working to repeal DOMA and working to pass an equal marriage law in Illinois, but I am concerned that this step will further diminish our arguments for marriage at the state level."



Gabriel Carrasquillo at the press conference. Photo by Jamie Anne Royce

Union calls for Hyatt boycott

BY JAMIE ANNE ROYCE

At a press conference Nov. 30, hospital-ity union UNITE HERE Local 1 claimed Hyatt threatened to cut off healthcare benefits unless workers abandon a boycott of the hotel chain, seeing Feb. 29, 2012, as a final deadline for an agreement.

UNITE HERE Local 1 called for a boycott of the hotel chain after a year of failed negotiations. Union leaders criticized International Mr. Leather (IML) this summer for hosting its annual gathering at the Hyatt Regency despite the boycott.

Healthcare benefits for 1,500 Chicago-area Hyatt hotel workers could expire if a labor agreement is not reached.

Hotel employees have been working for two years without a union contract, after previous negotiations failed. Hyatt continued to offer employees healthcare benefits through the two-year negotiation period, extending these benefits to Feb. 29, in the hopes of reaching an agreement before that date.

Currently, employees working at least one hour per month are eligible for healthcare benefits. Single employees pay no premiums; families pay a premium of \$30 per month. Hyatt has yet to make a decision about extending healthcare benefits past Feb. 29 if no contract is signed.

"The health of our families should not be used as leverage in these negotiations," said Marek Rozpadek, a bellman at the Hyatt Regency Chicago, at the press conference.

Organizers of the boycott stressed the importance of employee health over corporate profits, and the potential burden of uninsured workers on public health programs.

"They are holding my health hostage," said Gabriel Carrasquillo, a server at the Park Hyatt who is HIV-positive.

Carrasquillo's viral load is currently unde-

tectable and his T-cell count is in the normal range; all indicators show that his HIV is managed well. He credits his good health to the preventative care and daily medication he receives through his healthcare benefits.

"Just my HIV medication is well over a \$1,000 per month," said Carrasquillo. "[If I lost my benefits] that's at least \$12,000 to \$15,000 out of my income. I still have to pay my rent. I have to feed myself."

Hyatt is currently offering employees a 12-percent wage increase and 26-percent benefits increase over four years, as well as continuing to pay 100 percent of healthcare premiums. The next contract negotiation deadline is Dec. 22.

"We are very hopeful, as we are every time we go into negotiations, of getting a contract done," said Patrick Donnelly, general manager at Hyatt Regency Chicago. "We're very proud of the deal we have on the table in these trying economic times, and the only thing standing between our employees and the deal is the union."

Union representatives claim Hyatt is unwilling to budge on crucial demands to curb subcontracting and ease working conditions for housekeepers—demands that Hilton and other area hotel chains have agreed to.

Hyatt contends it is willing to agree to a contract identical to union agreements with other area hotel chains, including Hilton, but does not want to expand these contracts to markets outside of Chicago.

Regarding the situation with IML, the organization agreed to host the event at the Hyatt five years prior, well before the boycott. The group was contractually obligated to pay for the rooms, totaling over \$900,000.

"We can't break that contract. It would bankrupt IML," Chuck Renslow, executive producer of IML, told Windy City Times.

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Defendants in Hauff hate-crime trial found not guilty

BY KATE SOSIN

Three men accused of beating an openly gay man Daniel Hauff on a northbound Red Line El train while yelling anti-gay slurs have been found not guilty.

Judge Diane Cannon ruled Nov. 30 that Sean Little, Kevin McAndrew and Benjamin Eder were not guilty on charges of aggravated battery and felony hate crime.

The case stems from a January 2010 altercation, during which Hauff claimed he was attacked by the three for interrupting anti-gay bullying. Hauff testified that the three turned their attention to him, kicking and punching him while they called him "faggot" and "stupid faggot." Hauff said that he smeared his blood on the defendants and told them he was HIV-positive in order to ward off the attack. The incident made national headlines.

However, Hauff's media blitz in the days that followed the alleged attack came to undo his credibility, said Cannon.

"The victim is not to be believed," she told the court. "It was his media campaign and his agenda that struck fear in the community."

Defense attorneys argued that Hauff recalled details when it was convenient for his case but came up short of answers when cross-examined about issues damaging to his story. Prosecutors said that Hauff responded to questions with "I don't know" approximately 150 times.

Furthermore, the defense said, testimonies from Hauff and the witness supporting his case, were glaringly inconsistent.

Christopher Davin, the witness who testified to seeing the fight and helping Hauff on the platform afterward, said the defendants kicked Hauff before he pushed the emergency button and the train operator came. Hauff testified, however, that the train operator had been called



The January 2010 fight scene involving Daniel Hauff. Photo by Chris Davin

before the men kicked him and that she abandoned him in the car when he thought she was leaving to call police.

Adding to doubt, Davin testified that Hauff collapsed onto him after the beating, smearing blood on his white hoodie. Hauff told the court that he not fallen into Davin, and that he did not know how his blood got on Davin's clothing. "These two witnesses contradict each other, and their stories internally are just silly," said defense attorney Neil Levine.

Defense attorneys said that it was Hauff who started the altercation, injecting himself into a conversation and acting on the false belief that

the defendants were bullying someone. They said that Hauff pushed the men and then wiped his blood on them as a threat, at which point Benjamin Eder punched him.

The punch was captured on Davin's cell phone camera and re-published by several media outlets, including Windy City Times.

Prosecutors said that the defendants' story was an attempt to explain away the damning image of Eder punching Hauff on the train platform. Regardless of what Hauff remembers, said state's attorney Dan Kirk, none of his actions warranted the beating that landed him in the hospital that night.

"So forgive Mr. Hauff that he is a little bit rattled," Kirk said. "Who wouldn't be a little bit rattled?"

Kirk said that Hauff had been grilled for an unprecedented seven hours on the stand, and that it was unreasonable to expect the victim of a hate crime to remember every detail about the incident. While Kirk admitted there were inconsistencies in details between witnesses, he said that Davin and Hauff were both clear on the major points.

Finally, he said, the fact that Eder punched Hauff's already bloody face proved that Eder was not reacting to Hauff's alleged threat to infect him with HIV, but was instead continuing a fight the defendants started.

"If someone is saying 'I'm HIV-positive,' are you going to run up to them and touch the blood?" Kirk asked.

Hauff, who was absent for the conclusion of the trial, was reached by phone two days later in his first media interview since the verdict. Hauff said that despite the outcome, he had no regrets.

"I told the truth the entire time," he said. "I'm confident in what I said."

Hauff said that his media interviews following the incident did not undermine his case. Rather, he said, the interviews are what led to the prosecution of the case as a hate crime. Hauff said he ran into red tape because police initially refused to note that a possible hate crime had occurred.

"The only people that stood up for the gay people in a meaningful way were the gay people that were there," Hauff said, noting that Davin and a responding officer from the incident who pushed for his case to be investigated as a hate crime were also gay.

Hauff called the experience of testifying in front of his alleged attackers "awful" and "heart-breaking."

Davin also spoke with Windy City Times about the case. Davin said he blamed the state's attorneys for the verdict, alleging that prosecutors

failed to prepare him to testify.

"That case was a joke," Davin said. "They had a picture of a guy being hit and the guys went innocent."

Kirk responded to Davin's assertions and said he would not get into an argument with Davin over the reasons for the outcome of the case.

"We brought these charges in good faith and while we are disappointed with the outcome," Kirk said in a statement to Windy City Times.

In the end, Cannon ruled that Hauff's testimony, coupled with his media appearances, undermined the veracity of his story.

"He is clear on what he wants to be clear on, and that affects his credibility," she said.

Upon hearing the verdict, the families of Eder, Little and McAndrew broke into cheers and tears of joy.

However, Cannon told the courtroom to clear out quietly and without celebration.

"There are no winners in this case," she said.

Cell Block holding holiday coat drive

BY ROSS FORMAN

For the 12th consecutive year, Cell Block, 3702 N. Halsted St., is sponsoring a winter coat drive, run by longtime bartender Mark Bowden.

All men's items will be donated to the HIV-positive clients of GroceryLand, the food-providing arm of Vital Bridges Center on Chronic Care, while women and children's items will be given to the Cornerstone Community Center in Uptown.

"I had no idea when I started this coat drive in 1999 that it would have grown to be as big as it is," Bowden said. "It just started out [as] a one-time bar event that lasted from Thanksgiving until Christmas, and I think we got 20 [or] 25 coats that first year."

Bowden said his goal for 2011 is 350 coats.

"The reason [the coat drive] has grown, and I have become so passionate about it, is because the recipients are so unbelievably grateful for something that most of us take for granted," Bowden said.

Donations may be dropped off at Cell Block or Cheetah Gym (Andersonville and Edgewater locations). Also, Bowden said, people can call the bar and he will arrange to pick up coats.



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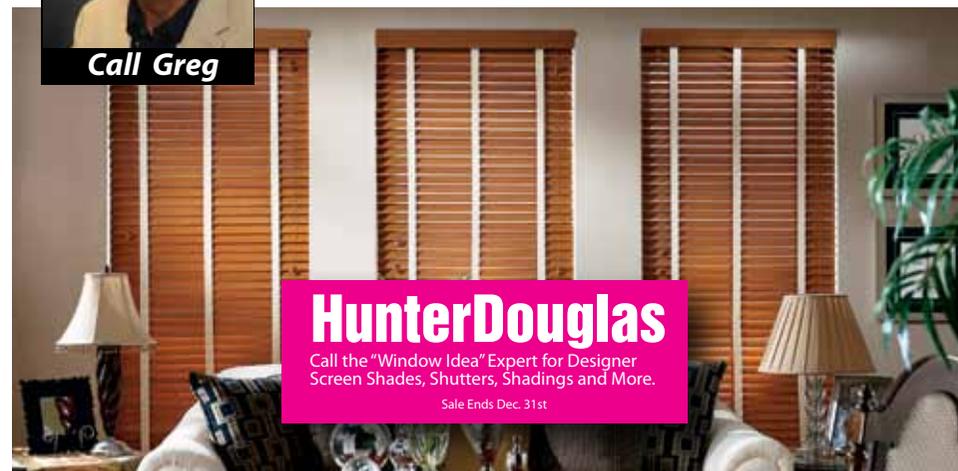
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Lakeview church opposes Pride Parade changes

BY KATE SOSIN

A new start time and route to Chicago's annual Pride Parade may have been hailed by some as a necessary safety measure, but for one Lakeview Catholic church, the changes have become a serious sticking point.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, 708 W. Belmont Ave., is worried that the early start time and new route will make it difficult for parishioners to get to church that day. The church has launched a petition and phone campaign to 44th Ward Ald. Tom Tunney on the matter.

"The Sunday morning for us is sacred," Father Thomas Srenn of Mount Carmel told Windy City Times.

Parade officials announced that the 2012 Pride Parade would begin at 10 a.m., two hours earlier than its usual noon start time. The change in time was made in an effort to curb public drinking at the event. The route was also reworked to stretch the parade and relieve parts of the neighborhood that suffered from dangerously large crowds in 2011.

Max Bever, a spokesperson from Tunney's office, said that his office is working on a resolution with the church. His office has received "a couple dozen" calls on the matter, he said.

"The route change and the time change certainly weren't meant to cause any inconvenience for any religious institutions," Bever said.

Srenn said that Our Lady of Mount Carmel is as diverse as the heavily LGBT neighborhood around it, and that his concerns have nothing to do with the content of the parade itself. In addition, Our Lady of Mount Carmel hosts Archdiocesan Gay and Lesbian Outreach.

However, Gregory Hauser, a church member

of 18 years, questioned if Srenn would react similarly to a non-LGBT group and said that social justice could not always be convenient. He voiced his concerns in a letter to Tunney.

"I would suggest to Fr. Srenn and my fellow parishioners that this is in fact, a teachable moment," Hauser wrote. "Questions from the pulpit that might stimulate meaningful reflection include: Why was the Pride Parade created in the first place? What were the conditions in society that precipitated this event?"

Srenn said that contrary to rumors, the church is not protesting the Pride Parade. Rather he said, they're aiming to get organizers to reconsider the start time, which conflicts with morning masses. At very least, he hopes that organizers might find a solution for 2013, he said.

"We've all existed in this neighborhood together forever," Srenn said. "We'll cooperate with the reality."

Presidential candidate backs same-sex marriage

Former New Mexico governor and current presidential candidate Gary Johnson announced that he supports same-sex marriage, according to Advocate.com. The announcement came during an online town hall organized by LGBT conservative group GOProud.

Previously, Johnson had supported civil unions; however, he said his support of marriage equality was based on "a great deal of deliberation, discussion with the gay community, and a conclusion that government has no business choosing who should be allowed the benefits of

marriage and who should not," according to a press release on his website.

Johnson also said, "As a believer in individual freedom and keeping government out of personal lives, I simply cannot find a legitimate justification for federal laws, such as the Defense of Marriage Act, which 'define' marriage. That definition should be left to religions and individuals—not government."

PASSAGES

Jami Bantry

BY KATE SOSIN

Jami Bantry, a transgender musician and volunteer at the Center on Halsted, passed away Dec. 2 after a long battle with lymphoma. She was 65.

Bantry was well-known for her work in Chicago's transgender community.

Four years ago, she founded the center's monthly "T Out Mic" event, a transgender open-mic night that brought new visibility to developing transgender musicians and writers in Chicago. There, many transgender musicians who were testing out new identities and sometimes new voices after transition, found a supportive space.

Many of those acts later appeared at Scott Free's Homolatte, the bi-weekly show that features LGBT artists and musicians at Big Chick's bar in Uptown.

"She definitely was a big part of me and my trans programming at Homolatte," said Free, who provided sound equipment to the T Out Mic events.

Bantry was an avid supporter of local music and fan of transgender acts Coyote Grace and Namoli Brennet as well as more mainstream acts like the Beatles.

Corrections

In the Nov. 30 issue, the cover article should have read that U.S. Rep. Barney Frank is retiring, not resigning.

Also, in last week's issue, the wrong website for a gift-guide product was listed. The website for TANSXL is <http://www.tansxl.com>.

Windy City Times regrets the errors.

Bantry volunteered in the center's computer lab when her health allowed.

Before retiring a few years ago, she had made her living as a successful architect in the city. She was also an Army veteran, a mother of three and a grandmother of four.

Those who remember Bantry recalled her upbeat nature and enthusiasm.

"She was very very active," said June LaTrobe, Bantry's best friend of 10 years. "She was quiet but made this really meaningful impression."

Bantry struggled with health problems for years. In recent weeks, her health had started to decline, limiting her social activities. Shortly after, she got word of the death of her friend Lois Bates, transgender health manager at Howard Brown Health Center. The news hit Bantry hard.

Still, her final comments to friends remained positive.

Bantry kept an email list of friends to whom she sent messages. Every message, without fail, ended with what became her signature line. She told readers to "take care, please be and always stay, safe and well."

Center on Halsted is hosting a community gathering to remember Bantry Saturday, Dec. 10, at 4 p.m.

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The **one** for me

Patient model. Pill shown is not actual size.

INDICATION

COMPLERA® (emtricitabine 200 mg/rilpivirine 25 mg/tenofovir disoproxil fumarate 300 mg) is a prescription HIV medicine that contains 3 medicines, EMTRIVA® (emtricitabine), EDURANT™ (rilpivirine), and VIREAD® (tenofovir disoproxil fumarate) combined in one pill. COMPLERA is used as a complete single-tablet regimen to treat HIV-1 infection in adults (age 18 and older) who have never taken HIV medicines before.

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.**

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

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.

Do not take COMPLERA if you are taking the following medicines:

- other HIV medicines (COMPLERA provides a complete treatment for HIV infection.)
- 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)
- 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:

- 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®)

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.

New COMPLERA

A complete HIV treatment in only 1 pill a day.

Ask your healthcare provider if it's the **one** for you.

Before taking 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
- are breastfeeding; **women with HIV should not breast-feed** because they can pass HIV through their milk to the baby

Contact your healthcare provider right away if you experience any of the following serious or common side effects:

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:

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West and South Side AIDS groups mark World AIDS Day

BY ERICA DEMAREST

Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn joined dozens of health-care providers, elected officials and community organizers Dec. 1 in the Ruth Rothstein CORE Center to commemorate World AIDS Day.

"We want to make sure we remember all of those who died of this dread illness and all of those who are combatting it today," Quinn said. "We also want to commit ourselves to preventing it from afflicting others."

Hosted by the Westside HIV/AIDS Regional Planning Council (WHARP) and the Southside HIV/AIDS Resource Providers (SHARP), the 2-hour event began with a memorial program, which included decorating a red ribbon tree, and closed with a rundown of the state's most recent HIV/AIDS-related progress.

Dozens of Chicago's leading AIDS activists stood shoulder-to-shoulder with CORE Center patients as Quinn issued a proclamation declaring Dec. 1, 2011 World AIDS Day in Illinois. He then helped announce the 2011 Quality of Life recipients.

Introduced to the Illinois legislature by state Sen. Jacqueline Collins (D-16), who emceed the event, the statewide lottery program raises money for HIV education with red ribbon scratch-off tickets. All proceeds benefit HIV organizations working with at-risk groups. To date, the program has raised \$3 million.

"It is my belief—barring a cure for HIV and AIDS—education remains our most powerful weapon to combat this pandemic," Collins said. Fourteen groups with statewide reach were selected to receive the 2011 Quality of Life proceeds. These included: the Chicago Black Gay Men's Caucus, Project VIDA, the AIDS Legal Council, Asian Human Services, the Cook County Department of Health and Hospitals, Brothers Health Collective and the Phoenix Center.

WHARP Chair Beverley Walker-Donley urged the groups to continue their outreach efforts.

"We have to make sure we are continuing to

educate people in the community because there are a lot of people we just don't know," she said. "They are clueless. They go out of their house, they go to work or school, and if it really doesn't impact them directly, they go back home and that's it."

Illinois has the 7th highest number of AIDS cases in the nation, according to the Illinois Department of Public Health. And of those diagnosed, half are African-American.

Much of Thursday's event focused on how best to target at-risk groups and stem new infections.

"We have for the first time a national strategy that provides guidance and leadership to realize the vision of an AIDS-free generation," CORE Center Executive Director Kathi Braswell said. "Yet in spite of these successes, many persons living with HIV are not in care."

Recent studies have shown that regular use of antiretroviral medications can reduce the risk of HIV transmission by as much as 96.3 percent. Stigma, fear and lack of healthcare access often prevent those who are HIV-positive from taking HIV tests or accessing treatment.

Braswell welcomed guests to pose for photos that will be uploaded to the White House's website in honor of World AIDS Day. Such visibility is an important step toward abating stigma, she said.

Dr. Bechara Choucair, commissioner of the Chicago Dept. of Public Health, addressed transmission reduction by highlighting the Chicago Community Condom Project. On Dec. 1, city employees handed out 10,000 free condoms at train stations and other public places. The project's goal is to distribute an additional 10 million in 2012.

The city of Chicago's most recent surveillance report suggests there are 20,391 people living with HIV in the city, Choucair said. He estimates that an additional 5,000 people are HIV-positive but unaware of their statuses.

CORE Center Chief Operating Officer Robert

Weinstein advocated increased HIV testing and welcomed anyone interested to access free, confidential testing at the CORE Center, 2020 W. Harrison St. No appointment is necessary.

"Universal access to HIV and AIDS treatment, prevention and care is a fundamental human right," Gov. Quinn said. "We want to make sure that everybody is in, and nobody is left out when it comes to getting the care they need."

AIDS Foundation of Chicago President/CEO David Ernesto Munar closed the event with personal reflection.

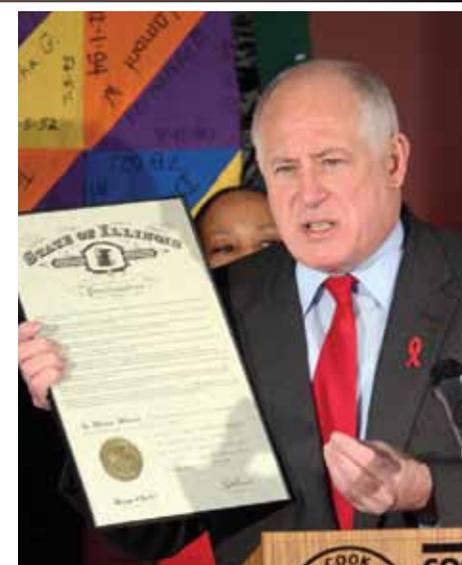
"I've commemorated many World AIDS Days," Munar said, "and they haven't always been a time to be happy. They've been a time for me to remember those I've lost ... [and] to remember Aug. 16, 1994, when I received my own diagnosis, and how hard that day was—not knowing if there was going to be effective treatment, if there was going to be a future."

"This year I feel kind of hopeful," Munar continued. "We are gathered here with our leadership in the Senate, in the House, with our governor, our county leaders ... The front line in the fight against AIDS starts here. ... We have all the tools at our disposal, and we as a society have to make the decisions to invest in education and testing."

Quinn urged those in the room to continue fighting even as budget cuts and legislative roadblocks make progress more difficult.

"The most powerful movements don't come from the top-down," Quinn said. "They bubble up from the grassroots. That's what the civil-rights movement was about, and that's what we're all about."

Notable attendees included: State Rep. Camille Lilly (D-78); Chris Brown, assistant commissioner of the Chicago Department of Public Health's STI/HIV Division; Dr. Mildred Williamson, Illinois Department of Public Health; AIDS Foundation of Chicago Director of Federal Affairs Keith Green; and Illinois Lottery Superintendent Michael Jones.



Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn. Photos by Erica Demarest



WHARP Chair Beverley Walker-Donley.



AIDS Foundation of Chicago President/CEO David Ernesto Munar.



Attendees attach red ribbons to the memorial tree.



State Sen. Jackie Collins.

Art Institute hosts AIDS events

BY JAMIE ANNE ROYCE

The Art Institute of Chicago observed World AIDS Day by celebrating the work of Felix Gonzalez-Torres, a conceptual artist and activist who died of complications from AIDS.

Gonzalez-Torres was a leader in the social activist arts movement of the 1990s, working with issues of identity and human rights. Many of his pieces are inspired by his experience as an HIV-positive gay man who lost his partner to AIDS.



Kate Kelley, special projects lecturer at AIC, lead a gallery talk on World AIDS Day about by Felix Gonzalez-Torres's work. Photo by Jamie Anne Royce

The installation juxtaposes the complications of everyday life against the simplicity of ordinary materials, such as strings of lights, candy, paper stacks, beaded curtains and text-based portraiture. Gonzalez-Torres welcomed viewers to participate in his art—blurring public and private—by eating pieces of the candy, taking pieces of paper off the stacks and walking through the beaded curtains.

"Especially being HIV-positive, having lost a partner and being right in the middle of this time period where HIV is receiving such dis-

crimination and unfair treatment, for him to be a publicly gay man about a very private thing, your sexuality ... is what makes these blurred lines between public and private such a big deal to him," said Kate Kelley, special projects lecturer at AIC who lead a gallery talk on World AIDS Day about Gonzalez-Torres's work.

Through a partnership with Visual AIDS, an arts organization committed to HIV prevention, AIC also screened *Untitled*, a film by Gonzalez-Torres's protégé Jim Hodges and film artists Encke King and Carlos Marques de Cruz. The film, created specifically for World AIDS Day, is a 60-minute non-linear montage of archival and pop footage recalling the passionate activism sparked by the early years of the AIDS crisis.

The Gonzalez-Torres installation will be displayed until Jan. 15.

The Art Institute joined 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.

Operation PUSH marks World AIDS Day



BY TRACY BAIM

Operation PUSH and Rev. Jesse Jackson marked World AIDS Day during PUSH's Dec. 3 community breakfast and live weekly telecast from their headquarters on Chicago's South Side.

The morning began with a breakfast discussion featuring Chicago Department of Public Health Assistant Commissioner for STD/HIV/AIDS Policy and Prevention Programs Chris Brown, Craig Johnson from Rush University Medical Center, and Rev. Doris Green from the AIDS Foundation of Chicago and Men and Women in Prison Ministries. Marc Loveless introduced the speakers.

Brown focused on prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS, and echoed the statements by national leaders, including President Obama, saying the goal is an "end to AIDS. For the first time in this fight, we're at the beginning of the end." There is still a long way to go, especially in getting access to treatment, Brown said, but there is a lot to be optimistic about.

Brown said there has been a 20 percent reduction in new cases annually in Chicago since 2000. There are approximately 25,000 people living with HIV in the city, but about 20% of those do not know it, Brown said, causing a problem when it comes to treatment and prevention. Brown added that the Chicago Department of Public Health is handing out free condoms all across the city. They want to hand out 10 million free condoms through their 170 partner agencies in the coming year.

"Care is prevention and prevention is care," Brown said.

Craig Johnson, who is also part of the Chicago Black Gay Men's Caucus, said he and his group are trying to make a difference in the lives of both HIV-positive and HIV-negative people. They are pushing for more HIV testing so people can get the proper treatment and prevention education they need.

"If you don't know your status, you can't do better," Johnson said. "Early testers have op-

tions. If you take the medications, you will not die of HIV. There may be other issues, but not just HIV." If you are not tested, he said, you can't start treatment early.

Johnson also focused some of his remarks on research, including through Rush University Medical Center. He said Blacks need to get into the clinical trials (despite the sometimes horrible history with some government trials on African-Americans) because drugs can react differently in different bodies.

Rev. Green spoke about HIV transmission in the prisons, and said society needs to get honest and make prevention (condoms) available to prisoners, many who will eventually be in society, or back and forth between prison and the community.

Dr. Carl Bell spoke briefly about a new book he co-authored, *Family and HIV/AIDS: Cultural and Contextual Issues in Prevention and Treatment*.

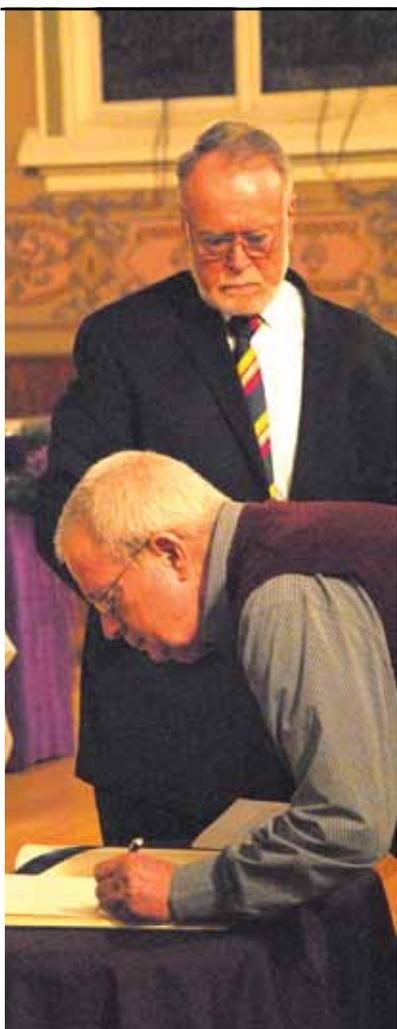
The group moved downstairs for the live taping of the weekly PUSH services. AIDS was addressed briefly by Rev. Jesse Jackson, who said he remembered visiting people with AIDS during his 1988 presidential campaign. He also mentioned that PUSH experienced the crisis early, when Rev. Willie Barrow's son Keith died of the disease in the mid 1980s.

Shown via tape was Dr. Eric Whitaker, executive vice president of the University of Chicago Hospitals, who works on community-based research. He said there is a need for more education and involvement of the faith community on HIV and AIDS issues. Whitaker said the focus should be on zero new infections, zero discrimination and zero deaths.

Operation PUSH is celebrating its 40th anniversary this month. Their Saturday morning sermons will have special guests all month, including Rev. Al Sharpton Dec. 17.

The weekly PUSH forum airs Saturdays at 10 a.m. PUSH is located at 930 E. 50th Street in Chicago. See <http://www.rainbowpush.org/>

Clockwise from top: Rev. Jesse Jackson, Craig Johnson, Rev. Doris Green, Dr. Carl C. Bell. Photos by Tracy Baim



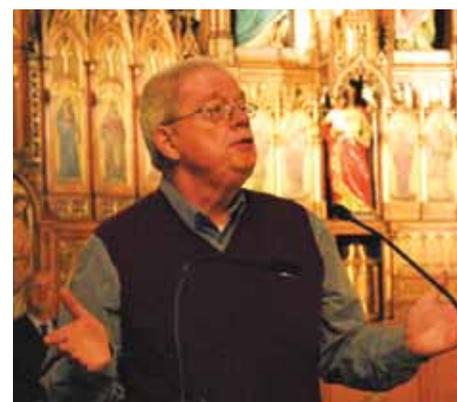
The prayer service. Photos by Hal Baim



From left: Chris Pett, president of Dignity; Joe Murray, coordinator of the Prayer Service representing St. Joseph/Immaculate Conception Parish, Bonaventure House, and AGLO; Marty Grochala (Dignity); and Mike Hogan.



Prayer service on World AIDS Day



"Prayer in the Face of HIV/AIDS" was the focus of the World AIDS Day Prayer Service at St. Joseph's Catholic Church, 1107 N. Orleans Dec. 1. The evening was sponsored by St. Joseph Parish, AGLO Chicago (Archdiocesan Gay & Lesbian Outreach) and Bonaventure House.

An offering was taken to benefit the ministry of Bonaventure House for people with HIV/AIDS. Alexian Brothers opened Bonaventure House in March 1989.

Those on the program at the service included Joe Murray (who coordinated the event), Larry Cubalchini, Mary Jameyfield, Marty Grochala, Mike Hogan, Werner Ochoa and Alan Szafreniac.

Vida/SIDA holds World AIDS Day vigil

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

Vida/SIDA held an Altars and Candlelight Vigil in the Humboldt Park neighborhood of Chicago the evening of World AIDS Day, Dec. 1. The gathering at La Casita de Don Pedro was attended by about 100 people who lit candles in honor of those who have died or are still living with HIV or AIDS.

The evening's events began with remarks by Jose Lopez, executive director of the Puerto Rican Cultural Center.

"We have gathered here because it is World AIDS Day," Lopez said. "Thirty years ago the world realized there was a problem and so far about 30 million people in the world have died of AIDS. It is one of the worst problems facing many countries around the world. In 1988 this community faced an incredible crisis informed by AIDS. In our community many people have



Inside La Casita de Don Pedro. Photo by Carrie Maxwell

been impacted and in the early years when someone died of AIDS people denied it, going so far as to close the casket during wakes, which is against the traditions of our community. When you close the casket the person who died loses their identity and connection to the people left behind.

"People in the community said that if you had AIDS you had to be gay. The problem with stigmatization was what we were facing, so in 1988 we created this project Vida/SIDA, which means Life/AIDS, with the idea to dignify those who are impacted by AIDS or who have died from AIDS. We began a process to address homophobia in our community and take ownership of this problem. Sp Vida/SIDA was created and to this day it continues to give service to the people of this community."

Lopez then introduced Juan Calderon, director of Vida/SIDA and long-time community member, who introduced Illinois State Rep. Maria "Toni" Berrios of the 39th district. Calderon announced the creation of the first Illinois statewide advisory council for the Latino population to address HIV/AIDS, other health issues and LGBT issues in the community, which Berrios is spearheading

in the Illinois House of Representatives.

"This year we commemorate people who have died or are living with HIV/AIDS in the community on the 30th anniversary of the discovery of the disease," said Calderon. "We dedicate our World AIDS Day to the memory of Ms. Ketty who was a pioneer in the transgender community and lived with AIDS for many years. The evening begins by honoring St. Lazarus before naming all the people who have passed away. Addressing and ending HIV/AIDS in the Latino community is a priority as we move forward."



Juan Calderon, Illinois Rep. Maria Berrios, Ruben Feliciano and Jose Lopez. Photo by Carrie Maxwell

Community activist Ruben Feliciano was introduced by Calderon. Feliciano thanked everyone for attending and said "at the end of the day we are all in this together as a community and we can contribute to helping out our neighborhood."

Berrios said she was invited to be at an event downtown but decided to come to the candlelight vigil instead so she could be with her community. "We have to get away from the negative stigma of HIV/AIDS and in Springfield everyone thinks this disease is a gay or Black issue, which is not true since Latinos have a high rate of infection as well," said Berrios. "We need to get the information out there ... when I go downstate to request those resources I need to be able to prove to them that my community needs their help."

Before everyone made their way down the street with their lighted candles to Clemente High School, they filed into the La Casita de Don Pedro building to pay homage to the altar of St. Lazarus. Then vigil attendees headed to Clemente High School, which hosted a community reception, dinner and presentation honoring World AIDS Day.

Vida/SIDA provides free confidential HIV/STD screenings along with education, information and resources to those at risk of or living with HIV/AIDS, as well as their loved ones. It is located in the Puerto Rican Cultural Center at 2703 W Division Chicago, IL 60622. See <http://prcc-chgo.org/vidasida/>.



Vigil attendees. Photo by Alejandro Luis Molina



Photos by Jamie Anne Royce

'Ball' event raises AIDS awareness

BY JAMIE ANNE ROYCE

University of Chicago Medical teamed up with Chicago Black Gay Men's Caucus to host a World AIDS Day ball Dec. 2.

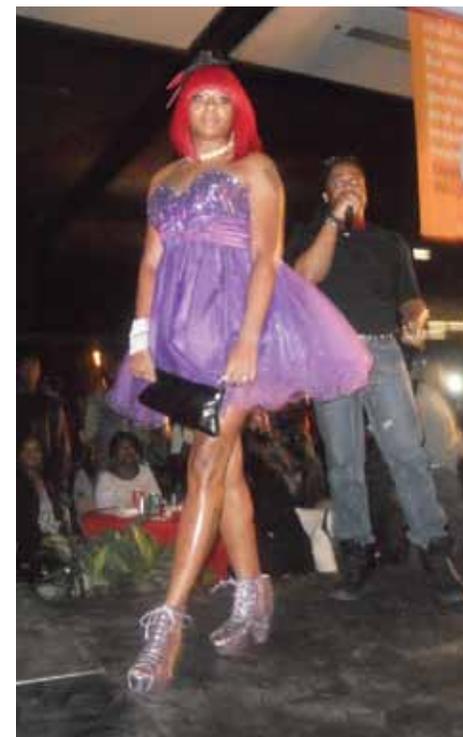
Balls are underground competitions in which different houses battle for prizes and trophies with a fusion of cat walking, dancing, voguing and drag. The ball houses are similar to families or fraternities, each one cheering on their members as they compete.

"This year we wanted to do something fun that wasn't preachy, wasn't a panel of experts, which is usually what happens," said Dr. John Schneider, assistant professor of medicine and epidemiology at the University of Chicago and organizer of the ball. "I work with a lot of youth who dance, and someone then suggested a ball." With this event, organizers aimed to engage young African American men who have sex with men living on the South Side. That population is the epicenter of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Chicago, with an infection rate of 44.4 percent, according to a survey conducted by Schneider.

"We wanted to raise awareness, letting the community know the University of Chicago Medical Center is there for them and Chicago Black Gay Men's Caucus is there for them," said Keith Green, director of federal affairs at AIDS Foundation of Chicago, CBGMC co-chair and organizer of the ball. "There are folks who care, and who want to acknowledge them in their element."

Houses competed in eight categories, each with a World AIDS Day motif, such as best performance in all red and best visual representation of the red AIDS ribbon. But the paramount theme of the night was preventing new infections and saving lives.

"In my lifetime, we're going to see the last South Side young gay man get infected [with HIV]," said Schneider.



Toniya Chanel competing for best visual representation of the AIDS ribbon (above).



Keith Green (director of federal affairs at AIDS Foundation of Chicago and Chicago Black Gay Men's Caucus co-chair), Matthew Richards (outreach program manager for pediatric infectious diseases at the University of Chicago Medical Center), and Dr. John Schneider (assistant professor of medicine and epidemiology at the University of Chicago) kicking off the event.

IN-CARE connects HIV+ men of color to treatment

BY ERICA DEMAREST

The AIDS Foundation of Chicago (AFC) held a press conference Nov. 11 to showcase the strides its IN-CARE program has made since launching a little over a year ago.

Funded through a 3-year AIDS United grant, IN-CARE works to connect HIV-positive men of color to counseling, treatment and peer-to-peer support. The goal is to work through cultural differences that block these men from accessing care.

"In Chicago, people of color are heavily impacted by HIV," said Román Buenrostro, AFC's director of special projects. "In fact, close to three out of every four infections are found in non-white African-Americans and Hispanics."

In 2009, Black people accounted for more than half of all new HIV infections in Chicago, according to the Chicago Department of Public Health.

Additionally, men who have sex with men still account for some of the highest transmission rates in the city.

Before launching IN-CARE—which stands for Identify, Navigate, Connect, Access, Retain and Evaluate—the AFC conducted a phone survey to identify trends among HIV-positive callers.

Of those interviewed, 31 percent said doctors prescribed too many medications; 33 percent said doctors placed too much trust in medication; and 16 percent said they believed medication does more harm than good. Furthermore, white and Hispanic callers were more than three times as likely than African-American callers to take medication as prescribed.

Recent data have proven that taking antiretroviral therapy medication on a regular basis reduces the likelihood of HIV transmission by 96.3 percent—that's greater than condom usage. As such, many healthcare providers believe early and consistent treatment is the key to stopping the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

"Clearly we have our work cut out for us,"



Alicia Bunton (L-R), Roman Buenrostro, Jacob Ramos, Juan Mercado, Sandra Daley and Mark Ishaug, gathered at an AIDS Foundation of Chicago (AFC) press event at their headquarters on Nov. 11, 2011. Photo by Frank Polich, courtesy of the AIDS Foundation of Chicago.

Buenrostro said. "If people really want to engage fully in the HIV care system, there's some attitudes [and stigma] that need to be addressed."

That's where IN-CARE comes in. The program identifies and reduces barriers that are preventing HIV-positive men of color from accessing care, such as poverty and fear of stigma. IN-CARE's key component is peer-to-peer counseling. Partner agencies such as the Test Positive Aware Network (TPAN) receive funding to hire peer specialists.

"[The peers] are helping clients navigate and access care through their personal stories," AFC President/CEO David Ernesto Munar said. "They act as buddies; they act as mentors; they act as role models. And they've been there. They've had the same challenges as their clients."

After several brief speeches from grant sponsors and AFC staffers, peer health navigator Jacob Ramos took to the podium to share his personal story. Ramos grew up in a broken home on Chicago's West Side. With little adult super-

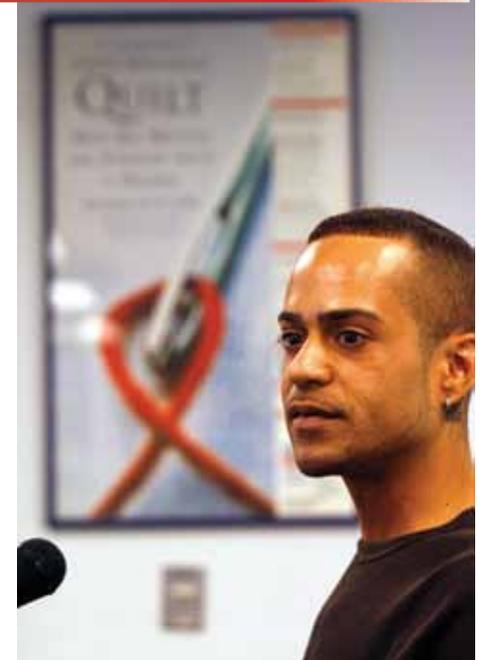
vision, he began experimenting with drugs and alcohol, and spent significant time in prison.

Before long, Ramos had tested positive for HIV—presumably as a result of frequent intravenous drug use. He would periodically receive medical care during prison tenures, but didn't have the resources to maintain treatment once released.

"It wasn't easy," Ramos said. "My way of dealing with it was going back to heroine, cocaine, women, booze—the whole nine. How can I go somewhere to get medication if I don't even have food to eat?"

About two years ago, Ramos decided he needed a change and sought up help at the CORE Center. He got connected with local care groups and eventually landed as position as a peer educator. He had hoped to work in drug counseling, but found his niche with HIV peer-to-peer programs.

"It helps me more than I help the people," Ramos said. "And I help them because I've been there, and I've walked in those shoes ... I'm



Juan Mercado, peer health navigator, shared his personal struggles and triumphs living with HIV at an AIDS Foundation of Chicago (AFC) press event at their headquarters on Nov. 11, 2011.

going on 23 years of being HIV-positive, and I thought I was going to die 23 years ago."

Ramos receives a stipend for his work; it's the first 'on the books' salary he's ever received.

"I got my very first income tax check in 2011," Ramos said, beaming. "I've never had an income tax check in my life!"

While statistical data is not yet available for the fledgling program, Munar said IN-CARE is doing exceptionally well; he hopes it will continue to find funding once the grant money runs out.

"We have to do a better job of making sure those individuals who are living with HIV receive diagnosis [and testing]," Munar said, "and then are immediately assisted in accessing medical care and other support services that they need."

The press conference was held at the AIDS Foundation of Chicago's Loop offices, 200 W. Jackson. Other speakers included: Mark Ishaug, president and CEO of AIDS United; Sandra Daley, director of HIV marketing for Bristol-Myers Squibb; and Juan Mercado, peer health advocate.

Vital Bridges holds holiday brunch

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

Local HIV/AIDS agency Vital Bridges Center on Chronic Care, a division of Heartland Health Outreach, held its 22nd annual holiday brunch, "Celebrate the Spirit," Dec. 4 at the Four Seasons Hotel.

About 300 attendees chatted with each other and browsed and bid on silent auction items, bought raffle tickets and looked over the live auction items before the program began.

This year's event was co-chaired by Dorey Carvalho and Bill Lasche who welcomed the attendees. Debbie Hinde, chief healthcare strategist for Vital Bridges Center on Chronic Care, thanked the co-chairs and sponsors before brunch was served.

Three luminaries were also thanked for their continued support: Illinois State Representatives Greg Harris, Kelly Cassidy and Harry Osterman.

Entertainment was provided by Eleventh Avenue for the seventh year in a row. Billy Shelton, Eleventh Avenue frontman, said "This is such a worthy cause and we are happy to help out in this way (by singing)."

Each year Vital Bridges gives out their Food for Life Award. This year's recipients were MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger and former

Vital Bridges CEO Ron Nunziato.

MAZON was given the award for providing grants to community organizations who respond to nutrition issues (Vital Bridges has been helped by MAZON for more than a decade) and for their advocacy work at all levels of government to increase resources and improve policies on nutrition. Accepting their award was Rabbi Michael Siegel.

Nunziato, a Vital Bridges volunteer for the past 14 years in a variety of capacities including as chairman of the board, accepted his award for the work he did to sustain services for Vital Bridges clients and his role as a key player during their merger with Heartland Health Outreach.

Following the awards presentation a video was shown highlighting the work that Vital Bridges does on a daily basis. It included testimonials from those who have received assistance from the organization.

Vital Bridges, which merged with Heartland Health Outreach on July 1, 2011 to become Vital Bridges Center on Chronic Care, provides food, housing and counseling services to men, women and children living with HIV/AIDS. Around 2,000 clients currently receive services from the organization.

See <http://www.vitalbridges.org/>.



From the Vital Bridges event. Photos by Kat Fitzgerald, mysticimagesphotography.com

HIV and criminal justice subject of legal panel

BY ERICA DEMAREST

In 2008, an HIV-positive man in Texas was sentenced to 35 years in prison for spitting at a police officer.

In 2009, an Iowa man with HIV received a 25-year sentence for failing to disclose his status to a sex partner.

And in 2010, an HIV-positive man in Michigan was charged with violating the state's bioterrorism law after biting a neighbor.

These were just three of the striking examples presented Nov. 9 at "When Sex is a Crime & Spit is a Dangerous Weapon: Defending Against HIV Criminal Laws," a panel discussion hosted by the Positive Justice Project.

"When people hear about these laws," said Scott Schoettes, HIV project director at Lambda Legal, "they kind of think of them as being from the bad old days when people didn't understand the risks of HIV transmission—the beginning of the epidemic when there was widespread panic. But the fact is, they're mistaken in that view. These prosecutions are happening now, and they're actually on the rise."

Presented as a precursor to the United States Conference on AIDS (USCA), the event drew about 40-50 guests who represented HIV/AIDS organizations from states as far-reaching as Oregon and South Carolina.

Schoettes kicked things off with a primer on HIV/AIDS laws in the United States; he highlighted states that had had recent prosecutions, and pointed out problematic aspects of the laws—some of which were surprising.

"Transmission is not required," Schoettes said. "People talk about these laws as if they are HIV transmission laws, as if they prosecute and punish people for transmitting the HIV virus. That's not anywhere in the statute; there doesn't have to be an actual transmission."

In each of the earlier examples, transmission never occurred. All across the U.S., Schoettes said, there are HIV-positive people living in prison for engaging in activities that never led to HIV transmission.

While laws vary from state to state—and some are more progressive than others—there is a fairly consistent disregard for medical facts in much of the legislation.

"There's absolutely no medical standard," said John Peller, vice president of policy at the AIDS Foundation of Chicago, "and there's no realization that spit or tears or anything else won't transmit HIV."

A longtime Springfield lobbyist, Peller discussed Illinois' criminal transmission law, which he described as "pretty bad."

If an HIV-positive individual in Illinois has "intimate contact" with someone without notifying that person of his or her status, he or she can be prosecuted for criminal transmission. "Intimate contact" loosely translates to exposing one person's body to another person's bodily fluids—even those that don't transmit HIV.



Left to right: John Peller, Vice President of Policy at the AIDS Foundation of Chicago; Scott Schoettes, HIV Project Director at the Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund; Evany Turk, Illinois Alliance for AIDS Policy, University of Illinois Comer Children's Hospital; Owen Daniel-McCarter, Transformative Justice Law Project; Lisa Fager Bediako, Act Against AIDS Leadership Initiative, Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, Inc.; Brook Kelly, Human Rights Attorney at the U.S. Positive Women's Network. Photos by Erica Demarest.

"It is one of the [laws] that's really, really archaic," Peller said.

For many of those sentenced, conditions in prison pose additional healthcare risks, said attorney Owen Daniel-McCarter, who founded the Transformative Justice Law Project.

Daniel-McCarter shared a story about one of his HIV-positive clients who's currently awaiting sentencing for a series of charges she believes were brought on by homophobia and stereotypes; the client is a transgender woman.

"[We have to] think about what the actual human impact of these laws are," Daniel-McCarter said. "[My client] is waiting in Cook County jail. She's getting infrequent access to her meds, and she's freaked out because she knows she could develop resistance. She knows that infrequent access could have a lifelong effect for her, and it effectively could shorten her lifespan."

The client, who wished not to be named, has already developed resistance to one of her medications since being sentenced, Daniel-McCarter said. At one point, she went three months without any medication.

Poor planning policies and subpar medical care make it difficult for many HIV-positive inmates to access lifesaving medication, Daniel-McCarter said. And the process by which inmates can receive meds often entails unwillingly disclosing their HIV statuses to the general prison population.

"What happens to people in jail who can't post bond really effects what happens in their criminal case," Daniel-McCarter said. Though his client maintains the charges against her are bogus, "she was eager to take a plea just to get out—just so she could get back on her meds in a steady way where she knew when to get them, who was going to prescribe them, and when to take them."

Daniel-McCarter said the rush to agree to harmful deals is common among those with HIV. And the sentences doled out to people found guilty of HIV 'transmission' are often disproportionately severe.

"If you really wanted to hurt someone in a lot of states, you'd be better off going out and running them over with your car," Schoettes said, as he pointed out that many states' sentences for manslaughter are less severe than those for HIV transmission. "There's just no proportionality to the way we're handling the laws and this conduct. If there is some conduct that should be regulated here, are we doing it in the appropriate manner? Is the criminal law the way to do it?"

While some in the room advocated on behalf of HIV protection standards (e.g. for women who contract HIV from male partners returning from prison), Schoettes argued the current batch of HIV transmission laws are counterproductive.

"Regardless of whether laws are being enforced and states are going through with prosecutions, they still send the same horrible message," he said. "[You send a message] that these people are criminals. The laws don't actually promote public health, and they further stigma."

Illinois Alliance for AIDS Policy staffer Evany Turk and human-rights attorney Brook Kelly, who works for the U.S. Positive Women's Network, also spoke at the event. Lisa Fager Bediako of the Act Against AIDS Leadership Initiative emceed.

The 2-hour discussion was held at the AIDS Foundation for Chicago's Loop offices, 200 W. Jackson. Event co-sponsors included: the AIDS Foundation of Chicago, the Center for HIV Law and Policy, Lambda Legal and the U.S. Positive Women's Network.

Nancy Mahon of MAC AIDS Fund appt. Chair of the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS

U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius announced the appointment Dec. 1 of Nancy Mahon as the new Chair of the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS (PACHA). Mahon, executive director of the MAC AIDS Fund, has many years of experience in leading large philanthropic endeavors. In her role as chair, she will maintain the continuity of PACHA-related activities and, on occasion, represent the administration at PACHA-related events.

"Recently, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton spoke of the opportunity to begin creating an 'AIDS-free generation,'" said Christopher Bates, executive director of the PACHA. "Ms. Mahon is an excellent choice to guide PACHA's efforts in support of that goal. She has demonstrated leadership in responding to HIV/AIDS over many years and in many different capacities. She has developed public-private partnerships to provide care and support services for people living with HIV/AIDS, and she knows the power of working together to change their lives for the better. We look forward to working with her, and to strengthening PACHA's support for the National HIV/AIDS Strategy under her leadership."

As a senior vice president at MAC and executive director of the MAC AIDS Fund, Mahon serves as a member of the brand's senior management team, while overseeing the strategic direction and day-to-day operation of the MAC AIDS Fund. Currently, the fund gives away more than \$18 million annually throughout the world, particularly in the 65 countries in which MAC has affiliates.

Before joining MAC in June 2006, Mahon was executive director of God's Love We Deliver (GLWD), the nation's oldest and largest provider of life-sustaining nutritional support services for people living with HIV/AIDS, cancer, and other serious illnesses. She is the author of numerous research, advocacy, and prevention articles, which have been published in a wide range of periodicals, including the American Journal of Public Health, the New York Times, and various academic journals.

See <http://www.aids.gov/federal-resources/policies/pacha/>.

United in HIV event at Hydrate Dec. 12

Hydrate bar at 3458 N. Halsted in Chicago is hosting a United in HIV fundraiser Monday, Dec. 12 to benefit Vital Bridges Center on Chronic Care. Performances start at 9 p.m. and include legendary Linda Clifford, Celeda, Dajae, Carla Prather, RaShaan Houston and Sheree Hicks. Cyon Flare hosted his first United in HIV event a few months back, and is continuing his goal of increasing awareness and funds to fight the epidemic. Bring in three non-perishable food items and a donation of \$10 and you receive two free drink tickets.



United in HIV host Cyon Flare. Photo by Kirk Williamson



Left to right: John Peller, Vice President of Policy at the AIDS Foundation of Chicago; Scott Schoettes, HIV Project Director at the Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund.



Left to right: Lisa Fager Bediako, Act Against AIDS Leadership Initiative, Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, Inc.; Brook Kelly, Human Rights Attorney at the U.S. Positive Women's Network.

Project Runway's Mondo at Center

BY TERRENCE CHAPPELL

Center on Halsted welcomed Project Runway fashion designer contestant and HIV advocate Mondo Guerra Dec. 2 for an evening of dialogue, cocktails, and an interactive discussion, which invited guests to participate in a Q&A.

Center on Halsted kicked off the day after World AIDS Day with light appetizers and cocktails, which acted as a prelude to the live interview and discussion.

Mondo gained national notoriety on Lifetime's Project Runway when he disclosed his HIV-positive status on the show. Since then, the fashion designer has become an HIV advocate by sharing his personal stories of struggle and success with his sexuality and status as it relates to his career, his personal life and his relationship with his family.

Center on Halsted's director, HIV/AIDS/STD Hotline and HIV testing and prevention Jill Dispenza was excited to organize and host Mondo for the event because of his courage to reveal his positive status on the show.

"We were really excited to get him (Mondo) because he is a well-known, engaging speaker and he came out on Project Runway about his HIV status, which is incredibly brave and it was a very moving episode," Dispenza said. "He is now a very strong advocate for people living with HIV. I want people to feel that they can live an amazing and beautiful life with HIV."

During the interview, Mondo shared with guests his backstory and personal experiences of his initial move to New York City at 19 years of age, how he engaged in unprotected sex, and how New York City "spit him out."

Mondo also went on to expand on his "very Catholic Latino" family. At the time, the fashion designer felt like he couldn't express himself, since he always had an interest in the arts. Mondo remembers as a child that if he wanted to play the piano, he would also have to play baseball. Fears of his family disowning him and their disappointment kept Mondo from revealing his HIV status to them. According to Mondo, he now prefers to see himself "living with HIV" and just not merely HIV-positive. He urges people who recently find out about their positive status to reach out to those they can trust.

"Looking back on how I handled it, I would say think about who you can trust the most, really find those people that you can build that support group with because it's a lot to take in and responsibility," he said. "I think it's different for everybody. Everyone reacts differently to it. For me, I first felt very alone and afraid, so if I had that support group of people who I can talk to, it would've been different. That loneliness turned into denial and resentment and then it progressed into a very dark place. So, if you are diagnosed HIV-positive, definitely seek out a support group, talk about it, let it all out, and express every emotion that you're feeling. If you keep these feelings bottled up, they are going to eat at you. It's not fun."

The evening concluded with a meet-and-greet with Mondo where guests could take pictures with the reality TV star and ask additional questions. In addition to continuing his HIV advocacy work, Mondo also works in partnership with Merck as a spokesperson for Living Positive By Design, an HIV and AIDS education campaign that tours major cities across the nation. Mondo will also be appearing in Project Runway All Stars, which airs on Lifetime Jan. 5.



Mondo (left) and Zach Zimmermann. Photos by Terrence Chappell



Mondo.



Modesto Valle (left), executive director of the Center on Halsted, with Mondo.

In the Life premieres 30 years of positive

Public TV stations across the country will air 30 Years Positive, an episode of the award-winning documentary series In the Life looking back at multiple decades of media coverage of the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Check local times for when the program airs during December.

The episode concludes with a frank discussion about HIV prevention and the National AIDS Strategy featuring Gun Hill Road actress Harmony Santana and Rev. Charles King, CEO of Housing Works, who criticizes the White House for inaction on the epidemic, saying: "I feel that President Obama needs to be called on HIV and AIDS just like President Bush needed to be called on it."

See <http://www.itlmedia.org/>.



AIDS@30

Go online to see special World AIDS Day comments from President Barack Obama, Sec. of State Hillary Clinton, Sec. of Labor Hilda L. Solis and more.



www.windycitymediagroup.com/aids

HIV: Is It Still Preventable?

BY JAMES SCOTT, YOUTH PRIDE CENTER

HIV is a disease that is wreaking seemingly uncontrollable havoc on the African-American community, specifically the demographic of young MSM (men who have sex with men). In 2009 African-American MSM accounted for 73% of new infections of all African-American men. Keep in mind that MSM includes men who may not identify as homosexual or bisexual, but engage in some form of sexual activity with other men.

While the number of African-American MSM represents a vast majority within the total number of African-American men with HIV, they only represent a third of all MSM. In the year 2006 MSM accounted for 53% of all new HIV cases in the United States. Of those 53% white MSM accounted for 43% of all new HIV cases, with the 30-39 age groups making up most of that percentage. African-Americans accounted for 52% of the new MSM HIV cases in 2006 with the largest group consisting of 13-29 year olds. I think it would be very interesting to analyze why those two demographics are the largest within their own race, as well as why the age varies according to race.

Asking is HIV still preventable almost seems like a sarcastic rhetorical question. The simple answer to this is YES, as HIV is not something you can pick up off the streets ... well not literally. If everyone used a condom every time they engaged in sexual intercourse it would greatly affect the number of people infected with HIV each year. Condoms are not an absolute solution, but it definitely would prevent many people from becoming a new case. The other ways in which HIV is spread is fewer and less risky behavior than vaginal and anal sex, therefore the

number of people contracting the disease would take a huge dive if everyone wore a condom during sex.

The most common reason people don't use condoms during sex is because it doesn't feel as good—the solution to that is to get yourself tested regularly. Knowing your status places you in a position to not only protect yourself but others. If you find out you are positive for HIV that doesn't mean you can't have sex, but you know you need to wear a condom when engaging in intercourse to prevent spreading the disease. If you and your partner are both negative it is deemed safe to not use a condom, but there are still other diseases that can be contracted when not using a condom, and even if you get tested and don't have any other diseases it still comes down to how well do you know your partner and do you trust them—even then it might be better to wear a condom as it is "better to be safe than sorry." (There are also potential complications of getting a drug-resistant strain of HIV.)

The reasons why the gay and bisexual community in the U.S. continue to have the highest rate of new cases are an entirely different issue. Answers to that can range from an already condemned perception of one's self to having the same promiscuous tendencies as anyone else, both homosexual and heterosexual. At the end of the day the answer is the same for everyone, and I know we've heard it time and time again, WEAR A CONDOM and KNOW YOUR STATUS; this would prevent thousands of new cases and all but put an end to the HIV epidemic. I challenge myself and you to just take a minute to think as to why it could all be so simple—but we'd rather make it hard.

YPS is at 773-YPS-8051.

LETTERS

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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.

Walking the line:
Hyatt and IML

A boycott of some Hyatt hotels has been called by laborers protesting the hotel's lack of respect for working conditions and job security. Laborers at Hyatt hotels suffer from higher workplace injury rates than other hotels, and, in Chicago, Hyatt hotels have been unwilling to accept labor contract terms accepted by all of the other major branded Chicago hotels. Gay Liberation Network has endorsed the boycott and participated in the picket line. We feel others in the LGBT community should be involved, too. Why?

First of all, the hospitality industry is a large employer of LGBT folk; these are our working conditions that need improvement.

Second, LGBT life historically has improved due to our ties with organized labor. Harvey Milk's solidarity with the Teamsters in the 1970s made anti-gay industrialists like the Coors' family sit up and take notice that business would suffer if LGBT demands were flouted. In addition, from the 1990s to the present, union workers have fought for and gained contracts that have included domestic-partnership benefits—making those benefits relatively commonplace—to the benefit of everyone in the LGBT community.

Yet, LGBT organizations and individuals are ignoring the current labor boycott. Specifically, in Chicago, International Mr. Leather (IML) held its event this spring at the boycotted Hyatt Regency Chicago and violated the picket line. This organization and its founder, Chuck Renslow, have shown the kind of disrespect to workplace issues that, were it shown to purely LGBT issues, would occasion howls of protest from these same people.

We urge the LGBT community to support the hotel workers' boycott and build LGBT community by learning more at <http://www.sleepwiththerightpeople.org>. Additionally, send IML the message to change its venue for 2012's event to a hotel where workers hold a contract (write them at: info@iml.org).

In solidarity,
 Gay Liberation Network
www.gayliberation.net

Windy City Times asked IML
Founder/Executive
Director Chuck Renslow to respond to
this letter. His reply is as follows:

International Mr. Leather (IML) is very much aware of the issues and challenges being faced by the local union members currently working without a contract with the Hyatt hotels here in Chicago. In as much as IML is genuinely sympathetic to the issues being raised by the Gay Liberation Network (GLN) as well as the management of Local 1, we are also bound by a contract signed with the Hyatt Regency more than five years ago. We have said all along this was not our fight; yet, we are hopeful that calmer heads prevail and the negotiating parties can find the necessary common ground to work out an agreement.

That said, a few points raised in the GLN letter to Windy City Times need to be addressed. While it is true that IML was held at the Hyatt this past May, there was NO picket line that was violated. Ever. It is true that there was a demonstration out on the sidewalk late Friday afternoon of IML weekend, but this ended inside of a few hours. At no time was there a strike of workers inside of the hotel. To call that a picket-line violation is a wild stretch by anyone's imagination.

To label IML as being disrespectful of workplace issues is beyond unfair and we've yet to hear any evidence regarding the truthfulness of this statement. The 15,000+ attendees of IML go out of their way to show their appreciation to the staff they encounter. Our guests are often

quite generous with their gratuities. In addition, if you consider the \$14 million-\$18 million in tourist revenue to the city of Chicago, those gratuities are considerable.

What GLN and others won't ask you to consider is the lack of courtesy or respect shown to members of the leather community around the country. There are letters, emails and phone calls to titleholders' places of employment—without regard to their personal privacy (outing); vendors and other businesses being visited and sometimes uninvited; and on and on. We understand their desire to perform outreach and inform but the "what is acceptable and appropriate" line in the sand has been crossed more than once.

As we understand the issues as they stand now, the Hyatt had offered to match the identical contract package now in effect at the other major hotels in Chicago. The union refused this, as there are clearly other issues in play, perhaps on a more national level. This may be true but, at the same time, is something to consider. We will not get into the nuts and bolts as, again, this is not IML's fight. However, GLN should again stick to the things that are factual, not assumed. It is well known that Hyatt was one of the very first to offer insurance for domestic partnerships, something of which it should be proud. The inference made by GLN that this may be taken away or does not exist at the Hyatt is a bit of a red herring, if only to sway people to GLN's point of view.

The contract with the Hyatt was signed in 2006 and provides for severe penalties should we cancel the event. In as much as we have a good working relationship with the Hyatt Regency, the hotel has also made it clear it will hold us to that part of the contract. Does GLN or anyone else have in excess of \$900,000 to pay this termination fee? IML doesn't.

More so, even if we were to be released from our agreement, where do people think IML will be held in 2012? The reason contracts are signed years in advance is due to the competitive nature of convention and hotel space in Chicago. No other property is available to us for any number of reasons—yes, we really looked into it. We cannot, as the representatives of Local 1 told us at a meeting in December 2010, move our event to multiple hotels out in the suburbs and break up the vendor market, the social hub of IML weekend, into several locations. Really?

At the end of the day, IML is planning its event at the Hyatt in 2012, the final year of our agreement. At the same time, not a meeting with Hyatt management passes without IML applying as much pressure as is possible to get this labor issue resolved, even though this is not our fight. We do this because we strongly believe it's the right thing we can do. However, at the same time, people should not forget we made this agreement more than five years ago and are legally bound to keep our word.

And isn't that precisely what the union is fighting for? A good and fair agreement that both sides will sign and agree to honor?

Chuck Renslow
 Founder and Executive Producer
 International Mr. Leather, Inc.

Oh, Father

Dear Ald. Tunney:

I write this letter to express my wholehearted support for keeping the proposed LGBT parade route on Belmont. As a member of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church for the past 18 years, I was greatly disappointed to hear Father Thomas Srenn speak at Mass, asking parishioners to sign a petition changing the route because "it was going to make it difficult for parishioners to attend mass and, after all, Catholics attend mass on Sunday." It is true that the parade may cause

parishioners some inconvenience on this day. What I would like to address is not what he said during the two different masses that I attended (during which he advocated for this petition), but what he did not say.

I am profoundly disappointed that the only concern Fr. Srenn has expressed from the pulpit related to this issue is the inconvenience to parishioners and to himself. It is important to remember why there is a parade in the first place. The reason the LGBT community needed to, and still needs to, have this annual event is because of the profound and consistent discrimination this group experiences by society related to a whole host of equal-rights issues.

It was just a few years ago that Cardinal George said that "Illinois state legislators who voted for the Illinois same-sex marriage bill violated their faith before God (published in the Mt. Carmel and other church bulletins)." I remember this vividly because I spoke to Fr. Srenn at the time about the church's involvement in lobbying activities as a nonprofit organization.

If the parade celebrated and supported women and their contributions to society, would Fr. Srenn object that it was inconvenient? Or, if the parade was for African-Americans, Hispanics or any other group, would there be such a complaint? I wonder if there is not, in fact, a rank ordering by some related to whom it is acceptable to still discriminate against and who it is not.

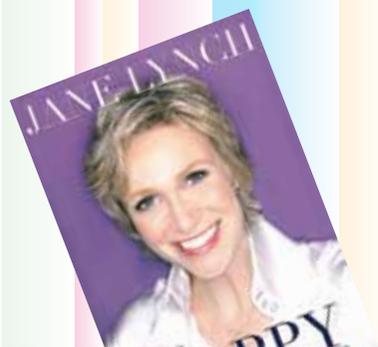
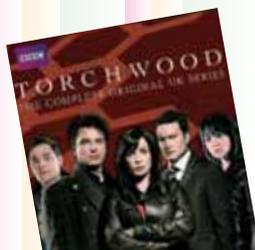
I mention this because at no time during Fr. Srenn's address to the parish did he mention the importance of recognizing and supporting the LGBT community. I find it odd to lobby so strenuously against a parade that is designed to celebrate and support an oppressed group without once even mentioning the reason why the parade is being held.

He might mention that the church hosts the weekly AGLO (Archdiocesan Gay and Lesbian Outreach) Mass—which is for the LGBT community—as evidence of his support. It is also important to mention that AGLO rents the space, and that the group is an income source. Apparently from the news reports, Fr. Srenn is not willing to consider moving some Masses to earlier or later times on this particular Sunday. It is not a problem to change the times of masses on holy days and feast days—many of which I have attended—and they typically are not on the regular mass schedule. Why the unwillingness to make some accommodations on this one Sunday?

In closing, I fully support keeping the parade route along Belmont. Celebrating our diversity as a society and working to secure equal rights for everyone is, unfortunately, occasionally "inconvenient." I would suggest to Fr. Srenn and my fellow parishioners that this is, in fact, a teachable moment. Questions from the pulpit that might stimulate meaningful reflection include: Why was the Pride Parade created in the first place? What were the conditions in society that precipitated this event? Why does it still have growing relevance for participants and supporters? What is the role and responsibility of a Christian community related to extending faith, hope, love and charity to the LGBT community? Unfortunately, this last question was not the first and most important consideration.

Thank you,
 Gregory M. Hauser, Ph.D.
 Chicago

2011 HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

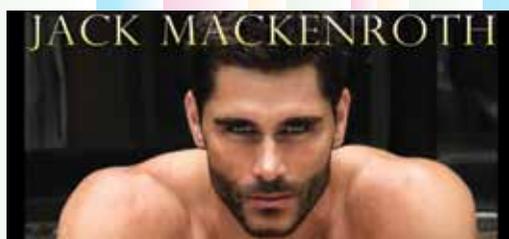


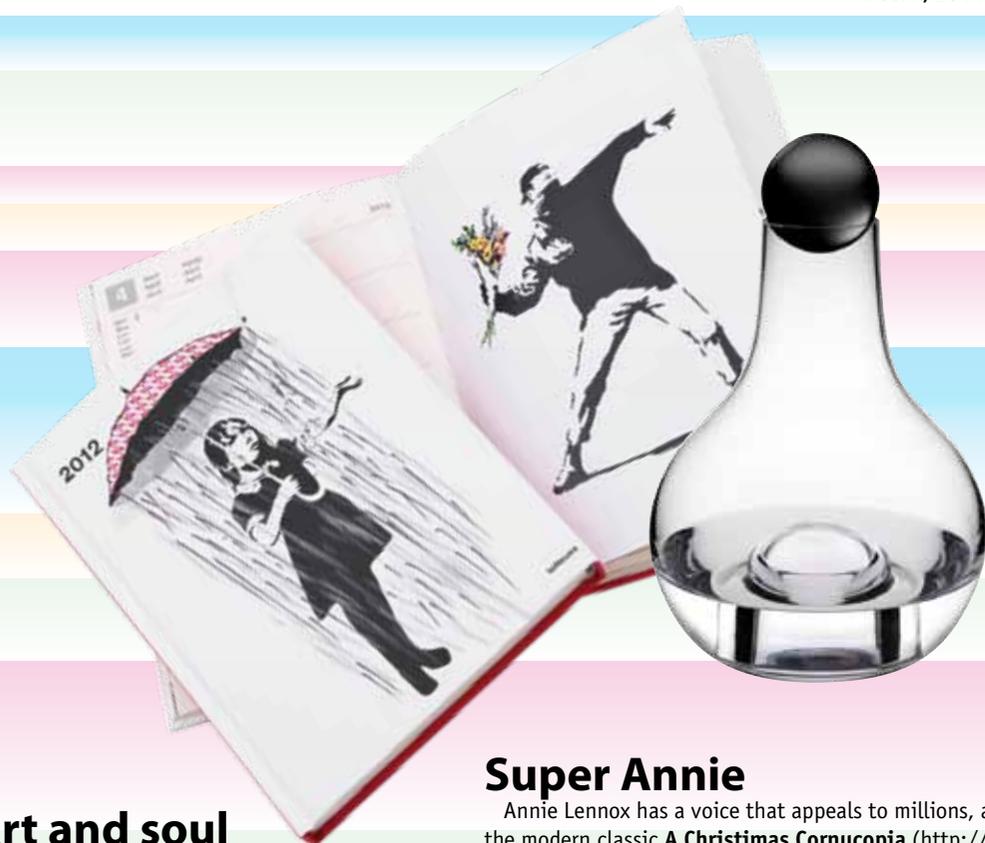
SPECIAL PULL-OUT SECTION

COMPILED BY ANDREW DAVIS



WEEK TWO (OF TWO)





I saw the light

Lindsey Adelman Studio (<http://www.lindseyadelman.com>) has a line-up of chandeliers and similar items that are genuine conversation-starters. However, be prepared to pay a little for the works of art—but they're worth it: A custom chandelier commissioned by Rogers Marvel Architects runs \$14,700, and Burst (pictured) is \$33,000.

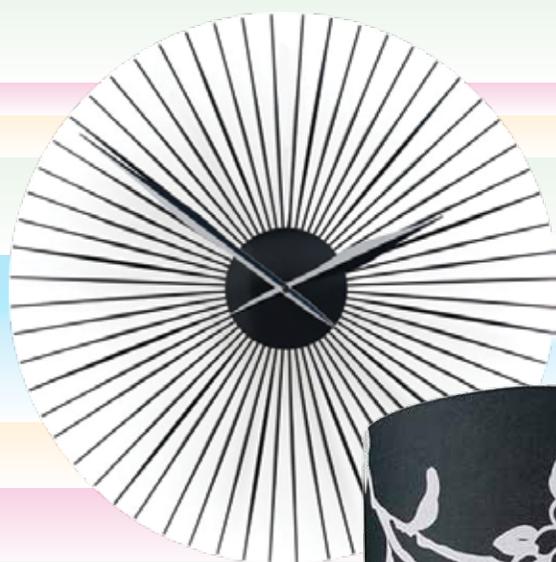
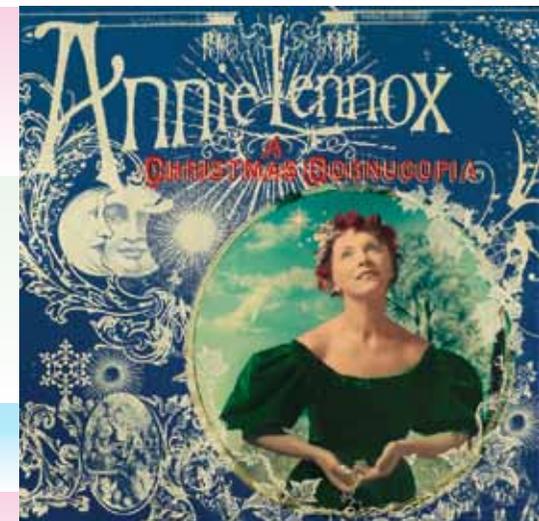


Art and soul

Chicago's **Museum of Contemporary Art** (<http://mcchicagostore.org>) has a store with some of the most undeniably cool items I've seen in some time. Swedish designer Nina Jobs is the mastermind behind the Barbara carafe (\$79), which can be a container or a vase. The Sorgente tumblers (\$40) have a unique texture that makes the objects look like they're made of crumpled glass. There's also the Banksy Magneto Diary 2012 (\$15.99), which has eight of Banksy's most iconic images.

Super Annie

Annie Lennox has a voice that appeals to millions, and she only reinforces that love on the modern classic **A Christmas Cornucopia** (<http://www.amazon.com>; \$11.38). On the CD, Lennox—who has moved people physically and emotionally on songs ranging from "Sweet Dreams" to "No More I Love You's"—unveils interpretations of 11 traditional festive songs, concluded by a new composition, "Universal Child."



Jet real

For the truly indulgent, **Magellan Jets** (<http://www.MagellanJets.com>)—which specializes in domestic and international private jet travel—is offering gift cards. Magellan Jets offers a variety of flexible private-jet membership programs as well as point-to-point services. However, with flights costing in the four figures at a minimum (depending on factors, such as the jet size you want), a gift card might come in handy—although the experience will be dreamlike.



Mirror, mirror

The Andersonville home-furnishings store **Cassona** (<http://www.cassona.com>) has some very interesting items—and in this case, "interesting" is a very good thing. In addition, the offerings are affordable. Check out the ck mesh metal mirror (\$125), the striation clock (\$99) and Hayden table lamp (\$69.950).



Soap and glory

Treat loved ones to a luxurious at-home spa experience with the **Sothys Perfumed Soap Trio Box** (<http://www.sothys-usa.com>; \$20). Made in France, each soap is engraved with the Sothys logo and individually wrapped—and with fragrances such as lemon and petitgrain (an oil from the bitter orange plant); orange blossom and cedarwood; and vanilla and sandalwood, can you really go wrong?

The rain event

The luxury "Westminster" umbrella (<http://www.ArcherAdams.com>; \$265), made famous by designer Archer Adams, can almost make standing out in the rain fun (although in Chicago, we also have to contend with the wind). The hand-crafted, silver-handled Westminster is available in two sizes (long classic and collapsible), and comes in eight different designs, including a lion's head, snake and Labrador. You can also add a Swarovski crystal head, if you so desire.

Here's mud in your eye

Borghese Fango Ristorativo Restorative Hydrating Mud Mask For Face and Body (<http://www.amazon.com>; \$47) is formulated with Acqua di Vita to hydrate and energize skin, and even contains Tahitian sea water to help nourish and replenish skin with vital marine nutrients. You'll feel like a new person—or you can keep the one you have. (Sorry, I couldn't resist.)





Geek chic

I love the many offerings available at **ThinkGeek.com**. Among the various items are the Doctor Who TARDIS Talking Cookie Jar (\$29.99), bottle-opener cufflinks (\$49.99), the Electronic Music Synthesizer Shirt (\$24.99), Star Wars Vader's Dark Side Roast Coffee (\$14.99) and the Etch-A-Sketch iPad case (\$39.99).

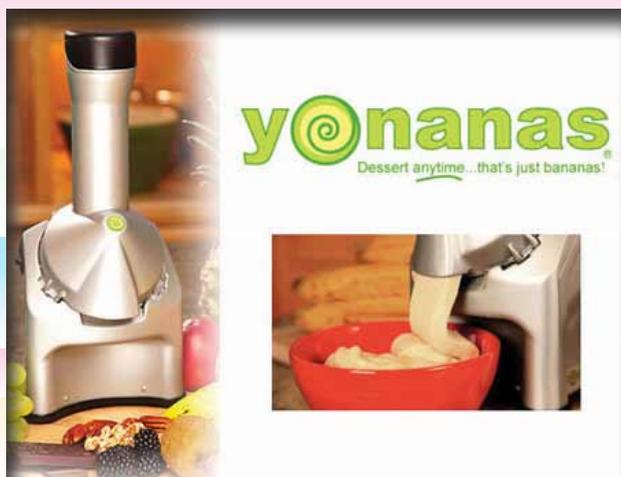


Showing heart

If you want to give something meaningful to a total stranger, consider the items in **Heartland Alliance** gift catalog (<http://www.heartlandalliance.org/howtohelp/giveagift/>). The local agency allows you to donate \$25 for a child's books; \$50 for a child's winter outerwear; and \$100 for a check-up and prescription medication.

To your health

The **Yonanas Maker** (<http://www.yonanas.com>; \$49.99) takes the healthful and makes it decadent. Taking fruits and vegetables (anything from peaches to pumpkin), the item creates a creamy frozen treat that looks and tastes like soft-serve ice cream. In addition, there's a recipe book to help you create flavors such as lemon raspberry and even mint chocolate chip. Also, these sounds like concoctions I can actually make.



Over(stock) and under

Overstock (<http://www.overstock.com>) has been helping millions of people (including yours truly) save loads of money. (What's really cool when you buy something on clearance, and have the free shipping.) Among the myriad items you can purchase are a book on Oprah Winfrey, a piano cutting board, Barska binoculars and a glitter heart jewelry box. (By the way, be selective about the recipient of the binoculars.)



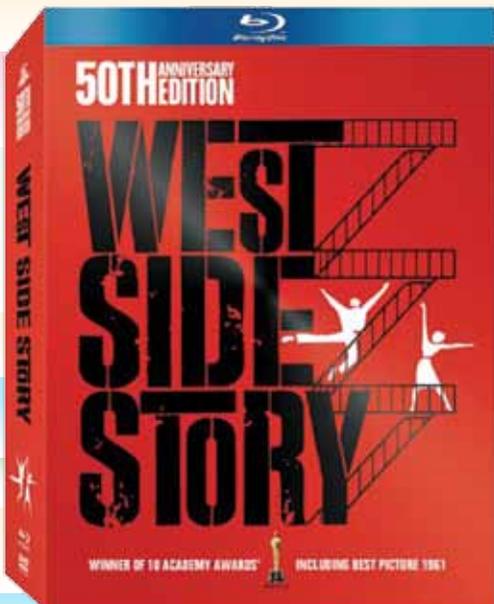
Pong and short of it

With the love of all things i (e.g., iPads and iPhones) reaching a zenith, it's only natural that people would want items to protect their high-tech investments. **Pong** (<http://www.pongresearch.com>) just doesn't have any old cases, however. Not only are they attractive, but they are the only protective cases on the market that have been proven effective in FCC-certified laboratories—pretty impressive in our book (or iPad).



In the quirks

Quirky (<http://www.quirky.com>) is for anyone who's a fan of the innovative. I'm practically in love with Pivot Power (\$29.99), a power strip that can be molded in a variety of configurations. Also, the Mantis clip-on task lamp (\$29.99) is a cool item that you could put at the bottom of your computer screen or have stand on its legs that have rubberized end pieces.



Fifty and fabulous

Five decades after its historic debut, a timeless classic returns to dazzle audiences young and old. **West Side Story: 50th Anniversary Edition** (<http://www.amazon.com>; \$29.99) has made its Blu-Ray debut. Featuring the famous songs "Maria," "America," "Tonight," and "I Feel Pretty," This edition showcases performances by Best Supporting Actress winner Rita Moreno (The King and I), Best Supporting Actor winner George Chakiris (Two and Two Make Six) and Russ Tamblyn (How the West Was Won). Just don't blame me if you start singing or dancing.



Shop 'til you drop

Sometimes, the best items are right in front of you—or at least on State Street or Water Tower Place. At **Macy's** (<http://www.macys.com>), you can find everything from Betsey Johnson wine stoppers (\$35) to a Michael Kors watch (\$250) to a Polo Ralph Lauren Bowl (\$50-\$90).



Brief encounter

Here are a couple hot entries in the underwear market. A graduate of the International Academy of Design, **Richard Dayhoff** (<http://www.facebook.com/richarddayhoff>) has designs that have been sold for the past 20 years in more than 300 retail establishments nationwide. Also, you might want to check out the **Jack Adams Ranger Fly X jock-strap** (<http://www.10percent.com>; \$23.95) designed to lift and make you look sexy—although we can't guarantee you'll like the model.



Made in the shades

Ellison Sunglasses (<http://www.EllisonSunglasses.com>; \$95) is a unisex label that will not only help you look chic but be charitable. Ellison—founded by Patrick Stanley, 23—has teamed with the Himalayan Cataract Project, which assists in life-changing eye care for the impoverished; 50 percent of Ellison's proceeds are donated to the cause.



The spirit world

The **Stoli elit** (<http://www.elit-bystoli.com>; \$59.99) recently was awarded the 97 "platinum" rating and is considered "The Best Tasting Vodka in the World." The website talks about the process it takes to get the final product, but forget the words: You can't argue with its taste.



Gaiam gifts

Gaiam (<http://www.gaiam.com>) states that it focuses "on personal development, health & wellness and global consciousness." Apparently, it also focuses on saving you some green, as items such as the natural silk beaded capelet have been discounted substantially (\$29.99, down from \$68). However, you may also be surprised by the wide variety of objects available, such as a teak-carved wine rack (\$149) and the deep penetrating light therapy device (\$369), using a technique first researched by NASA for use in the space program.



Soft touch

There's nothing like the feel of cashmere. To that end, **Cashmere Boutique** (<http://cashmereboutique.com>) has a full line of items, including scarves, robes, pajamas, coats, throws and sweaters. However, some really unique offerings include the pashmina wrap with Swarovski crystals and the leopard-print throw. Also, keep in mind that there are faux items for the fur-phobic.



Being naughty

Get that naughty girl **Wet for Her** (<http://wet-forher.us>; \$39-\$115), erotic toys from a lesbian-owned company. Products include Four More, which has three speeds; and Three Luxe, which has 10 speeds and a remote that can work from up to 23 feet away. It could certainly make that PTA meeting more interesting.



The Mills are alive...

Are you familiar with **Forman Mills** (<http://www.FormanMills.com>)? If not, you may want to, especially if you're looking to save a few bucks. However, if you do, you'll have to get off the couch; you can look at items but in order to buy, you'll have to visit the actual locations. In Chicago, Forman Mills stores are at 4520 S. Damen Ave., 122 W. 79th St. and 1450 N. Cicero Ave.



Hail to the beef

Previously available exclusively to professional chefs at leading restaurants around the country, **Meyer Natural Angus** (<http://www.meyer-naturalangus.com>) is offering its artisan cuts and premium ground beef delivered to your doorstep within 24 hours. By the way, Meyer is the only major beef brand that has earned both the Certified Humane designation for its animal-husbandry processes and the American Culinary Federation's Seal of Approval for superior quality.



You do know Jack

Jack Mackenroth: 2012 Calendar for the Cure (<http://www.jackmackenroth.com>; \$14.95) is an autographed, glossy 15-month calendar. A variety of top-notch photographers capture the very cut former Project Runway contestant in some delectable poses. Also, your lust will be rewarded, as 100 percent of the proceeds from the calendar will go directly to amfAR, The American Foundation for AIDS Research.

Sweet sensation

Sweet Shop USA (<http://www.sweetshopusa.com>) has a variety of handmade chocolate goodies to satisfy any sweet tooth. You can choose truffles, chocolate-covered Oreos or even something called "Fudge Love"—which sounds like something I encountered last Saturday.



Chair apparent

No doubt the **Chaheati All-Season Heated Chair** (<http://www.chaheati.com>; \$89.99) will come in handy in cooler climes. The seat is called "All-Season" because it has four temperature settings (including "deep-fry," we imagine), and is resistant to the element. Better yet, the chair has a replacement battery for purchase, so you can go camping or tailgating for years in comfort.



Gaydar detection

If you find yourself confused, and feel that your gaydar's a little off, maybe you'd like to invest in a **Gaydar Gun** (<http://www.GaydarGun.com>; \$29.95). This toy tells it all via 650 "Oracles of Truth" that has fun with everyone, no matter where they fall on the "Homometer" scale—and it has male and female settings. What's more, the gun transforms into an alarm clock featuring the Gaydar theme song sung by Gwen Stewart, who starred in the original Rent. (By the way, people can use the code word "SEXY" to knock \$5 off the price.)

Soy to the world

Having seen the soy lights at the Ohio-based **Candle Lab** (<http://www.TheCandleLab.com>; \$15), I can tell you that they smell amazing. They also come in more than 120 fragrances, including rainbow candle, lemongrass, mango, spiced rum, brown sugar, chai tea, cannabis and Dad's den. Yes, you read those last two correctly. (For those who want alternatives, there are also room sprays and diffusers.)



Ize here

The company **NiteIze** (<http://www.niteize.com>)—"night eyes"—has a variety of items for those who get around in the dark. (You know who you are.) The units (all of which incorporate "LED illuminating functionality") include the SpotLit for keychains; BikeLit for cyclists; SlapLit for joggers; and even light-up flying discs for pets (or college students).

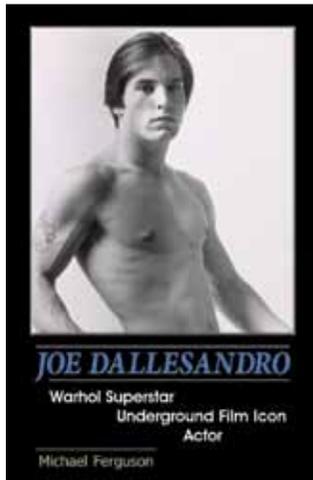


Great Gifts: Books and DVDs for the Holidays

BY TRACY BAIM

Continuing last week's theme of books, music and videos good for gift giving—to yourself or others—here are some more recent releases to stuff your stockings, and your mind.

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.



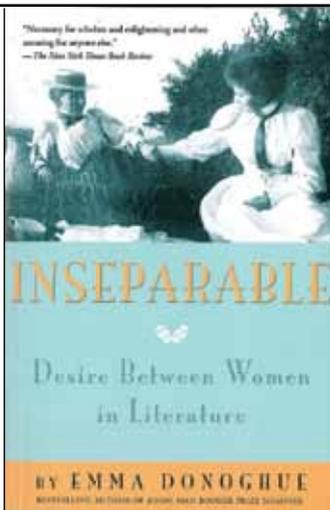
Joe Dallesandro: Warhol Superstar, Underground Film Icon, Actor by Michael Ferguson

Dallesandro was a “tough kid from the streets of New York who became a counterculture emblem of male beauty and ambiguous sexuality through the films of Andy Warhol and Paul Morrissey”. Chicagoan Michael Ferguson examines the films Dallesandro made for the Factory (including *Flesh*, *Trash and Heat*), as well as the X-rated *Frankenstein* and *Dracula*, his offbeat movies in Europe, and his re-

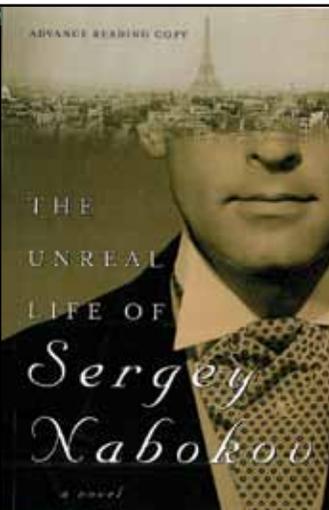
turn to America as character actor. As the book's promo notes: “Ambivalent about his fame as a Warhol Superstar, Dallesandro is nevertheless irrevocably drawn back to the images of his younger self and a persona that captured the gaze of both women and men during the sexual revolution. As the first openly eroticized male sex symbol of the movies to appear casually naked on screen, he spoke to our fantasies and liberated the male nude as an object of beauty in the cinema. Including new interviews with Joe, an extensive biographical section, and photographs from the actor's personal collection, Ferguson has revised, expanded, and updated his long out-of-print book *Little Joe, Superstar*.”

Inseparable: Desire Between Women in Literature by Emma Donoghue

Lesbian literary treasure Emma Donoghue first released this book in 2010, and it won the Stonewall non-fiction award from the American Library Association. Cleis Press



is now releasing it in paperback, and it is a must-have for fans of literary history. The book traces lesbian inclusion (or whatever the undercover words might have been for “close friends” or “gal pals”) in writing, starting with *The Book of Ruth* in the King James Bible, in 16th century writings, Shakespeare, Sade, Balzac, Chaucer, Radclyffe Hall, Agatha Christie, Patricia Highsmith, Sarah Waters and more. There are vampires and school girls, cross-dressers and murderers. Highly recommended.

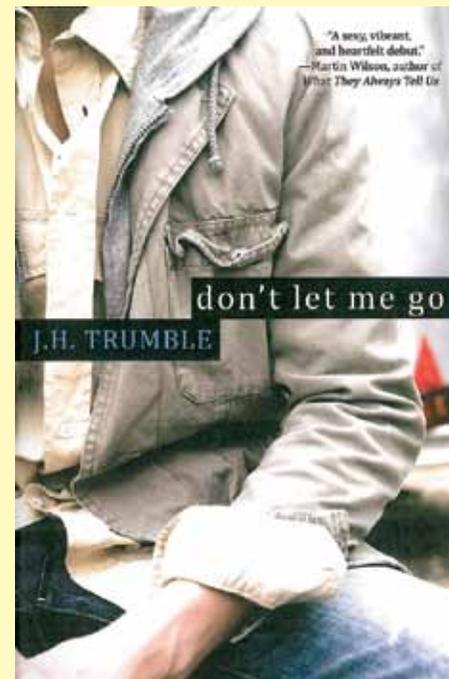


The Unreal Life of Sergey Nabokov by Paul Russell

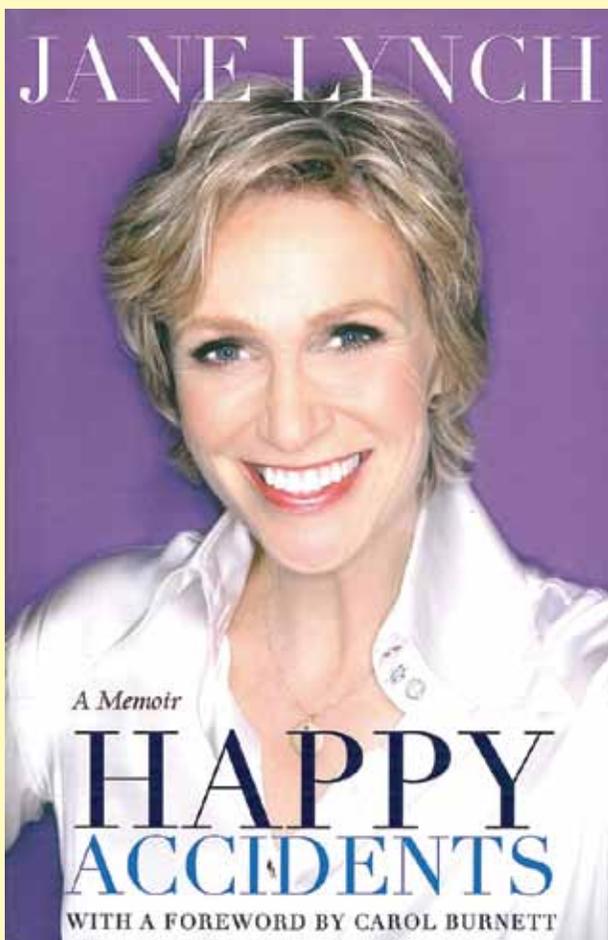
This is a work of historical fiction, one of my favorite types of books. Russell imagines the life of famous Russian writer Vladimir Nabokov's forgotten gay brother. The novel begins in November 1943 with the raids in Berlin, when Sergey starts to write down the story of his life in Czarist Russia, his time at Cambridge University and in the Parisian salon of Gertrude Stein and Alice B. Toklas. He is a lover of Cocteau, and later finds himself in the wrong place at the wrong time, in war-torn Berlin—he eventually was arrested and sent to a prison camp, where he died in 1945.

Don't Let Me Go by J.H. Trumble

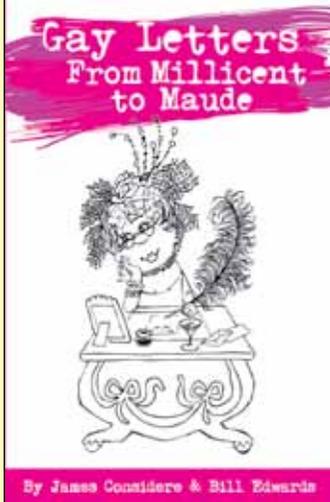
A novel about being gay in high school, and finding true love, or true love at least for the time being. This is a story of two boys who are inseparable in their love, but when one moves to New York, both their worlds start to crumble and be re-built. Will there be room for each other in this new construction?



Happy Accidents by Jane Lynch

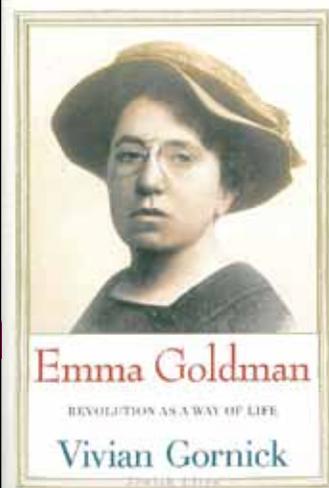


“Relax. ... Don't sweat it.” Those are words of advice from Jane Lynch to ... Jane Lynch, her younger self, in this new autobiography by the star of stage, film and TV. We know a lot about Lynch in her star days, ever-present on TV, commercials and at awards shows. All this attention is much deserved. But her early years provide clues to help guide younger people struggling to find their place in the world. Her coming out as a lesbian is important for our community, but her general anxiety and stress provide life lessons for anyone.



Gay Letters From Millicent to Maude by James Considerere and Bill Edwards

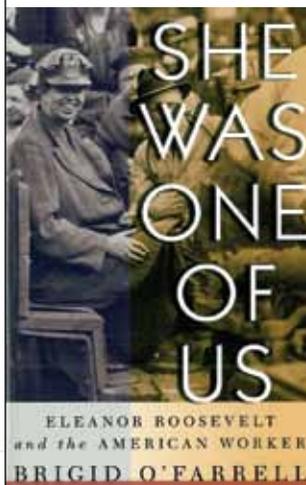
The co-authors of this 100-page book have a preserved legacy of humorous letters providing both details of the 1950s and the feelings of a gay man (who assumes the alter ego, Millicent during that period). Millicent writes to his gay male friend (Maude) with components of information that are missing when one reads the few clinical books published about gay life in the 1950s. “We hope to bring many insights about gay life in the past,” said Considerere. Millicent “writes from a gay male debutante's perspective, witty with some acrimony, but never sorrowful,” according to the authors.



Emma Goldman: Revolution As a Way of Life by Vivian Gornick

Timing is everything, and with the Occupy Movement in full swing across the U.S. and parts of the world, this book is a perfect fit for those looking to reflect on the history of revolutions. Goldman (1869-1940) was way ahead of her time in many ways, but also reflective of the chaos of her own day. She was for sexual freedom, marriage reform, birth control and freedom of speech. She was an anarchist who wrote and spoke her mind across the world. She was born

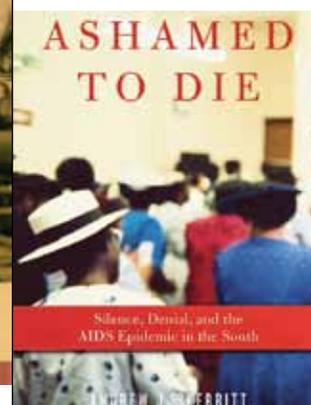
in the Russian Empire and was attracted to the anarchist cause after the Haymarket riot in Chicago on May 4, 1886—a union demonstration that turned violent and resulted in the convictions of five anarchists (four were executed, one allegedly committed suicide in prison). Still inspiring and relevant after all these years, Goldman's life and work are motivating for anyone who cares about social justice.



She Was One of Us: Eleanor Roosevelt and the American Worker by Brigid O'Farrell

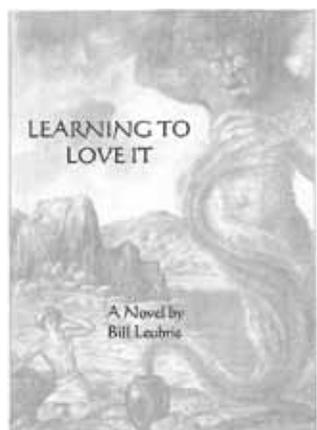
Third Wave feminist Baumgardner presents a collection of her best essays (old and new) and interviews with the women who most inspire her—including Riot Grrrl's Kathleen Hanna, transgender activist Julia Serano and Native American activist Winona LaDuke. At the promo notes: “When many young women in 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 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*.



Ashamed to Die: Silence, Denial, and the AIDS Epidemic in the South by Andrew Skerritt

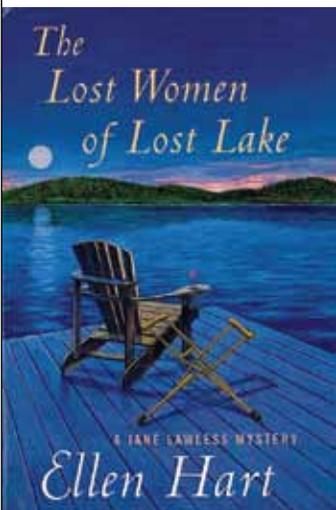
Journalist Skerritt looks at the impact of AIDS on the Southern U.S., which now claims 40% of the nation's AIDS cases—but only 36% of the population as a whole. This book explores the epidemic and brings to light the effect poverty, lack of education and taboos regarding sexuality among the African-American community have in the proliferation of AIDS in the region.



Learning to Love It
by Bill Leubrie

A novel about a gay man approaching middle age who finds a genie in a bottle. Trouble follows when he wishes for a new body and riches. Repeat after me: Careful what you wish for, you just may get it.

connection with the Spirit of the Universe." Goodman was active during the civil-rights movement and protests over the Vietnam War. After being an international concert harp-sichordist, teacher and recording artist, he began work on the AIDS documentary film From the Ashes Risen. See www.Xlibris.com.



The Lost Women of Lost Lake
by Ellen Hart

Jane Lawless returns in this new mystery by award-winning lesbian author Ellen Hart, among my favorite writers. Don't worry, Jane's friend Cordelia is also here in fine form. Their friend Tess is the focus of the mystery this time, because an investigative journalist has arrived and is poking around into Tess's past. Going to visit relatives for the holidays? Take along this Ellen Hart book for your reading pleasure. A great escape.



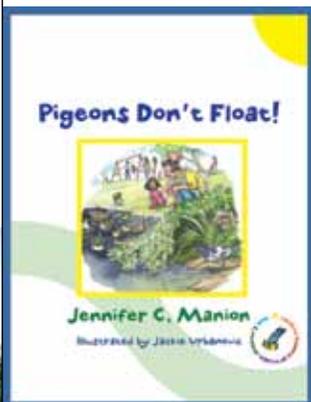
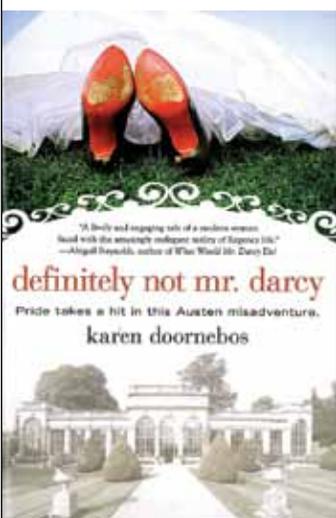
Sweet Like Sugar
by Wayne Hoffman

A novel about being gay and questioning true love. This is an interesting concept, with a young gay skeptic and his unlikely friendship with an older straight rabbi who has lost his wife, his "bashert" (the Yiddish word for the person you are fated to meet). Can the young man learn lessons from the rabbi?



Thoughts of a Tribal Elder: One Queerman's Journey from the Ashes Risen
by Roger Goodman, M. Mus., M. Div.

Chicagoan Goodman has lived with AIDS for many years. Once, he was in a coma for 10 days. "Like the phoenix, I rose from my own flames and ashes to become an even more beautiful bird with golden wings and purple feathers on its head," he said. "This is just a book of thoughts and, hopefully, some wisdom gathered through the course of my life, not just my life as an out Queerman since 1965, but my life since childhood through living with HIV/AIDS and overcoming addictions through recovery, gaining a spiritual



Pigeons Don't Float!
<http://www.rainbowrumpus.org/htm/printable.htm>

This is part of a series of downloadable books for children who have no other access to stories about LGBT-headed families in their communities. According to

Turn to page 36

Jim Flint

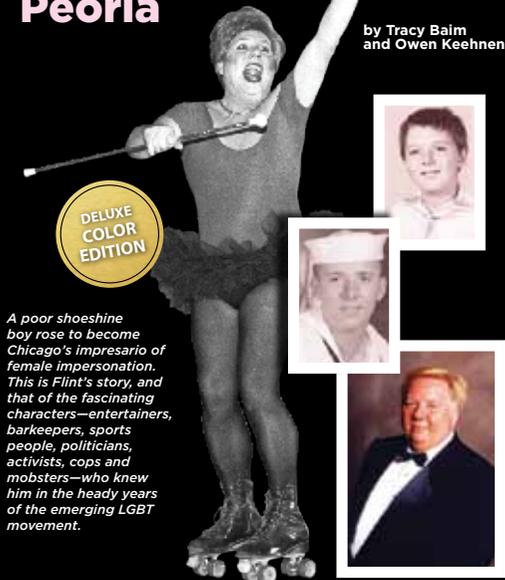
The Boy From Peoria

A new biography of Chicago's legendary Jim Flint

Jim Flint

The Boy From Peoria

by Tracy Baim and Owen Keehnen



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.

A new book by Tracy Baim & Owen Keehnen

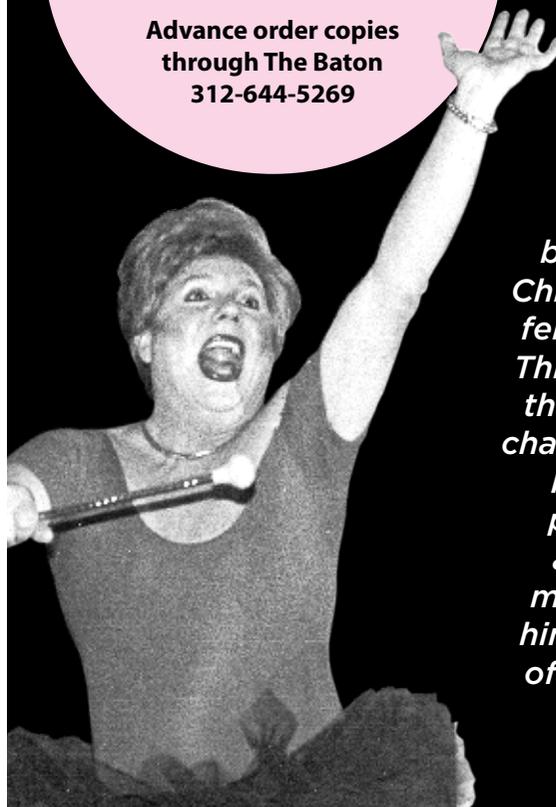
Available in both color and black & white on amazon.com

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

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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.



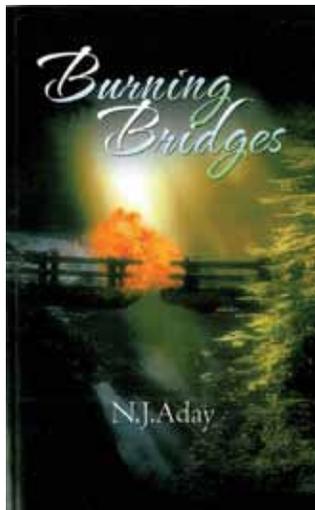
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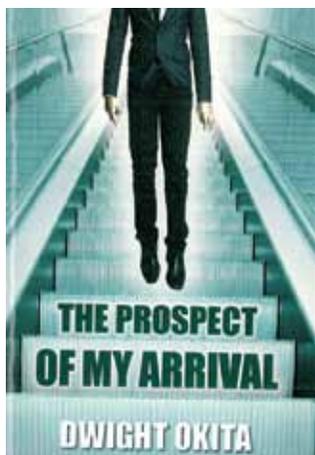
BOOKS from page 35

the 2010 census, children with same-sex parents live in 96% of U.S. counties. Pigeon's Don't Float is the story of Lilly, a girl with two moms, who loves family Sundays at the park. One Sunday while feeding the ducks, Lilly sees a pigeon float. No one believes her.



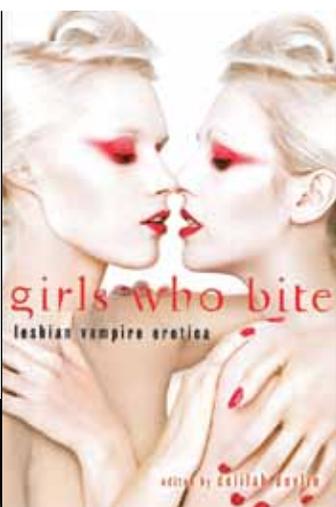
Burning Bridges by Natalie Aday

This is a painful story of abuse told from the perspective of one who was tormented by a lover, and that abuse only ended when her partner Tomi died. Aday writes about the difficulty in finding a way to walk away from someone who not only terrorized her, but her whole family.



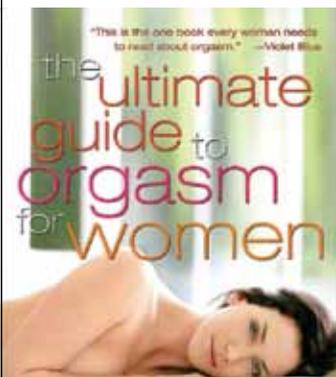
The Prospect of My Arrival by Dwight Okita

We reviewed this book in full a few weeks ago, but I wanted to add my thoughts on this inspired new novel by Chicagoan Okita. This is a story about a "pre-born" who gets to decide whether he wants to actually be born, in a future where technology can implant his consciousness into a young man's body, so he can experience the good and bad of the world, and then reflect on if he wants to enter the chaos. Okita, a gay author, has included a gay angle in this novel, but it's a sci-fi piece worthy of fans from any background.



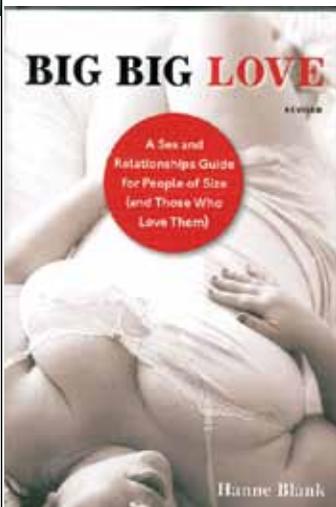
Girls Who Bite: Lesbian Vampire Erotica edited by Delilah Devlin

Devlin, a writer of fiction herself, has compiled a collection of vampire stories for those interested in a more Sapphic take than Twilight and True Blood provide. Writers include Adele Dubois, Christine d'Abo, Paisley Smith, Myla Jackson, Shayla Kersten and Vivi Anna.



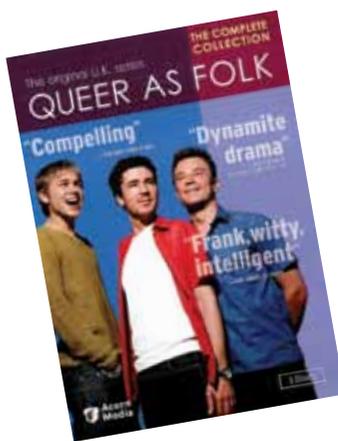
The Ultimate Guide to Orgasm for Women by Mikaya Heart

I am pretty sure this book needs the least description for our well-read audience. Cleis Press has put out this new "essential guide to pleasure for all women."



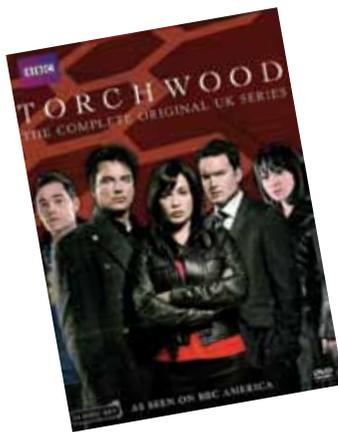
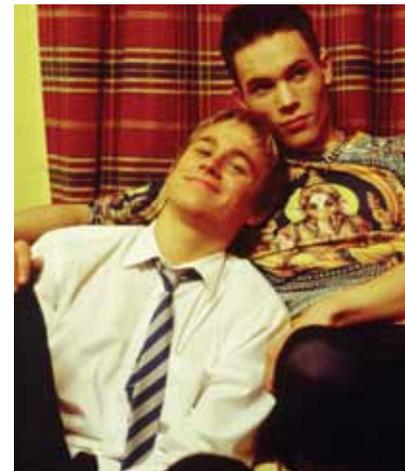
Big Big Love: A Sex and Relationships Guide for People of Size (and Those Who Love Them) by Hanne Blank

Another book with a title that pretty much says it all, this one published by Celestial Arts, revised from an earlier edition.



Queer as Folk: The Complete U.K. Collection DVD from Acorn Media

The U.S./Canada/Showtime version of Queer as Folk is often compared to the more groundbreaking, edgy U.K. partner—you can make your own comparisons now that this new collection is available. I would recommend both versions for different reasons. I think even though there were some problems when the show hopped the pond, it was still an important show. Of course I am a huge fan of Sharon Gless, as mom to Michael (Hal Sparks), but I think the show was enjoyable for what it was. The U.K. version, which had a much shorter run (it ran 1999-2000), was even more controversial and bolder. Aidan Gillen (The Wire, Identity) stars as an unrepentant rake wreaking havoc in Manchester's gay scene in this series created and written by BAFTA and Hugo Award-winner Russell T Davies (Doctor Who, Torchwood, The Grand) and co-starring Charlie Hunnam (Sons of Anarchy, Children of Men). The 3-disc set includes all of Series 1 and 2, along with 131 minutes of previously unavailable bonus materials, including deleted and extended scenes with commentary, behind-the-scenes interviews, a 20-page booklet by the series' creator, and more (\$49.99, www.AcornOnline.com).



Torchwood: The Complete Original UK Series (DVD and Blu-ray), from BBC

If you have a fan of Torchwood in your friend circle, this 14-disc collection is the gift that will keep on giving. Queer as Folk's Russell T Davies is co-executive producer (along with Julie Gardner) and co-writer (along with Chris Chibnall), so there is lots of queer content to enjoy, most important the bisexual shenanigans of gay actor John Barrowman in the lead. While obsessed fans quibble about plots and certain scenes, I am just a simple fan who loves to escape into the sci-fi world of Torchwood, a group of people outside of the reach of any authorities, who investigate the unknown in the world—and the universe. More grounded on planet earth than Dr. Who, this is a really fun detour into an alternate universe. Co-stars Eve Myles and Burn Gorman, among others. Includes 10 hours of extras.



The Green DVD from Wolfe Video

This is the story of a gay man who moves to the countryside and has his life turned upside down by a false accusation. The Green was written by Paul Marcarelli, known for as Verizon's "Can You Hear Me Now" pitchman. The Green stars Cheyenne Jackson (30 Rock, United 93), Jason Butler Harner (John Adams); Emmy Award-winner Julia Ormond and Illeana Douglas



Trigger DVD from Wolfe Video

This film stars avant-garde actress Tracy Wright (Highway 61, This Movie is Broken) in her final performance before her tragic death from cancer, and Molly Parker (TV's Deadwood) as two rockers who reunite 10 years after their band's dramatic breakup. Nominated for four GENIE Awards, including Best Actress nominations for both leads, Trigger received a Special Citation from the Toronto Film Critic's Association for Director Bruce McDonald and was selected as one of the Toronto International Film Fest's Top Ten films for 2010.



Take It Or Leave It a 2-disc tribute to The Runaways

This is a music CD thrown in for good gift-giving measure, especially to your rock-loving friends. The Runaways (Cherie Currie, Joan Jett, Lita Ford, Sandy West, Jackie Fox, Vicki Blue) were a groundbreaking rock band, and they helped to change the image of women in rock. There are 36 tracks on the two CDs, including classics "Cherry Bomb," "Queens Of Noise" and "Born To Be Bad." While most of the songs are tribute songs by other artists, the collection also includes Cherie Currie's remake of "American Nights," and "Dirty Magazines," the last recording made by drummer Sandy West with her band Blue Fox. Those on the CDs include The Donnas, Shonen Knife, The Adolescents, The Dandy Warhols, Richard Barone (of The Bongos), Derwood Andrews (of Generation X), Toilet Boys, Care Bears On Fire (with Earl Slick of David Bowie/New York Dolls), Kittie, Starz, David Johansen (of New York Dolls) and Kathleen Hanna (of Bikini Kill/Le Tigre) and Peaches, (whose collaboration was produced by Ad Rock of the Beastie Boys) as well as members of Frehley's Comet, Monster Magnet, The Fastbacks, The Cucumbers, The Doughboys and Cousin Oliver from The Brady Bunch, Robbie Rist.

GOINGS-ON

WINDY CITY TIMES' ENTERTAINMENT SECTION

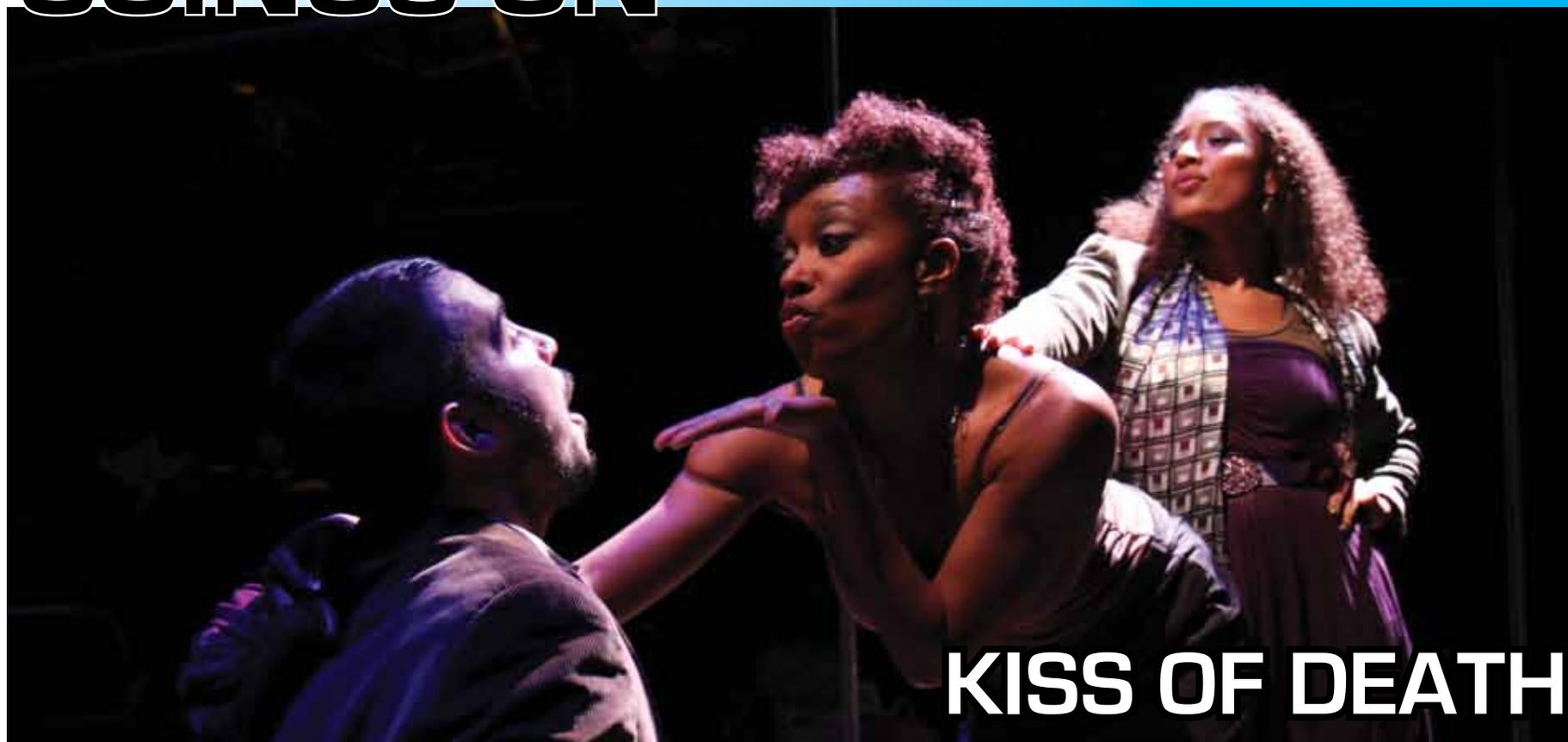


Photo courtesy of Teatro Luna

KISS OF DEATH

Teatro Luna's production, *Crossed*, is one of five productions reviewed this week. See page 40.

DISH

Berry, berry good.
Page 50.

Photo by Ed Negron



PERFORMANCE

Alexander the great.
Page 42.

PR photo



SPORTS

Net gain.
Page 58.

Photo courtesy of Royce Covington



DANCIN' FEATS

Numerous 'Nutcrackers'

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

It's inevitable that whenever December rolls around in the United States, *The Nutcracker* takes over the schedules of dance companies big and small. Indeed, this December there are more than a dozen dance companies in and around Chicago presenting their versions of *The Nutcracker*.

Although some may tire of this odd sugary dance confection famed for its battle between toy soldiers and mice and a nearly plotless second act full of dancing divertissements, *The Nutcracker* remains a reliable work to introduce children to the glories of ballet. LGBT audiences should also take pride in *The Nutcracker*, since it was composed by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky, one of the most famous gay composers in history.

So consider some of the following *Nutcrackers* for the holiday season.

Unquestionably the biggest and most lavish version of *The Nutcracker* in Chicago is the one put on by the **Joffrey Ballet** at the Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University. Created in 1987, *The Nutcracker* was the final large-scale dance piece created by company co-founder Robert Joffrey before he passed away from AIDS the following year.

Unlike other companies that use recorded music, the Joffrey Ballet's *Nutcracker* features live orchestral accompaniment by the Chicago Sinfonietta. There's also a live choir that sings in the snowy Act I finale. This might help to explain why the Joffrey's *Nutcracker* has the top ticket price in town, but you do get what you pay for in this production. Following a tour to Los An-

geles, Joffrey Ballet's "The Nutcracker" runs for 20 performances between Dec. 9 through 27 at the Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University, 50 E. Congress Pkwy. Tickets are \$30-\$115; call 800-982-2787 or visit <http://www.joffrey.org>.

The 1995 arrival of the Joffrey Ballet to Chicago eventually meant the eclipse of the famed Ruth Page production of *The Nutcracker* that successfully played many years at the Arie Crown Theater at McCormick Place. The **Civic Ballet of Chicago** now stages Page's choreography for *The Nutcracker*, which is seen at two suburban locations. There are two 3 p.m. matinees on Dec. 10-11 at Elgin Community College's Blizzard Theatre, 1700 Spartan Dr., Elgin. Tickets are \$27; call 847-622-0300. The production then moves to the Lumber Center for the Performing Arts, 19351 W. Washington St., Grayslake. Performances are 1 and 5 p.m. Dec. 17; 3 p.m. Dec. 18. Tickets are \$23-\$31; call 847-543-2300 or visit <http://www.civicballetofchicago.wordpress.com>.

Von Heidecke's **Chicago Festival Ballet** teams with the New Philharmonic for its "The Nutcracker," one of the few suburban productions that features a live orchestra. It plays at College of DuPage's McAninch Arts Center at College of DuPage, 425 Fawell Blvd., Glen Ellyn. Performances are at 7 p.m. on Dec. 16-17 and 2 p.m. on Dec. 17-18. Tickets are \$27-\$37; call 630-942-4000 or visit <http://www.chicagofestivalballet.com>.

Competing with the Joffrey Ballet in terms of the scale of venue, the **Moscow Ballet** brings *The Great Russian Nutcracker* to the Rosemont Theatre, 5400 N. River Rd., Rosemont. There is just one performance at 3 p.m. on Dec. 10. Tick-



Victoria Jaiani and Fabrice Calmels in the Joffrey's *Nutcracker*. Photo by Herbert Migdoll

ets are \$26-\$86.50; call 800-745-3000 or visit <http://www.nutcracker.com>.

If you are truly adverse to dressing up to go out to the theater, then wear whatever you want to see **New York City Ballet's** famed production of George Balanchine's version of *The Nutcracker* via a HD movie theater screening simulcast live from Lincoln Center in New York. The screening is 5 p.m. Dec. 13 at participating movie theaters. Visit <http://www.fathomevents.com> for a list of locations and to buy tickets.

If you don't want to head out to the suburbs to see a non-Joffrey production of *The Nutcracker*, then stay close to home with **Ballet Chicago** and its rendition at the Athenaeum Theatre, 2936 N. Southport Ave. Performances run Dec. 10-18 with curtain times at 2 and 7 p.m. Saturdays, 2:30 p.m. Sundays and an extra 7 p.m. show Dec. 16. Tickets are \$22-\$32 and \$18-\$26 for students and seniors; call 800-982-2787 or visit <http://www.balletchicago.org>.

Although many suburban ballet companies utilize mostly local dancers for *The Nutcracker*, professionals are frequently brought in to dance the roles of the Sugar Plum Fairy, her Cavalier and the Snow Queen and King. **Salt Creek Ballet** promises dancers from American Ballet Theatre and other international performers to guest in its production of *The Nutcracker*, which plays at the Center for Performing Arts at Governors State University, 1 University Parkway, off I-57 at Sauk Trail, University Park. Performances are at 1 and 5 p.m. Dec. 10. Tickets are \$33-\$40; call 708-235-2222 or visit <http://www.center-tickets.net>.

Salt Creek Ballet's production of *The Nutcracker* then moves to the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. Performances are at 3 p.m. Dec. 17 and 18. Tickets are \$31.50-\$39.50; call 847-673-6300 or visit <http://www.northshorecenter.org>.

These are just a few of the version of *The Nutcracker* with ties or locations close to Chicago. If you're tired of ballet versions of *The Nutcracker*, be sure to check out such variations like **The House Theatre of Chicago's** stage version of *The Nutcracker* at the Chopin Theatre (playing now through Dec. 30); **The Nutcracker on Ice** at the Robert Crown Center in Evanston from Dec. 9-11; or even **The Nutcracker on Horseback** at the Noble Horse Theatre, playing now through Jan. 1.

Non-Nutcracker dance

Bucking the trend of dancing *Nutcrackers* this December is **Deeply Rooted Dance Theatre**, which presents the premiere of "Chicago Women in Song" as part of its 15th-anniversary season finale at 8 p.m. Dec. 9 at Millennium Park's Harris Theater for Music and Dance, 205 E. Randolph St.

Chicago Women in Song also features other new works and repertory classics for this benefit event. Tickets are \$40-\$65, with \$150 VIP tickets; call 312-334-7777 or visit <http://www.harristheaterchicago.org> for more information.

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DOUBLE REVIEW

Far Away

Playwright: Caryl Churchill

At: winterfall chicago at

The Charnel House, 3421 W. Fullerton Ave.

Contact: 800-838-3006; \$12

Runs through: Dec. 11

LIT!

Playwrights: The Ensemble

At: GayCo Productions at

Annoyance Theatre, 4830 N. Broadway St.

Phone: 773-561-4665; \$15

Runs through: Dec. 30

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

For many people, Caryl Churchill's 2000 drama *Far Away* will be far too slight and oblique to enjoy. Consisting of just three short scenes, *Far Away* requires audiences to fill in the blanks to the sinister world Churchill dreams up, where paranoia reigns and not even animals or the environment can be trusted.

At the very least, the new company winterfall chicago has concocted a sturdy environmental production and pre-show multimedia exhibit to prod you to think about the themes of governmental oppression and rebellion dealt with in Churchill's *Far Away*. Director Nate Silver's decision to use The Charnel House in Logan Square adds plenty of character to the proceedings, with scenes taking place in the venue's main hall and in the lobby.

The performances are good, but you get the sense that the actors Elizabeth Dowling, Baize Buzan and Bernard Balbot are still wrapping their heads around the issues Churchill concocts. So the characters aren't self-assuredly defined by the actors as they could be.

As for the company of GayCo Productions' 15th-anniversary holiday show, *LIT!*, the members are most assuredly funny, if not the greatest of singers. While this isn't a debilitating drawback, it does show an area where this long-running LGBT comedy troupe could improve.

Some of the song sketches are also not as clever as they could be. The opening song pitting conservative Tea Partiers versus the 99 percent in the Occupy movement seems constricted by the song lyrics, while a song showing an overweight man getting excited about spending Christmas at the bathhouse *Man's Country* has a very odd and questionable tone.

However, other than these few clunkers, the rest of *LIT!* is thoroughly funny throughout. There are even a couple of scenes that incisively touch upon lesbian parenting that will not only make you laugh, but tug at the heartstrings.

LIT! director Piero Procaccini and musical director Amanda Murphy keep things moving along speedily with several standout characterizations from the cast.

John Loos and Brett Mannes are very amusing as two Freudian-slipping husbands who are attracted to each other but lumbered with crass and drunken wives, while Kelly Beeman makes for a hilarious left-behind ornament (complete with rotund red costume).

Kathy Betts and Judy Fabjance are great in a sketch where a mother and her lesbian daughter challenge stereotypes about each other, while Clay Goodpasture is consistently funny as multiple characters ranging from a modern-day Tiny Tim in music class to a back-biting suburban sister lunching at the Walnut Room in Macy's on State Street.

With *LIT!*, GayCo provides a funnily skewed and thoughtful LGBT reflection on the holiday season. Although it's not perfect, *LIT!* has enough winners to make it all worthwhile.



LIT! Photo by Steve Aleck

Suzanne Palmer at Stage 773 Dec. 10

Lampkin Music Group will present the Chicago cabaret debut of Suzanne Palmer in "Behold A Branch" Saturday, Dec. 10, at 8 p.m. in the Cabaret Room at Stage 773, 1225 W. Belmont Ave.

Mark Stredler will be the accompanist/musical director.

Tickets are \$20, with a percentage of ticket sales to be donated to the Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame; Season of Concern; and Pride Films and Plays. See <http://www.stage773.com> or call 773-327-5252.



Suzanne Palmer. PR photo

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Crossed. Photo courtesy of Teatro Luna

THEATER REVIEW

Crossed

Playwright: Multiple company members

At: Teatro Luna at The Viaduct, 3111 N. Western Ave.

Tickets: <http://www.teatroluna.org>; \$15-\$25

Runs through: Dec. 18

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

Teatro Luna has traveled a great distance in a decade, not merely from Pilsen to the mid-North Side, but from female-only solo monologues to fully scripted plays and the inclusion of men—where appropriate—in the troupe's work. Many company members have traveled even further as immigrants to the United States. With *Crossed*, Teatro Luna presents a sketch revue built on a theme, in this case the perils of border crossings for immigrants or those perceived as such. Alas, I felt both the format and the theme were retrograde, and that I've already been there and done that with Teatro Luna.

There are several reasons for my reaction, I think, the first being that the six performers (several of whom also are among the show's writers) lacked snap and energy the night I saw *Crossed* at its second performance. Also, the staging isn't effective. The main stage at The Viaduct—once home to the House Theatre of Chicago—is dark, cavernous and acoustically awful, thus not well-suited for an intimate and fast revue. It doesn't help, either, to split the audience into two halves facing each other across the stage. When actors turned their backs to me, their diction floated up to the rafters and not to my ears.

However, the sketch material itself, although often amusing, was too familiar. Opening and closing in an airport, the scenes conveyed how people with darker skin or foreign-sounding surnames, or with relatives in other countries, are subject to greater scrutiny and even downright suspicion upon leaving or re-entering the United States, and how airport authorities indulges in mindless "rules" and never-explained excesses. More, the revue explains that Spanish-speaking peoples are of different nationalities and cultures and not all alike, which has been a favorite Teatro Luna topic since Day One. The show's supposed focus on immigration stereotypes (code words for Mexican) isn't always well-delineated.

It's not that the themes and ideas lack truth or pertinence—regretfully, they remain both true and pertinent—but they are not new ideas or theatrical subjects for Teatro Luna and its audience (at least its longtime audience). Now, many original founders of Teatro Luna have moved on, several of them to distinguished local and national careers, so it's not surprising that younger, newer Lunaticas may be reinventing the wheel as they develop their artistic chops and tap personal experiences. Before the show, the director announced *Crossed* as a work-in-progress. Taking that at face value, what the troupe needs to do is find a congenial space for the show (perhaps their new home at the old Live Bait Theatre), tighten its focus, ruthlessly edit out repetitious material and then perform *Crossed* at TSA training sessions and Republican presidential debates!

SPOTLIGHT



Hell in Handbag Productions' classic spoof *Rudolph the Red-Hosed Reindeer* is back for its 14th year. If you love the classic TV special *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer*, then be sure to see how it gets lampooned with a distinctly lavender twist. *Rudolph the Red-Hosed Reindeer* continues through Dec. 30 at Mary's Attic, above Hamburger Mary's, 5400 N. Clark. Performances are at either 5 or 7:30 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays (no shows Dec. 24 and 25), with extra shows Dec. 21 and 28. Tickets are \$15-\$20, or \$35-\$95 VIP seating with a cocktail, CDs for three to four people. Call 800-838-3006 or visit <http://www.handbagproductions.org> for more information. Photo by Rick Aguilar

THEATER REVIEW

Pump Boys and Dinettes

Playwright: music, lyrics and book by John Foley, Mark Hardwick, Debra Monk, Cass Morgan, John Schimmel and Jim Wann
At: Theo Ubique Cabaret Theatre at the No Exit Café, 6970 N. Glenwood Ave.
Phone: 800-595-4849; \$29-\$34
Runs through: Jan. 18

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

On North Carolina's Highway 57, between Smyrna and Frog Level, you'll find the Double Cupp Diner. This eatery, named for its free first refill, is flanked by a gas station/repair shop. The grease jockeys of this lonely roadside rest stop don't do a lot of business, and, after the breakfast rush, neither do the proprietresses of the Double Cupp. So it comes as no surprise that they have plenty of time to make music.

As might be expected of troubadours from the 99-percent demographic, many are songs of longing. The gallant L.M. recalls a chaste encounter with the queen of country music in "The Night Dolly Parton Was Almost Mine;" romantic Prudie croons a wistful hymn to "The Best Man I Never Had;" and baby-faced Jackson extolls the charms of "Mona," the checkout clerk at the Frog Valley Mall, even as practical Rhetta lays down an ultimatum to a neglectful suitor in "Be Good or Be Gone." Their subjects sometimes encompass hardships associated with their ground-level jobs ("No lip—just tips!" Prudie and Rhetta exhort their customers), but mostly they celebrate the pleasures available to humble Americans who wear their names embroidered above their heart pockets.

Available to us are the pleasures of celebrating with them in the No Exit Cabaret, its decor converted (with minimal alterations) to reflect 20th-century rural chic. Musical director Jim DeSelm coaxes Jerry Lee-style solo turns from the keyboards; Alex Stage and Cory Siragusa waltz their mighty stringed instruments around the floor with nimble-fingered grace; Courtney Crouse keeps the patter coming; and Christina Smith and Danni Hall supply treble vocals and kitchen-utensil percussion.

They also wait tables with cheerful alacrity—another feature of the Theo Ubique package is a wholesome supper invoking nostalgic memories for city dwellers. Playgoers who like their rockabilly loud have Million Dollar Quartet at the Apollo, and for them who like their honkers raunchy, there's the Doyle and Debbie Show at the Royal George, but if your tastes run to gentle fare, accompanied with enough friendly smiles and winks to persuade you that a motel room (with cable TV) isn't a right cozy way to spend a rainy day with someone special, then you'll want to take yourself out to this little ol' café on Glenwood Avenue.



Pump Boys and Dinettes. Photo by David Heimann

THEATER REVIEW

Changes of Heart

Title: *Changes of Heart*

Playwright: Pierre Carlet de Marivaux, translated by Stephen Wadsworth

At: Remy Bumppo Theatre Company at the Greenhouse, 2257 N. Lincoln Ave.

Phone: 773-404-7336; \$35-\$50

Runs through: Jan. 8

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

A playbill note gives our locale as the North Shore of Chicago during the 1960s. Ignore it, if you want to avoid confusion, because Pierre Carlet de Marivaux's romantic comedy is premised firmly in 18th-century European sovereign privilege. Consider a young prince, traveling incognito, who falls for a village maiden betrothed to a local lad. What does the lovesick royal do? Why, kidnaps the girl with the intent of holding her

captive in his palace until she can be persuaded to accept his proposal of marriage (a shotgun wedding being distasteful even to monarchs). That is *not* how we do things in America!

Despite a few Mad Men-era frocks and pre-Beatles pop tunes, Timothy Douglas' directorial concept suffers further ambiguity in Stephen Wadsworth's translation, which juxtaposes Yankee idioms like "We're in a pickle" and Valley-speak "Aaaw, whatever" with the formal syntax we expect of classical oratory. What catapults us inextricably into Goldoni territory, however, is the entrance of Harlequin, that icon of 12th-century Roman commedia, dressed in his traditional motley and mask, while sporting a heavy Latino accent. After that, it's impossible to pretend we are anywhere but a fairy-tale kingdom of giddy lovers and improbable solutions.

This is not a bad thing. Once disencumbered of scholarly analogies, the characters are a delight to watch as they scheme to deliver unto their spoiled monarch what he desires, after seducing Silvia's country-boy suitor away with money and a high-born mistress. Once the actors acclimate to the lofty rhetoric, they are also a delight to hear, delving the ethical consequences of their decisions as charted in Marivaux' age-of-reason philosophical discussions. Nicolas Gamboa's effusive Harlequin charms us from his first appearance, as do D'Wayne Taylor's haughty butler and Jake Szczepaniak's lip-syncing houseboy. Steve Wojtas valiantly projects innocence in the problematic role of the Prince, while Alana Arenas and Linda Gillum project womanly wit and wisdom with unflagging stamina over the two and a half hours of the production.

The fashion nowadays is to reach for timely lessons in the social behavior of long ago. There's no harm in Douglas' attempt to hijack Marivaux in pursuit of commentary on class prejudices and the corrupting influence of materialism, nor in audiences joining him in his search. Be advised, however: Those who don't peer so closely will have much more fun.



Changes of Heart. Photo by Johnny Knight

NUNN ON ONE: COMEDY

Legend Phyllis Diller: On Joan Rivers, gin and retirement

BY JERRY NUNN

Phyllis Diller is one of a kind. Breaking out in a comedy career at a time when many women were not prominent in the business, Phyllis pretended to smoke from a long cigarette holder, talked about her husband Fang and burst out with that infectious laugh.

Many may not know she studied in Chicago at the Sherwood Music Conservatory. She appeared in the musical *Hello, Dolly!* Diller appeared in such cartoons as *Family Guy* and *A Bug's Life*. She graced our television sets for decades from *The Jack Paar Show* in '50s to now with *The Rosie O'Donnell Show* who created a loving tribute to Miss Diller recently. After turning down major news outlets for interviews, *Windy City Times* was honored to e-mail her a few questions as she just discovered the Internet.

Windy City Times: Hello, Ms. Diller. I just saw you on *The Rosie Show*. Do you have any special memories from past Chicago trips here?

Phyllis Diller: It was so great hearing Jackie & Ray work the Ritz Carlton.

WCT: How was visiting Roseanne Barr and appearing on her reality show?

PD: I found out she's really nuts.

WCT: You met her a long time ago, correct?

PD: It wasn't a meeting. It was an explosion!

WCT: Roseanne said that you can drink her under the table. What is your favorite cocktail?

PD: A gin martini.

WCT: What's a day in the life of Phyllis

Diller like?

PD: It would make your head spin.

WCT: I can imagine. You never actually smoked with that cigarette holder?

PD: It was a wooden and a prop. People swore they saw smoke coming out of it. This is acting. I am proud of this. I used it to make a point.

WCT: I didn't know you play music and paint.

PD: I have been practicing since birth.

WCT: Mad Monster Party is one of my favorite movies from Rankin/Bass—any favorite memories from the experience?

PD: I loved being married to Frankenstein.

WCT: Do you have any advice for new comics going into the stand-up business?

PD: One piece of advice is: Don't ask the audience questions. What they need is an audience. When they laugh, you are a winner. When they don't laugh, you are a loser so it is very simple.

Stan Freberg caught one my earlier shows at the Purple Onion and gave me some wonderful advice. He said, "I don't care how in love you are with a line, try it three times. If it bombs after three times it's out." A lot of comics fall in love with a line and leave it in. Material is the secret. Also, have a stance like Joan Rivers, who has an attitude. She's Jewish, chic and smart. That's her attitude.

WCT: She's the best!

PD: There are many comedians but I am a comic. That is hardcore. When I started the men were working in duo like Jerry Lewis and Dean Martin. Being a female as a single in stand-up made me responsible for my material.



Phyllis Diller. PR photo

WCT: Who inspired you starting out?

PD: Comic actresses inspired me in my childhood. It was okay to be pretty in the movies but doing stand-up was a whole other ballgame.

WCT: Where does that laugh come from?

PD: That was a trademark by accident. That is my real laugh. In the beginning it was nerves. When people are nervous they giggle and I was just so nervous for so many years. People think I laugh a lot more than I do.

WCT: Do you have more projects coming out?

PD: Yes, I was just on *Celebrity Ghosts* on The Biography Channel.

WCT: At age 94, are you ever going to retire?

PD: I thought I did, but it didn't work!

Purchase Phyllis Diller's *Goodnight, We Love You* where major DVDs are sold.

CRITICS' PICKS

Ariadne auf Naxos, Lyric Opera of Chicago, through Dec. 11. This comic opera by Richard Strauss and Hugo von Hofmannsthal insightfully and theatrically contrasts notions of high art versus low comedy and genuine love against passing infatuations. SCM

Assisted Living, Profiles Theatre at The Second Stage Theatre, through Dec. 18. Profiles Theatre, renowned for bloody spectacle, invokes its softer side in this gentle family drama of filial conflicts, ending in resolution, tolerance and unity—betcha you didn't see that coming! MSB

The Caretaker, Writers' Theatre, through March 25. You simply won't find a better staging of Harold Pinter's quintessential 1960 Comedy of Menace, set in a tough London 'hood where an old bum nearly comes between two vastly dissimilar brothers. Beautiful acting and direction. JA

Season's Greetings, Northlight Theatre, through Dec. 18. Alan Ayckbourn's classic 1980 Christmas comedy is not only hilarious, but also incisively black in its depiction of British friends and families who reevaluate their relationships over the holiday season. SCM

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge and Morgan

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PERFORMANCE

Cortes Alexander: Out entertainer on his new show and Liza

BY STEVEN CHAITMAN

Cortes Alexander has made a long and fruitful career out of performing in vocal ensembles, with high notes including his tours with Liza Minnelli, most recently as part of her "Liza's At the Palace" tour. Now he takes center stage with "The Swell Show," which arrives at Davenport's, 1383 N. Milwaukee Ave., on Thursday, Dec. 15, at 8 p.m.

"The Swell Show" comprises songs Alexander learned from Minnelli and her godmother, Kay Thompson; some standards; and a few originals off his debut album, *Swell*. Alexander will be joined by his "Swell Girls," Melissa Bailey and Jennifer Rappo, who have a show-stopping duet in the middle of his set.

Alexander spoke with *Windy City Times* about his big jump from group performer to headliner as well as Minnelli's many influences on his career.

Windy City Times: After so many years performing in ensembles, what led you to creating your solo project in *Swell*?

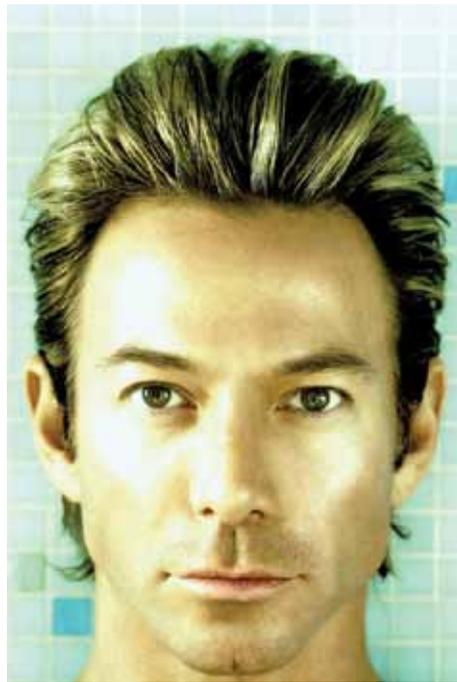
Cortes Alexander: I guess I realized that I was leaning on collaboration to knock some of the responsibility for trying to stand up on my own. I was kind of almost leaning on those collaborations like a crutch in a way. I love teams and working together and all that kind of stuff, but it was becoming an excuse to not want to take responsibility for my very own thing. That's where it came from.

WCT: How would you gauge your reaction to being in the spotlight so far? Is it strange or even scary being a headliner?

CA: Duck in the water! Actually, it's okay, because even though you're doing your own thing, you're not really by yourself. I've got my Swell Girls that I can kind of lean on if I start to have anxiety in the middle of the show. It's a lot of fun. In the beginning, I was nervous, but the reaction has been so favorable that it's completing quieting any anxiety that I might of had.

WCT: How have the artists you've worked with over the years, namely Liza, helped shape the music you wanted to write and the performance you wanted to do?

CA: She's very encouraging about this and always has been. I think, as a stage performer, no matter what you do, you breathe in influences wherever you can and you learn from the next one. You take little bits of pieces of influence on the subconscious level and apply it to your own art. When I first started with Liza—almost 15-20 years ago maybe—it was literally like being shot out of a very glamorous cannon. I learned



Cortes Alexander. PR photo

in an hour and a half what it takes people years and years and lots and lots of shows to learn. She has been a fantastic mentor and an even better friend.

WCT: In what ways has Liza influenced you in terms of the behind-the-scenes elements—what you don't see or hear?

CA: I've watched how she treats us and her band members and all the people she tours with and I've really learned by example. ... She does absolutely everything to make people feel comfortable and to make people feel encouraged and valuable and worthy and talented.

I think it's a wild thing because the perception of her as sort of this legendary entity—while that is obviously true—it's not really who she is as a person. At the end of the day it's a person who is aware of that but is out of it enough to be able to pass on the very grounded aspects of being an artist, the things that you need that you would like to hear and the kind of encouragement and counsel that you need that someone of her experience can really give you. So I try and pass that on in my collaboration with my small show. I really learned you get the best out of people by treating them well.

WCT: It sounds like rather than just a concert, people will be getting a more theatrical experience when they see your show. What do you have in store for them?

CA: Great music, a lot of stories—a little about Liza and a little about getting older. When it came together I had my set list in my living room on Post-Its on my walls. I was looking at it and thinking if I wasn't singing this show I would love it. If it was anybody else singing it I would totally go and have a great time and that's just me being totally objective. I think it's a lot of fun, I certainly have a great time doing it and the response so far has been really terrific. There's something for everyone in it, so you'll have a great time.

WCT: What's next? Do you have more material for another studio album or will you stick with live performance?

CA: I want to keep developing this and tweak-

ing it. I have total musical ADD. I'm always finding something new and let's replace this with that, so I'll probably stay with this for a while and see how far we get with it. ... I think about orchestrating it or if I could get maybe a couple of horns. It is ready to build it up, but it's expensive and I don't want to do it unless I really feel like we've got some really swell momentum going. But a lot of the stuff would lend itself to more augmented orchestrations, so that could be down the line.

Tickets for "The Swell Show" cost \$15 and can be purchased by visiting <http://www.davenportspianobar.com>.

NUNN ON ONE: TELEVISION

Shane Stevens of 'Girls Who Like Boys...' on Nashville, friends



BY JERRY NUNN

Girls Who Like Boys Who Like Boys is the acclaimed reality show that just premiered on the Sundance Channel with its second set in Nashville, Tenn. World of Wonder produced the story of several gay men and their special bonds with their best girlfriends.

Songwriter Shane Stevens and singer Sherrié Austin tackle the buckle of the Bible belt and the world of country music in the deep south before a camera crew.

Austin is a former actress on the *Facts of Life* and *The Fresh Prince of Bel Air*; Stevens has written hits for *Lady Antebellum*, *Kellie Pickler* and *Jordin Sparks*.

Stevens talked Jesus, George Michael and drag queens one afternoon Nunn on One.

Windy City Times: Hey, Shane. Are you in Nashville now?

Shane Stevens: No, I am in New York City. I live here, L.A. and Nashville. My apartment is being renovated and I am calling from a hotel.

WCT: How are connected with Nashville—from the music business?

SS: Yes. I moved there when I was 17. I didn't know if I could be a country singer being a gay man but I wanted to go to Nashville and figure myself out! [Laughs] I packed up

my little pickup truck and drove from Myrtle Beach, S.C. I have been there ever since. I moved to New York in 2001 and have been going back and forth.

WCT: Well, let's talk about the stigma of country music and being gay.

SS: That's a tough road to go down. Fortunately, it has been okay being a writer. They have welcomed me with open arms. I think it would have been a lot different 10 years ago. From what people have told me I was the first openly gay country hit songwriter. It worked out for me and I haven't had any resistance.

I made a pop record that comes out in January but I am doing a trio record with Hilary Lindsey and Cary Barlowe, who I wrote "American Honey" with. We love writing and singing together and performing onstage so we decided to make a Dixie Chicks country pop record together. It remains to be seen if we will get played because of the gay guy in the band but it's time to shake it up!

WCT: In the last 10 years things have changed like you said. There are new Nashville gay bars like *Tribe* and *Play*.

SS: Before it was the Connection. That was where I met my first boyfriend.

WCT: I was just telling someone that they know how to put on a drag show in Tennessee.

SS: Honey, drag in Nashville kicks everybody's ass!

WCT: So true. Where did you meet your best friend Sherrié?

SS: I met her in New York City. She was in a Broadway show called *Ring of Fire*. We hit it off immediately when we met. I had been a fan of hers forever and loved her music. My boyfriend fell in love with her and she fell in love with him. They are a lot alike so that helped.

WCT: Where did you meet your boyfriend, Matt?

SS: [We met] in New York—also through a

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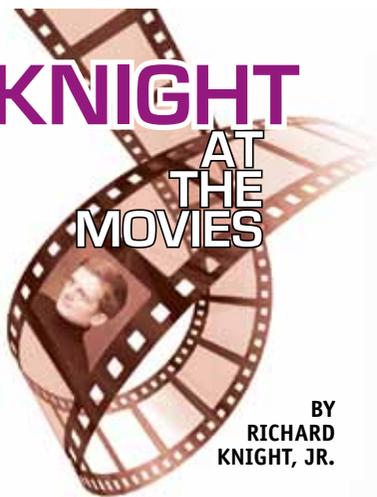
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KNIGHT AT THE MOVIES



BY
RICHARD
KNIGHT, JR.

We Were Here; Shame; Ken Russell tribute; film note

It's taken a second viewing of director David Weissman's **We Were Here** to break down my resistance to its subject matter.

The documentary (now playing On Demand)—which Weissman co-directed with his editor, Bill Weber—focuses on the impact of the AIDS epidemic on San Francisco from the beginning of the outbreak at the end of the '70s through the truly terrifying decade that followed. Perhaps my hesitation was because of my own long history with AIDS and all that it has meant for me (the loss of so many loved ones, the years of frustration in the face of ignorance and indifference, queer activism, the myriad of painful emotions, etc). What queer middle-aged man doesn't have a long history with this insidious disease and hesitate before plunging back into this subject?

The director's approach couldn't be simpler: Weissman relates the story of San Francisco's response to the crisis through the memories of five individuals who lived to tell the tale. However, the cumulative power of the stories these five—a queer activist; a shy AIDS ward volunteer; a fearless lesbian nurse; a sassy, heartfelt florist; and an emotionally bereft artist—relate turns out to be incredibly moving and worth the emotional journey. Each presents a very personal history of life during the pandemic. As we listen to the tremendous personal cost to each, we see clips of archival footage and photographs, unflinching in portraying the terrible physical toll the disease took on so many of our young comrades. So many...

To the detailed memories (the movie is akin to the Shoah Project, in which Jewish survivors of the Holocaust relate their stories on camera so they are never forgotten), the participants bring a depth of feeling—and, yes, moments of lightness—to what amounts to a testament to gay culture. The San Francisco queer movement was certainly at the forefront of the epidemic, Weissman reminds us. Also, because of its brave and often outraged response (a response New York's gay culture shares), it also served as a mirror for urban cities across the country, Chicago included.

During the first viewing of *We Were Here*, I guess I just didn't want to open myself up to the intense amount of feeling that Weissman's movie so effortlessly puts on the screen. Sometimes a movie has the ability to put you in touch with places inside yourself that maybe you don't want to return but in doing so the catharsis, bittersweet as it often is, can also bring back the joy and humor that's always a part of the fabric of the things hidden away.

Weissman's movie has that rare gift—thanks to his marvelous, unforced way with the material and his disparate storytellers—and days after watching it again, I'm thinking of so many of my fallen comrades and the light and love they



Michael Fassbender in *Shame*. Photo by Abbot Genser

brought to all our lives and am rejoicing at being reminded. Michael Allen. Dixon Tabla. Neal Kristie. Vejnoska. Don Ziebarth. Ron Ziebarth. Danny Sotomayor. Jeff Fields. So many more. There are so many amazingly talented, beautiful, funny men gone but not forgotten.

Actor Michael Fassbender has been on a roll this year with a variety of roles that have certainly put him on the buzz list—none more so than his starring part as morose sex addict Brandon in director/co-writer Steve McQueen's **Shame**. Loaded title aside, the bulk of the movie offers a truly cogent portrait of an urban dweller whose dazzling good looks; effortless charm and style; and apparent talent for business (we're never quite sure what he does) belie a slowly rotting interior. McQueen quickly establishes Brandon's intense preoccupation with sex. (Even jacking off in the urinal, he's matter-of-fact.) It's no wonder that the film has garnered an NC-17 rating amid lots of controversy (including a full-frontal scene in the opening minutes that gives Ewan McGregor a run for his money).

Just as quickly, however, all that sex becomes unsexy and the torrid becomes tired. Then, Brandon's emotionally screwed-up sister, Sissy (a sensational Carey Mulligan), moves in to his fashionable digs and the chilly tone begins to intensify. At first things seem okay between brother and sister; however, once Brandon and his boss take in one of Sissy's club gigs (in which she sings a torchy version of "New York New York"), it seems to open a hole into his psyche that sends Sissy on a downward emotional spiral. We don't get much about the background of the two (though there's a heavy suggestion of incest) but clearly something in Sissy pulls strings deep inside Brandon. His response, naturally, is to have more and more sex.

The film's climax (sorry) comes during a night of out of control debauchery for Brandon—one that finds him engaging in all manner of salacious activity, including an intense encounter with a man in the bowels of a gay-sex club and a three-way with two bisexual women later that night. However, these latter two set pieces are shaped so the viewer is cued to find them nothing less than the acts of a man hitting bottom—a straight man resorting to sex in a gay club! A sexual romp with two lesbians! The horror, the horror!

At that point the movie's sudden and rather surprising heterosexual moralizing—unconscious though it may be—left me out in the cold with regard to Brandon's fate. This judgmental lapse threw me out of the movie and I never quite found my way back in as the oversight seemed so egregious (queer sex once again the worst sin a straight guy can commit, don't you know). Shame on *Shame* for resorting to the same old stereotypes and hang-ups it mostly seemed to eschew.

The film world lost a truly original talent last week with the death of avant-garde director **Ken Russell**. Russell made a smattering of films in his native Britain in the early '60s before breaking through with 1970's *Women in Love*, a sensational adaptation (by queer activist/screenwriter Larry Kramer) of D.H. Lawrence's controversial novel. Russell's penchant for breaking taboos began with the film, which featured a nude wrestling scene between Alan Bates and Oliver Reed (a first for U.S. audiences). The director went on to make a number of sexually tinged films throughout the '70s, many of them with queer or pseudo-queer themes. In 1971 he cast Richard Chamberlain as the lead in his biopic of gay music composer Tchaikovsky in *The Music Lovers* and next infuriated censors with his explicit version of *The Devils*.

Russell's over-the-top movies reached their

apogee (both critically and at the box office) with 1975's *Tommy*, the musical version of The Who's rock opera that included Elton John, Tina Turner and an Oscar-nominated Ann-Margret in its cast. Russell continued to turn out his audacious, quasi-biopics (Mahler, *Listzomania*, *Valentino*) as the '70s continued. In 1980, he gave William Hurt his breakthrough role in *Altered States* and followed it four years later with one of his most polarizing films, *Crimes of Passion*, in which Kathleen Turner played a prostitute stalked by Anthony Perkins as a priest wielding a steel dildo.

Lair of the White Worm, released in 1988, was a horror film with strong sexual overtones (no surprise there); it was considered a return to form and was the director's last popular success. Russell went to direct several other movies and even staged operas that continued to exhibit his penchant for shocking audiences. Russell, who was married four times, never hesitated to explore the outer reaches of mainstream society or sexual themes—exposing conservative attitudes and gleefully ignoring them with each new offering.

Film note:

—White Light Cinema presents **No Skin Off My Ass**, the 1991 feature debut of provocative queer filmmaker Bruce La Bruce. The film, which combines punk and queer aesthetics and isn't available on DVD, is a combination of Warhol and a lot of the other filmmakers of the New Queer Cinema movement of the early '90s (albeit, naturally, La Bruce's approach is a lot rawer). This rare screening takes place Saturday, Dec. 10, at 8 p.m. at The Nightingale, 1084 N. Milwaukee Ave. Call 773-381-3102 or visit <http://www.whitelightcinema.com>.

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

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BOOKS

Judy, Judy, Judy: John Fricke knows all about legendary actress

BY RICHARD KNIGHT, JR.

There are Judy Garland historians—and then there's John Fricke.

For decades Fricke, who was born and raised in Milwaukee and attended Northwestern University before settling in New York City, has been the go-to guy for the media and the just plain curious on anything regarding the career of Garland, the legendary performer and gay community icon who became a bona fide star in 1939 with the release of the quintessential fantasy classic *The Wizard of Oz*. Both *Oz* and Garland have been favorite subjects for Fricke, who has written multiple books on each.

In addition, he has supplied commentary tracks for several Garland DVDs; appeared at festivals dedicated to her; programmed film retrospectives of her movies; had more than a hand in producing tribute documentaries attesting to her unparalleled talent; chosen rare tracks for CD compilations; and, in general, has held the light aloft for the multitalented vocalist, screen and television performer.

Now Fricke—whose commentary track is featured on an upcoming Blu-ray edition of Garland's charming 1944 musical *Meet Me in St. Louis*—has written a sumptuous coffee table book called *Judy: A Legendary Film Career* that provides an overview of all 34 of Garland's movies. With his new book, Fricke hopes to remind younger audiences or those new to Garlandmania that it was as a movie star that the world first fell in love with Judy. As the book—which is filled with hundreds of rare photos points out—there are a lot more Judy films than just her unassailable triumphs in *Oz*, *St. Louis* and *A Star Is Born* to treasure. The openly gay Fricke's undimmed enthusiasm for all things Judy was palpable during an exclusive interview with *Windy City Times*.

Windy City Times: It's so fun to talk with you about Judy Garland the movie star—my favorite aspect of her career.

John Fricke: I oversaw four weeks of screenings of Judy's film career this summer at Lincoln Center in New York and what was so amazing—and I say this as a fan since I was 5—is that this business of watching her never disappoints. No matter how many times you've seen the stuff



John Fricke. Photo courtesy of Fricke

or think, "Okay, my sense of perceptions will change this time around," no, they don't. You put her on a big screen in front of a crowd and she never disappoints.

WCT: It's great to see this all collected together—the rare photos, the details about the making of the films, the interesting bits of trivia.

JF: That's the wonderful thing about her—there's always something new photographically, in terms of facts and factoids, etc.

WCT: For the uninitiated, your book is a great introduction to Garland's movie career.

JF: We went out of the way to find pictures that hadn't been shown before. I couldn't do a book like this unless I could give a new spin on it and I'm proud of the new art; I'm proud of the fact that the review quotes are all new—none of them have been in Garland books before. So there's a lot here for older Garland fans and the new as well.

WCT: I know, of course, the classic film fans will love this new book but how about younger audiences?

JF: Quick anecdote: There was a young man who only knew Judy in *The Wizard of Oz* who came to Presenting Lily Mars on a lark—not intending to see the rest of the movies in the series—and he never went home. He was texting and tweeting and tooting [laughs] and whatever you do to all of his friends from school about the movies. I think that's representative of Judy's continuing appeal—which, of all the golden-age movie stars, has never dimmed.

WCT: So for those who know just the Big Three, what movie of Judy's would you recommend next?

JF: If I had to pick just one it would be *Summer Stock*. Between Judy and Gene Kelly it's amazingly entertaining but then you get Phil Silvers, Gloria DeHaven, Hans Conried and Marjorie Main. Between all of them there's not a dull moment in that film. It's just a joy from beginning to end.

I think, of the Judy-Mickey

films, *Girl Crazy* is the least typical because for once he's pining for her and not vice versa and she's never looked lovelier. The "Embraceable You" sequence is one of five Judy Garland clips that I would take to a desert island. I also love *Everybody Sing* for the pre-*Oz* films because it's Judy with Billie Burke and Fanny Brice. There's a lot of great stuff out there to investigate.

WCT: I think I Could Go On Singing, her last film, is greatly underappreciated.

JF: Well people want to camp it and, yet, by the time you're 15 minutes into it, it cannot be camped because it's so real and it's so sincere and she's so honest in what she's doing.

WCT: Your book also gets into some of the movie roles that got away. What are some that you would love to have seen?

JF: *Showboat* would have been a vastly different film if she had played Julie, and Judy was to have additional songs and scenes; it would have been a really nice transition to see her go to a genuinely tragic character. The *Helen Morgan Story*, from 1959, is a lousy picture but I would have loved to have heard her sing those songs. Of course, *Mame*; of course, *Gypsy*—those are two projects that cry out for Judy Garland. Arthur Laurents was excited that Judy was going to do the film but Warner Bros. wouldn't risk it with her.

WCT: For gay men, Judy's concerts are a part of our history—they were a place to meet and

to join fellow Judy worshippers. Did the movies have that same ability to draw together gay people? Did that happen during her MGM years in the '40s?

JF: I don't know because I think it was so much more of a secret society. I'm 60 so I wasn't around then but I do remember seeing *A Child Is Waiting* and *I Could Go On Singing*, her last two movies, when they opened. But even then, there was no sense of that community, and neither of those were typical Garland films. The three concerts I saw in Chicago, yes, there was representation—let's put it that way—but again, the cross-section of people who loved her was extraordinary. She had across-the-board appeal. Judy's ability was to not only fill a live theatre or stadium or nightclub with her persona but she could rein it in so that it worked in a film or on TV.

WCT: That's a very rare ability that she had.

JF: So many things put her in a league of her own. First of all, [there was] the fact that she truly was multitalented. Then there's her charisma, which she practically invented in terms of getting across in person and then being able to get across in the very cold mediums of film and videotape and audio recording. [Also,] she's also one of the comparatively few movie stars who was more interesting as herself than as she was as Dorothy or Esther or Polly or whoever.

SHANE from page 42

friend of mine. We met at Therapy. It's a bar not actually in mental therapy!

WCT: You deal with religion versus sexuality on the show.

SS: Well, I am a Jesus freak. He changed my life and I am never going back. I love God so much and I know he loves us so much exactly for who we are. Unfortunately, I am not a fan of many Christians.

WCT: I like the T-shirts you had made—how fun to wear to the gay bars.

SS: [Laughs] I am so excited about doing that. Those were the prototypes so we need smaller versions because Sherri's engulfed her. We are going to have tighter ones made and go rock it!

WCT: How did you get on this Sundance series?

SS: I got a phone call from Sherri. Her publicist wanted to know if she had a gay best friend and would be willing to do a show together. We met the producers and they found out that we were the real deal.

We actually turned the show down three times. We are songwriters for a living and we had to make sure this was the right road. Sherri's comeback CD, *Circus Girl*, just came

out this week. She is standing up for the gays.

Country music hasn't been so welcoming to our community. She felt it was really important to do it. We decided to jump in and go for it. We told them if they wanted to follow us around and see what is going on in our lives that's okay but we are not making up anything. We had stuff to do and records to make. "If you think that is interesting television then come on!"

I thought it was important to show the fact that God really does love us exactly how we are. I don't pretend to have everything figured out. I am on chapter three. I am questioning a lot of things in my life and trying to figure it out.

WCT: You could even record a gospel album.

SS: You know what? I am going to put out a Christian song called "This is Why I Worship." It is the very first Christian song I ever wrote. I am going to put it up online on my website.

WCT: Your solo album comes out next year?

SS: In January. It will be a seven-song EP I will put out a few different records. The first one will be Train meets Maroon 5. The second one will be all hopeful songs called *Holy Graffiti*. The third one will be more uptempo George Michael pop. The next will be country singer/songwriter. I do it all. I write songs for everybody. I just want to write and sing songs that make me feel good and hopefully touch people. That is what my goal is.

WCT: You have done very well with writing for Lady Antebellum.

SS: It has been really good. My track record has been good.

WCT: Did you know George Michael is working on a gay artist album?

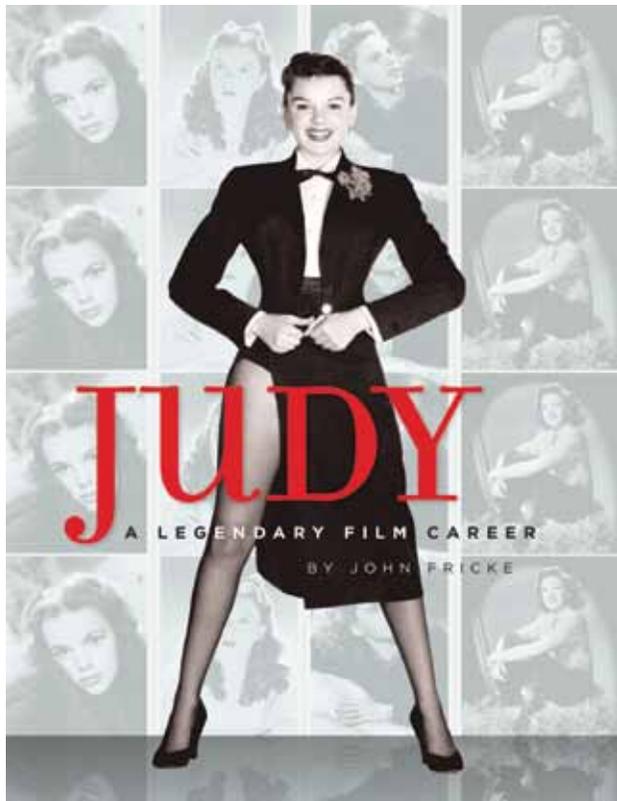
SS: He is? He has agreed to work with me. He's my idol. My teacher in the fourth grade told me that one day I would sing like him. She played a tape of "One More Try" for me, and he became my idol. Hopefully, it comes to fruition that I get to work with him in March.

WCT: "You gotta have Faith," Shane!

Look for new episodes every Friday on the Sundance Channel and information at <http://www.sundancechannel.com>. Find out more about Shane Stevens at <http://www.shanestevensmusic.com>.



Shane Stevens. Photo courtesy of Bravo



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TELEVISION

Tori and Dean tell sTORies about their show and lives

BY JERRY NUNN

Victoria "Tori" Spelling and husband Dean McDermott have been working the reality show circuit for years now. Although the series on the Oxygen Network was titled *Tori & Dean: Inn Love* for the first two seasons centering around a bed & breakfast, the third season was renamed *Tori & Dean: Home Sweet Hollywood*, complete with a move to California. Now in its sixth season, the show shakes it up by opening a new furniture business called *InventORI*.

Growing up the daughter of Candy and Aaron Spelling has kept Tori in the public eye with television shows such as *The Love Boat*, *Saved by the Bell* and *Beverly Hills, 90210*. She went after a movie career with *Trick* and *House of Yes*, but ultimately found her niche on her own show, *So NoTORious*, on VH1.

We caught up to the happy couple just before the debut of their newest endeavor.

Windy City Times: Hello, Tori and Dean. I know this is a big day for you both, with tons of press the day before the show debuts.

Tori Spelling: A little bit, not that much. We are very particular, just the ones we want to do—like you.

WCT: That's good to hear. I'm excited to talk to you because you have been such a great gay supporter.

TS: Oh my gosh, thank you!

WCT: I loved you in the movie *Trick*. Tell me about the gay uncles, or the "guncles." Where

did you meet?

TS: What came first, the chicken or the egg? Bill Horn came first. Bill used to be in public relations. We did a press event in Turks and Caicos. Unfortunately, we were together during 9/11 in Turks and Caicos. If you had to be stuck somewhere, that was the place to be. We were both missing our families and worried about people back in the states. We bonded and became best friends.

Shortly thereafter, he met Scout Masterson and we have been best friends ever since. Since our kids were born, they have been uncles to them and are part of our family.

WCT: On the show, it is obvious you are very close. You were very emotional with their baby.

TS: I'm going to start crying. It was a long time in the making. They are very much in love and they wanted to be parents more than anything. The adoption process was long and arduous. It took a long time. We were with them every step of the way from the very beginning. There was something really magical about wanting a baby so bad and having to wait as long as they did. When Simone was born... we are the godparents of her; she is part of our family, cousins to the kids and another one of my own, basically. I was so happy for them and all of their dreams came true on the day she was born.

WCT: The baby shower looked fun, with Tabatha Coffey and Denise Richards there.

TS: Oh, yeah; any excuse to throw a party. I



Tori Spelling and Dean McDermott. PR photo

was really excited to throw her baby shower.

WCT: *Home Sweet Hollywood* moves very fast from scene to scene. It is not like many reality shows, where it takes a while for things to happen.

Dean McDermott: That's our life!

TS: Yes, exactly. That is simply because we have so much going on that they have to edit it. We have hours and hours of footage that never gets used. We want to share all of the exciting stuff with our fans so we have to cut it down and move fast during an episode.

WCT: That's a good thing to have a lot going on.

TS: Absolutely; we are grateful.

WCT: Let's talk about this new business.

TS: It is going great. *InventORI* was something we discussed for years because I have so much in storage and Dean is always asking what I am going to do with all of it. He jokingly thought we could open a store with everything. Then, we actually did. [Laughs]

WCT: Black Friday was busy, right?

TS: We had a great Black Friday. You know we are small business so we had Small Business Saturday, which was great, too. It was our first Black Friday and a lot of people came out. That was really fun.

WCT: How was filming *Trainspotting 2*, Dean?

DM: It was great. I really enjoyed it. Being a part of an Irvine Welsh novel was amazing. I got to meet him. The movie turned out really well.

WCT: With all the reality television out there, what sets this show apart?

TS: Our show is as real as it gets. We don't plan anything. We don't have storylines. Whatever is happening in front of the cameras we just go with the flow. We have no idea. When we think ahead to what the season is about we think about opening a new business, or Dean's in culinary school, the kids are adorable, then boom we get hit with Hattie so it shifted focus a lot towards the pregnancy. Now it's about how two other children are dealing with it. It was pretty

good timing on Hattie's part, just kidding! She wasn't planned at all.

WCT: Are you going to write more books?

TS: Yes, I have my first party planning book coming out in April called *CelebraTORI* that I am very excited about. I have also have my fourth memoir coming out in fall of 2012 so I will start writing that as soon as I get out of newborn mode.

WCT: Will you come to Chicago to promote the book? I have never seen you here.

TS: I would love to come to Chicago. I have actually only been to Chicago one time, my plane was delayed so I spent the night. I haven't been able to experience it. I want to eat and shop so I would love to.

WCT: We could hit the gay bar and meet some of your gay fans.

TS: Fabulous! I would love that.

WCT: Anything else about this season of *Tori & Dean*?

DM: We have great parties. [Both laugh.] We explore culinary school a little bit. Of course, there's the discovery of [baby daughter] Hattie, and Tori being pregnant. The kids are always great. They are a real riot this season.

TS: It is really cool that we are doing something new this year. Tomorrow night during the season premiere, Oxygen is doing a live feed straight from our home. The viewers all get to meet Hattie during the season premiere during one of the commercials.

WCT: That's adorable.

TS: It's her debut. She's very nervous—just kidding!

WCT: She will be tweeting live?

TS: Yeah, right! [Laughs]

For shopping visit <http://www.inventori.com>. Tori's online magazine *editORial* can be read at <http://www.torispelling.com>. *Life in the fast lane* with *Tori & Dean: Home Sweet Hollywood* just debuted on Oxygen, check <http://tori-and-dean.oxygen.com> for listings and details.

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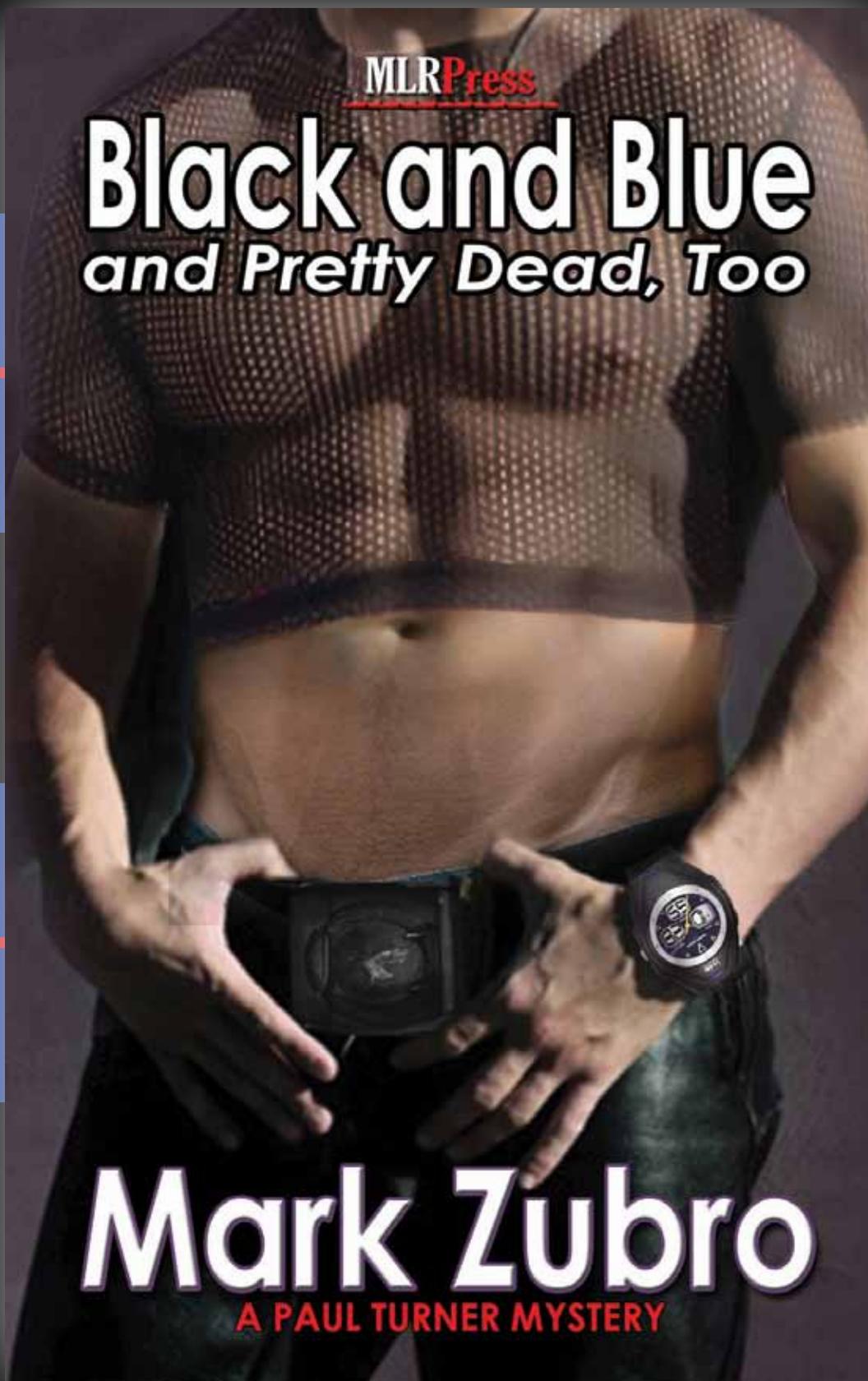
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World of Chocolate's sweet success



More than 1,500 people filled the Hilton Chicago's International Ballroom Dec. 1—World AIDS Day—as the AIDS Foundation of Chicago (AFC) marked the 10th anniversary of the sumptuous event known as World of Chocolate.

It truly was a realm of sweetness as 30 local caterers, chocolatiers and restaurants had various offerings ranging from a chocolate/red wine concoction to a chocolate grilled cheese sandwich. There were also a DJ, open bar, \$50 punch board, gift center and a buffet.

AFC emailed Windy City Times Dec. 2 that the event grossed \$300,000.

The judges—who included drag entertainers Cyon Flare and Miss Fozzie and WLS-TV news anchor Kathy Brock among the 16—honored Le Cordon Bleu College of Culinary Arts with the Hot Chocolate Award, making the school the night's grand-prize winner. Others honored included Talbott Teas (Loco Cocoa Award), Terry's Toffee (Sweet Booth Award), the Peninsula Hotel (Chocoholic's Dream Award) and Just Like U Like It Catering (People's Choice Award).

AFC Executive Director David Ernesto Munar told Windy City Times, "We're so grateful for the thousands of guests and two dozen chocolatiers who commemorated World AIDS Day by helping AFC raise funds for the fight against AIDS."

"As guests walked into the ballroom they were greeted by a gigantic display of the word 'HOPE,' which captures exactly how we feel. Ending AIDS is now technologically possible if we bring effective strategies to scale, which why private giving remains so critically important."

Munar also said, "Anyone inspired on World AIDS Day can help AFC change the story about AIDS by making a \$10 donation via their cell phone. It's as easy as texting the word CHANGE to 80077. Ten dollars is the cost of a rapid testing kit, two outreach packet with condoms and health information or a meal for homeless person with AIDS. We're out of chocolate but have an abundance of hope to share for those who will join us."

Text by Andrew Davis, and photos by Ross Forman and Kat Fitzgerald (MysticImagesPhotography.com); see more pics at <http://www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com>

a **GAY** *in the*
LIFE

TEXT BY ROSS FORMAN
PHOTOS BY HAL BAIM



Artist
Michael Murtaugh



Select guests have seen his handiwork at the United Center, home of the Chicago Bulls and Chicago Blackhawks. Michael Murtaugh painted the large murals inside the exclusive Locker Room Club, a private area inside the west side arena.

Visitors saw Murtaugh's hand-painted sports mural, as well as a historical timeline of the Bulls and Blackhawks.

"I loved that project, just as I like all of my projects," said Murtaugh, who admits he isn't much of a sports fan—and the club has since been closed.

"I have a tradition of [painting] things that have a lot of scale to them. My work often has a powerful impact on the environment because it has a substantial presence."

Murtaugh has painted backgrounds for numerous films, with some of the backdrops as large as 40 by 60 feet. His artwork also has landed in large, brand-name commercials.

In addition, Murtaugh's paintings have appeared:

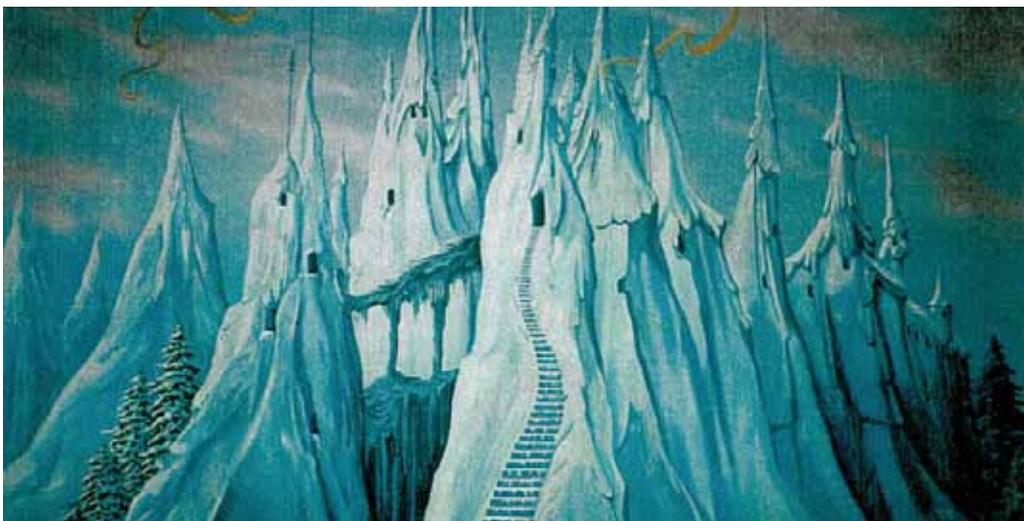
- In scenes of *The Untouchables*, the mid-1990s TV show filmed in Chicago;
- In numerous private North Shore homes; many mural size;
- At Brasserie Joe Restaurant in Chicago;
- At the Rubber Maid Showroom inside the Merchandise Mart;
- In the background—a snow castle—for Kodak; and
- In the movie *Rudy*.

"I really enjoy painting, always have," Murtaugh said. "I think I have a really strong visual skill. I think I excel at incorporating murals into architecture. I have the ability to take a client's point of view and turn it into a product that works conceptually, even excels. I think I am very good at understanding my client's needs and elevating them."

Murtaugh, though, has been slowed of late as technology has, at times, taken some of his jobs. That's why he's back studying at Columbia College, about to complete a degree in digital animation—to keep up with technology.

"I'd like to land a job working for a major production company, perhaps as an art director," said Murtaugh, who said the most challenging part of his job is simply meeting clients' needs and keeping the imagery fresh.

He has been working extensively of late with fellow artist Pam Zuspahn. Murtaugh can be reached at MichaelMurtaugh@comcast.net.



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the stats

Name
Michael Murtaugh

Age
45

Relationship status
Single

Neighborhood
Edgewater

Job title
Scenic artist, freelance

Hobbies
Painting, music, reading and watching films

Schooling
Batavia High School, Columbia College

Favorite restaurant
Blackbird

Favorite Chicago restaurants
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WEEKLY DINING GUIDE IN WINDY CITY TIMES

SAVOR

BY ANDREW DAVIS

Shaw's Crab House

For this column, three restaurants are profiled, and there isn't a bad one in the bunch.

Shaw's Crab House, 21 E. Hubbard St., has been around for decades—and there's are several reasons for that.

I last went to Shaw's in the '90s, and the decor hadn't really changed all that much when I revisited the restaurant recently. However, it doesn't need to change—the warm leathers and woods made me feel like I was home.

Of course, Shaw's (which has another restaurant in Schaumburg, incidentally) is also known for its impeccable food and service—neither of which also hadn't changed since my last visit. Obviously, many others agree: The place was crowded at 7 p.m. on a weeknight.

The food was incredible, but I implore diners to make sure they know what they're getting. I ordered the king crab bites, thinking they were a variation of crab cakes; however, it's actually bits of crab meat still in the shell. They were tasty, even if getting the crab was more of an effort than I initially imagined.

However, everything else looked exactly as I imagined, and tasted even better. The sauteed scallops were divine, and my dining partner thought the broiled Lake Huron whitefish was among the best dishes he's ever had. I even tried



The arlecchino (left) and carpaccio at Francesca's Bryn Mawr. Photos from Linda Diguardi

the braised Brussels sprouts, fearing the worst; somehow, I managed to like those as well. I've been to restaurants where they brag about their crab cakes—and they just don't measure up; the cakes at Shaw's, however, were flavorful and meaty. Also, if you have room (or you want to take a doggie bag for later), don't miss out on such desserts as key lime pie.

Also, keep in mind that if you want to eat



sustainable seafood, the restaurant can provide you with a list of items as well as the Right Bite Card, which tells which sustainable items are best to eat. There are also gluten-free items and sushi on the menu.

Being from the Chesapeake Bay area, I'm a bit of a seafood snob. However, Shaw's consistently satisfied me. You can't go wrong here. See <http://www.shawscrabhouse.com>.

Francesca's Bryn Mawr

Francesca's Bryn Mawr, 1039 W. Bryn Mawr Ave., is another place where I hadn't been in a while.

On the website, it says that Francesca's (part of the chain that includes Mia Francesca in Lakeview) specializes in Northern Italian cuisine. The food and the overall atmosphere certainly make you feel as if you're in Italy.

Regarding appetizers, the risotto con fagiolini (Italian rice with baby green beans pine nuts and sun-dried tomato pesto) was sublime, with the risotto being creamy without being mushy. The carpaccio alla Francesca (which features raw sirloin) also worked for me, but not quite on the same level as the risotto.

The entrees were also quite good. The pollo arrosto alla romana is a half-chicken roasted with garlic, shallots, rosemary, lemon and olive oil, served with roasted potatoes. It was an achievement in itself not having any one ingredient overwhelm the others, but Francesca's managed it. In addition, the salmon dish my dining partner ordered was exactly like he liked it.

What weren't so Italian were the drinks we ordered, but we certainly enjoyed them. The Orange Blossom Smash incorporates Absolut mandarin vodka, muddled orange, lemon, basil and ginger ale—but, amazingly, wasn't too sweet. My friend had a Scooter: a concoction of Grey Goose vodka, vermouth, lemon juice, strawberry, balsamic and fresh black pepper. Being adventurous paid off, as he really liked it.

Note: Something that's quite different about Francesca's is that part of the menu is handwritten. It's that way because those items change every two weeks, and (I imagine) also because that cuts down on production costs.

By the way, Francesca's Bryn Mawr also offers gluten-free items, as well as whole wheat pasta. Visit <http://www.miafrancesca.com/static.asp?path=3115,3144>.

Turn to page 54

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ART

Riva Lehrer's 'Mirror Shards' debuts at Printworks



Liz Carr (left) and Riva Lehrer with Lehrer's portrait of Carr. Photo by Hal Baim

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

Chicago artist, teacher and disability activist Riva Lehrer debuted new show, "Mirror Shards" debuted Dec. 2 at Printworks Gallery. The show, which encompassed three years of Lehrer's work, included her mixed-media drawings and paintings as well as portraits of lesbian artist/cartoonist Alison Bechdel and Liz Carr, a lesbian stand-up/sit-down comedian and host of a BBC podcast called "Ouch!"

About 200 people attended the exhibit's opening, which will continue through Feb. 4, 2012. The exhibit included portraits of friends in animal guises that reflect their personalities as well as a number of standalone portraits of Bechdel, Carr and others.

Lesbian filmmaker Charissa King-O'Brien was on hand to film her still-evolving documentary of Lehrer and her work called *The Paper Mirror*. King-O'Brien captured attendees as they meandered from one portrait to another and engaged in conversation with Lehrer about her work and the exhibit itself.

Carr was in attendance to view her portrait for the first time in person. Upon viewing the portrait, Carr said, "It's brilliant and the detail is almost too good. I've spent thousands of pounds to remove my body hair and Riva has captured every fine hair on my face and hands. The Christmas tree lights and barbed-wire part of the portrait is what I really like and I love the way she has captured me inside and out."

The portrait of Bechdel has already been sold to an independent buyer, according to Printworks Gallery co-owner Bob Hiebert. Of Lehrer's work and the opening Hiebert said, "I've been aware of Riva as an artist for many, many years and it's only in the last five or six years we've had the opportunity to show her work here. She was with another gallery and when they went out of business we jumped at the chance to show her work. I've known her personally and we've always gravitated towards group drawing which is what we're about and what Riva is about. In this particular show Riva has taken drawings and added to them ... how that animal personifies the person she drew. ... There is a lot

of symbolism in her work. ... I am hoping that people will visit the show and really look at each piece individually."

"There was so much happiness afoot this weekend. Liz was just a treat. It was terrific to see a mixed audience totally get her humor and originality. Charissa's film couldn't have had a better reception," said Lehrer, adding, "Just having art people, queers and crips all together having a wonderful time was worth every bit of effort. I don't think I've ever felt luckier in my friends and in my communities."

To find out more about the exhibit visit <http://www.printworkschicago.com>. The gallery is open Tuesdays through Saturdays 11 a.m.-5 p.m. by appointment only. For more information about Lehrer and her work, visit <http://www.rivalehrer.com>.



Riva Lehrer. Photo by Hal Baim

Lehrer documentary screens at Access Living

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

A preview of lesbian filmmaker Charissa King-O'Brien's documentary, *The Paper Mirror*—which chronicles queer Chicago artist, teacher and disability activist Riva Lehrer's collaboration with lesbian artist/cartoonist Alison Bechdel—was shown at Access Living Dec. 1.

Access Living and Bodies of Work presented the event, entitled "The Raw and the Cooked." Approximately 60 people came to see the documentary and hear Liz Carr—a lesbian stand-up/sit-down comedian and host of a BBC podcast called "Ouch!" made by and for disabled people—perform her stand-up/sit-down comedy act.

Before the documentary was shown, Carrie Sandahl, associate professor and director of the program on disability art, culture and humanities at the University of Illinois at Chicago, talked about the evening's events and introduced King-O'Brien.

King-O'Brien explained the genesis of her short and what the audience would be seeing that evening, including a little bit of information on Bechdel (who was unable to attend) and her work.

In the documentary, Lehrer talked about her artistic process and showed off her artwork. Then the film shifts to Bechdel and her work before the two artists converged to col-

laborate on Lehrer's portrait of Bechdel. The film then takes the viewer through Lehrer's process of creating the portrait, ending with Lehrer unveiling her work to an appreciative Bechdel.

Sandahl then introduced Carr, whose performance included material that reflected Lehrer's portrait of her as well as a little bit of her "Ouch!" show. As Carr—who wore Christmas lights around her neck to mimic the painting Lehrer did of her—performed her set, the pictures of her life that were attached to the lights were shown on the screen behind her. Carr would take a picture off the lights and talk about it, throwing the picture on the floor when she was finished with each story. The audience was in stitches throughout Carr's entire performance of bawdy and bold material, as she poked fun at her disability as well as other taboo topics.

Lehrer, King-O'Brien, Carr and Sandahl took questions from the audience to close out the evening's events.

The program was partially supported by two grants, one from the Illinois Arts Council and the other from the City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events which gave the event a CityArts grant.

For more information about Lehrer and her work visit <http://www.rivalehrer.com>. Bechdel's information can be found here <http://dykestowatchoutfor.com>. To find out about King-O'Brien's other films visit <http://www.charissafilms.com>. To learn more about Carr's stand-up career and podcast go to her official website <http://www.lizcarr.co.uk>.



From left: Charissa King-O'Brien, Riva Lehrer, Liz Carr and Carrie Sandahl. Photo by Carrie Maxwell

Arts groups receive Chase grants

Several local dance companies received \$25,000 grants from Chase as part of the 2011 Chase Community Giving program on Facebook, according to Business Wire. Chase bestowed \$3 million in grants on a total of 100 charities/organizations.

The Illinois groups and companies who received grants include Chicago Tap Theatre, Chicago Dance Crash, the International Association for Chronic Fatigue Syndrome/ME, Inaside Chicago Dance NFP, Visceral Dance Chicago, the Midwest Independent Film Festival, the Northshore Concert Band, the Curtain Call Community Theatre, Culture Shock Chicago, Porchlight Music Theatre, the Music Theatre Company, Jump Rhythm Jazz Project, Flint Creek Wildlife Rehabilitation, Studio BE, Ka-Tet Theatre and Joel Hall Dancers & Center.

Fans of Chase Community Giving selected

United Sikhs in Service of America, a New York City-based charity, as the top recipient of the Chase grants, awarding the charity \$250,000.

The fall 2011 program is the fourth installment of Chase Community Giving, which has provided a share of more than \$18 million to 500 charities in 41 states, Washington, D.C., and Puerto Rico since 2009.

CGMC's 'Follies' through Dec. 11

The Chicago Gay Men's Chorus' (CGMC's) "Holly Follies" will continue through Dec. 11.

CGMC will continue performing with shows Saturday, Dec. 10, at 8 p.m. at Rockefeller Memorial Chapel, 5850 S. Woodlawn Ave.; and Sunday, Dec. 11, at 3 p.m. at First Congregational Church of Evanston UCC, 1445 Hinman, Evanston.

For tickets or more information, visit <http://www.cgmc.org> or call 773-296-0541.

BOOK REVIEW

For the Ferryman: A Personal History

by Dr. Charles Silverstein
\$20; Chelsea Station
Editions; 342 pages

BY JOE FRANCO

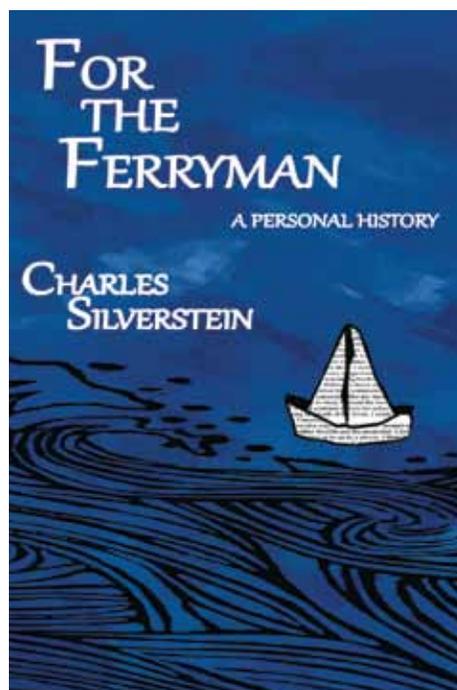
Most laypeople would recognize Dr. Charles Silverstein for penning *The Joy of Gay Sex* and *The New Joy of Gay Sex*. However, in October, he released very personal memoir. He described it as the "parallel description of struggle." The book crosses his life's passion of gay equality with that of his other passion, his now-late partner, William Bory: "It was struggle for our rights as gay men and women as well as my struggle to find love."

Silverstein opened his memoir with a discussion of why it is not a memoir. Anyone blithely aware of what the memoir genre normally entails (dribble and drama *a la* Burroughs) should know that Silverstein takes no liberties, hides no truths, glosses over no details and is candid in a way that could make Larry Flint blush. He readily admits that he is not a writer but supports that statement, noting that he is anything but boring. The book, perhaps not Nobel Prize material in linguistic and literary intrigue, is anything but boring.

For *The Ferryman* opens with a description of Silverstein's relationship with Bory and ends the same way. It is very clear that despite Silverstein's unstoppable passion for gay and lesbian equality, his true love is Bory. While he brings up the subject of loves lost, there is no denying that there was really only one love lost in Silverstein's life. In fact, Bory and Silverstein were together in 1973 when Silverstein made his historic presentation before the "Nomenclature Committee" of the American Psychiatric Association, which led to the removal of homosexuality as a mental illness from the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Illness. "He frequently edited my work," Silverstein said of Bory.

The vast majority of the first portion of *For The Ferryman* includes the historical psychological background of homosexuality, ranging from aversion and so-called "Playboy Therapy" to Silverstein's own work with the likes of Dr. Ruth before she was "Dr. Ruth" at Silverstein's Institute for Human Identity (IHI) where she worked as an intern. During an interview at IHI for *Cosmopolitan*, a reporter wanted to know how a girl was to know the man she had her heart set on was gay or not: "Why doesn't the Cosmo girl ask her boyfriend if he's gay? Silverstein suggested, "The Cosmo girl should take a walk with her boyfriend on a crowded street. Then he should watch his face. If he looks at more men's asses than women's, he's probably gay."

As Silverstein began his own difficult and, in some instances, lonely coming-out process in



the years before and after the Stonewall Riots, he, like so many gay men today, felt that "black clouds swirled in the sky above me." He noted that the price to be paid for such "insularity" was that he "would have to settle for what [he] could get and ask for no more." Silverstein candidly admitted that he did everything in his power to hold onto the men that he loved. He wrote that he was amazed by gay youth today who are determined to search for love.

Silverstein resorted, in his years before Bory, while still trying to be the good boy and not a dirty one, but the "underground homosexual community in New York" intrigued him. In a related interview, Silverstein said that gays would hang out in an area called "The Trucks." It was literally a yard full of empty truck trailers where men would meet for sex. He also mentioned "The Rambles," an area of bushes off the bridle paths in Central Park "that served the purpose of bushes everywhere."

Later in their relationship, Bory was diagnosed with AIDS. It was at a gay guesthouse in Puerto Rico that Bory first pointed out the lesions on his leg. "Look," was all he could say to Silverstein. From here, Silverstein intertwines Bory's battle with AIDS with the battle the gay community itself was embroiled in—from the renaming of the disease from the GRID (gay-related immune deficiency) syndrome to the numerous "cures" being touted. While Silverstein's chastisement of the alternative medical approach may seem harsh, one should remember that the

love of his life and his friends were dying from AIDS. He reminds the reader that "self-hatred does not cause disease, and self love does not cure it."

Silverstein becomes even more candid when discussing his lover's addiction to crack cocaine in the last years of his life. A reader might wonder why Silverstein continued to support Bory's serious crack addiction; Bory even began selling off his sizeable book collection just to pay for ore drugs. Silverstein resorted to moving about his own valuables "as if [he] were protecting a black slave escaping through the Underground Railroad." Silverstein quotes Herodotus as he reminds us that one should not judge a man's life until after his death. Despite the addiction, Silverstein beautifully juxtaposes images of such hopelessness with tenderness. He writes, "All the bitterness of his youth, all the times of anger toward me evaporated. While sitting on the couch, wrapped in the shabby blanket he preferred, he would glance at me, smile, kiss me

or lay his head on my shoulder."

One cannot understand the life of any couple, much less Silverstein and Bory, but this testament to their love can help anyone understand the singular importance of observing without any judgment. In Silverstein's case, to love someone who, to many gay men, may have seemed unlovable is the very portrait of unconditional love and a not-so-gentle reminder to the rest of us about how precious love really is.

In the opening pages, Silverstein wrote, "There are events in my relationship with William in which I acted with great love, and at other times when I feel embarrassed about my behavior. Perhaps writing this book helps me to make peace with myself." When asked if he had made peace he simply answered, "Yes, I have made peace with myself."

For *The Ferryman* uniquely blends the early years of the gay struggle for liberation and AIDS with the simple life of two men in love.

BOOK REVIEW

The Lost Women of Lost Lake

by Ellen Hart
\$25.99; Minotaur;
320 pages

REVIEW BY TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER

Admit it—you've done some dumb things in your life.

Now that you've admitted it, you can blame it on youth.

It's okay. You were a dumb kid. From the curfews broken, hearts broken, laws broken, and the bones broken, you did a lot of things you can look back upon now that you're grown, and laugh.

Laugh, with a little cringing. It's a wonder you didn't get yourself killed.

However, getting killed was what happened when the past came looking for two women, and in the new novel, *The Lost Women of Lost Lake* by Ellen Hart, shed blood flows like water.

Cordelia Thorn figured she would just lend a quick hand.

Tessa Cornell, Cornelia's old friend in northern Minnesota, had taken a tumble and hurt her leg. Because Tessa was directing the community play, somebody needed to finish the job while she was healing, so Cornelia volunteered and invited her best friend, Jane Lawless, along. Jane, a restaurateur and part-time PI, was still mourning the death of her long-time partner, and a trip north would do her good.

Although Tessa was happy to have help with the play, she didn't need any company—particularly not some PI wannabe.

Not long before she fell, Tessa got a call from Lyndie LaVassar, and it wasn't good news: a secret was about to be loose in Lost

Lake. The past, it seemed, had caught up with the two women and was about to destroy their lives as well as the reputations of several people in town.

Jonah Ivorsen had enough of St. Louis. He'd hated to move anyhow, so when he decided to hitchhike to Lost Lake, he was sure his aunt Jill and Jill's wife, Tessa, would let him stay with them. Jonah was excited to be home and to reconnect with friends, especially his girl, Emily, who said she'd love him forever.

Then, a body was discovered and another one followed it fast. Emily was hiding something, the authorities were zeroing in on a mysterious fire, and Tessa was obviously lying to everybody.

Could Jane Lawless sort things out before someone else died?

Oh, how I love books with Jane Lawless in them! Jane is an unlikely heroine and somewhat reluctant private investigator who doesn't seem to want her hobby to turn into work, yet there's a will-she-make-it-permanent story thread in this book that's satisfactorily solved. There's also a possible romance angle here that teases readers nicely.

However, as much as I love author Ellen Hart's main character, the supporting cast in *The Lost Women of Lost Lake* almost all needed to take a dive. I had to work to keep my eyes from rolling, not only because of the clichéd peripheral characters but also for the clichéd things they said. Triteness definitely taints this otherwise fine mystery, alas.

Fans of this series should be able to overlook these faults but if you're not a fan yet, start with another book. For you, *The Lost Women of Lost Lake* will not be looked upon swimmingly.

Want more? Look for *The Cruel Ever After* or *Immaculate Midnight*, also by Ellen Hart

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Quentin Crisp: The Profession of Being

by Nigel Kelly
\$45; McFarland Publishing;
216 pages

BY DAVID-ELIJAH NAHMOD

"Never try to keep up with the Joneses, drag them down to your level."—Quentin Crisp (1908-1999)

Quentin Crisp never tried to keep up with the Joneses, or anyone else. From a very early age, it was quite apparent that he was "different." Born Dennis Pratt, he was a frail-looking, effeminate gay man, a most dangerous thing to be in the England of nearly a century ago. Yet he was unable to hide who he was.

By the time he assumed the name of Quentin Crisp in the 1930s, he was a marked man. Shunned by London's then closeted gay community, he spent nearly 40 years enduring regular beatings, trumped-up charges of prostitution and poverty. Nigel Kelly traces the steps Crisp took from childhood through those difficult years, painting a portrait of an extraordinary journey.

"Quentin said the most surprising thing about those years was that he was never murdered," reports Kelly, author of a newly published biography of the 20th century's first out gay man. Kelly, who lives in Dublin, Ireland, counts Crisp



Nigel Kelly. Photo courtesy of Kelly

as a personal hero. Ironically, Kelly is straight.

"I was bowled over by this extraordinary man and his exceptional courage," Kelly emailed to Windy City Times. "He strove to be true to himself and daily risked more than just a beating and waking up in hospital. This happened more frequently than he ever admitted."

Crisp's steadfast determination to be true to himself had a profound effect on the young Kelly. "I grew up in Northern Ireland during the seventies and eighties. Ours had become a segregated society. There were two groups: Catholics and Protestants. Each group was clearly identified by such simple things as the sports you played, which school you went to, the color of the clothes you wore and, of course, which church you went to. Many people adopted the lifestyle and adhered to those rules out of fear. Killings, beatings [and] bombings were almost daily occurrences."

The young Kelly had very different values than those of his peers. When he saw *The Naked Civil Servant*, the 1975 film adaptation of Crisp's autobiography, he was bowled over. "To behave as he did in the interim war years in England was an act of such bravery as to be awe-inspiring," said Kelly. These days, Kelly lives his life accord-

ing to Crisp's philosophies.

Said philosophies, Kelly said, include being "true to yourself. I have striven to follow this in my own life and have never been willing to change who I am to fit in. There have been times when it has cost me friendships. There have been times when it has made me vulnerable."

"If all we talk about is our sex lives, no one will have anything in common with anyone," Quentin Crisp once said. Kelly agrees. He sees little difference between Crisp and himself.

"I have never been one to label people," Kelly explained. "I do not think of people as being gay, heterosexual, British, Irish, American, Christian, Jewish. I try to think of people as individuals. Quentin said 'like all unfettered human beings I call no pigeon hole my home.'"

As a young man, Crisp had briefly worked as a hustler. However, soon after, he lost interest in sex and never pursued relationships. He was always well-spoken and had impeccable manners, usually referring to people by their last names. He became, for all intents and purposes, a proper English lady. This did not go unnoticed by others. One of the questions raised by Kelly in his book is whether or not "The Stately Homo" (as Crisp was sometimes called) was actually

transgender.

"I think it is a real possibility, and it would explain a lot," said Kelly. "In his youth he was very beautiful. He certainly had a very feminine quality and in his old age he looked increasingly like an elderly lady. In his last years Quentin himself seems to have accepted the possibility that he might be a transsexual and said that if he had known this when he was a young man he would have had the operation and lived his life running a shop."

"And no one would have known my guilty secret," Crisp is reported to have said.

Kelly believes that, had this occurred, Crisp would still have been a heroic figure. "If Quentin had lived as a woman after having the operation, I have no doubt whatsoever that he/she would still have been this extraordinary human being who would have left their mark on the world and everyone they met," he stated.

Quentin Crisp: The Profession of Being is now available in select bookstores, and worldwide at Amazon.com. Kelly also maintains a website which serves as a keeper of the Quentin Crisp flame: <http://www.QuentinCrisp.info>.

BOOK REVIEW

Gay Letters from Millicent to Maude

by James Consideré
and Bill Edwards
\$14.95; self-published;
93 pages

BY SALLY PARSONS

shoes, rhinestone collars, crinolines) and celebrities of the 50s and earlier times such as Tab Hunter, Hedda Hopper, Anna May Wong, and Charles Laughton, among others. Mindful that their younger readers may not know who some of these bon vivants were, the authors helpfully provide colorful footnotes.

The book is short and so much fun you'll want to read it straight through in one chuckle-filled sitting.

"Dear Maudine: I thought you would like a note to have when you arrived home from Mexico. You always loved to open mail with those Jungle Red fingernails. Are they still that long?"

"I have been invited to Los Angeles to teach ballet, but what if the people don't like me. You know few ballet teachers teach in 5-inch heels."

So begins a typical letter from Millicent to Maude/Maudine in this sparkly little cocktail of a book that will tickle your palate. The letters trace the friendship and adventures of two gay men in the 1950s. Their story is based on a treasure trove of real-life letters accumulated by one of the authors. It is the most delightful cup of correspondence you'll ever see.

The letters begin with the two gay debutantes as they cavort in New York City. Maude moves to Hollywood and Millicent somehow ends up in east Texas. She makes the best of things and gets friendly with a few oil men and cowpokes.

The letters are peppered with references to the pop culture (French dolls, Andrew Geller



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Notice is hereby given, pursuant to "An Act in relation to the use of an Assumed Business Name in the conduct or transaction of Business in the State," as amended, that a certification was filed by the undersigned with the County Clerk of Cook County. File No. D11128244 on November 17, 2011 Under the Assumed Name of: Geek Chic Magazine with the business located at PO Box 221311, Chicago, IL 60622. The true name(s) and residence address of the owner(s) is: Ralonda M. McIntosh, 1440 North Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, IL 60622. (12/21/11-3)

LEGAL SERVICES

NEED LEGAL HELP? Pride Law, Andersonville's legal aid clinic for the LGBT community can help. Clinic hours every Wednesday, 5-8:00 p.m. by appointment only. **Call 1-866-703-5509 or send us an email at prideslaw@tsamislaw.com.**

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SPECIAL SELLING, TIME SHARE, First week in January. "Silver Seas Resort across the street from St. Sebastian (Gay) Beach", in Ft. Lauderdale. Member of RCI, this week is known as a "10" which is the best week for trading. **One bedroom, sleeps 4 - 6. Make an offer. Call Jan at 773-251-7363 (11/23/11-4)**

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DISH from page 50

Wildberry's decor (above) and pancakes (below). Photos by Ed Negron

Wildberry Pancakes & Café

Run, don't walk, to Wildberry Pancakes & Café, 130 E. Randolph St. This restaurant was the most unassuming of the three in this week's column—and the most surprising.

A lot of restaurants that serve breakfast tend to serve the same things. Wildberry might offer pancakes and the like, but there are sometimes twists to those items. For example, the Wild Pan crepes come in the traditional strawberry but also in creamy Nutella and Rocky Mountain (scrambled eggs, ham, bell peppers, onions, cheddar cheese and sour cream). There are also traditional omelets, but there's also the Española (jalapeño, avocado, onions, cilantro, mushrooms and mozzarella).

I did get an omelet, but ordered my own ingredients: chorizo, spinach and Gouda. The word "phenomenal" doesn't begin to cover this dish—but it was topped my something my friend got: red velvet cake French toast.

Dear readers, it's not often that eating food makes me think I'm in heaven, but after trying this dish (which I initially thought would be too much for the morning), I'm a believer in Wildberry. On top of that, the presentation of the



food is amazing; the French toast looked like a work of art.

Not too many people seem to know about Wildberry, possibly because it's less than two months old. However, I implore to check out this restaurant. (Keep in mind that it's only open 6:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., so go there for breakfast or lunch.) By the way, one other recommendation about Wildberry is that it certainly won't break the bank.

More info is at <http://www.wildberrycafe.com>. place where you can imagine your grandparents, dressed to the nines, in the 1940s.

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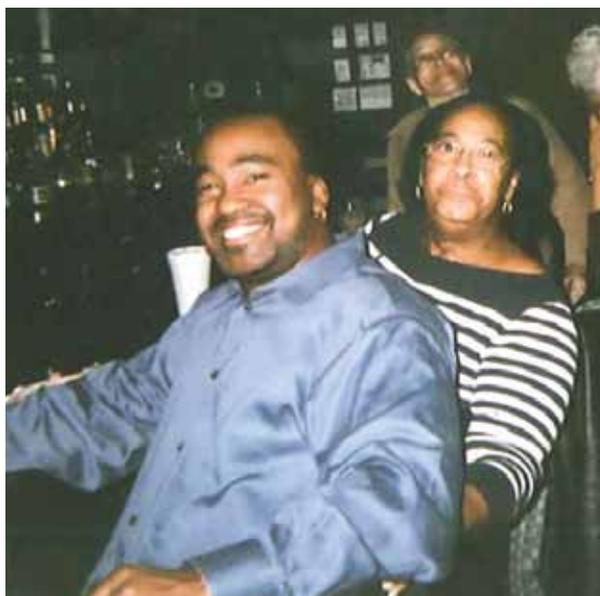
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Celebrations

Share your special moments with the community in Windy City Times' new announcement section!



Thanksgiving at the Jeffrey Pub

The Jeffrey Pub, 7041 S. Jeffrey Blvd, opened its doors to over 35 seniors and veterans on the south side of Chicago for a wonderful Thanksgiving dinner.

At this special holiday gathering, given by Jamal Junior and his mother Nelly Junior (who also did all the cooking), a good time was had by all. Helping to organize and serve was community activist Richard Wright, his mother Charlene Eure and members of their church, Our Lady of Peace, on 79th and Jeffrey Blvd.

The Jeffrey Pub is now accepting donations for its third annual coat and toy drive. For more information please call the Jeffrey Pub at 773-363-8555.

Photos courtesy of Wright

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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.

Gay Liberation Network organizing meeting Join with Chicago's LGBT direct action group at their monthly organizing meeting -- new members welcome! 7pm-9pm, 773-209-1187, Berger Park Cultural Center 6205 N. Sheridan Rd., <http://www.gayliberation.net>

L.A.F.F. (Lesbians are Flippin' Funny!) Join Howard Brown Health Center and the Lesbian Community Care Project for a night of hilarity benefitting women's health and wellness services. Hosted by Sissy Van Dyke. Starring Carmen Esposito, Sapna Kumar, Gwen La Roka and Meg O'Rourke. Doors open at 7pm, show starts at 7:30pm. Tickets: \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door. To order tickets, go to <http://www.howardbrown.org/laff>. 7pm-10pm, Mary's Attic, 5400 N. Clark St., <http://www.howardbrown.org/laff>

Jennifer Holliday for the holiday It's Broadway's original dream girl! Use code "Windy" for best seats. 7:30pm, Harris Theater for Music and Dance, 205 E. Randolph Dr., <http://www.harristheater-chicago.org/events/2011-2012-season/jennifer-holliday>



FLINT CONDITION

Wed., Dec. 7

A party celebrating the release of a book on Jim Flint (above) will take place at 3160, 3160 N. Clark St.

Photo by Hal Baim

TORI DAZE Friday, Dec. 9

A Tori Amos pre-party will take place at Berlin, 954 W. Belmont Ave. (Note: Amos is not slated to appear.)



Thursday, Dec. 8

Holidays On Ice with Lambda Legal Join Lambda Legal in a celebration of hard-fought victories advancing and protecting LGBT Rights. 6pm-9pm, 312-663-4413, Downtown Bar, 440 N State St., <http://www.facebook.com/events/246230525435425/>

Holidaze Book Sale Thousands of books in over 50 categories; large selection of DVDs, CDs and records; many gift books for holiday giving. 6pm-9pm, 773-381-8030, Gerber/Hart Library, 1127 W. Granville Ave., <http://www.gerberhart.org/>

Ward Zoning Board Meeting on planned development Discussion of the proposed development at 3750 N. Halsted, property values, green space, crime rates, traffic and parking. 6:30pm, Weiss Memorial Hospital's lower auditorium

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>
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 LGBT-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, Tickets: <http://www.tinyurl.com/7pttw24>

Drag Idol Chicago's newest drag competition. Audience decides who stays and who goes. Hosted by Kelly Lauren. Sign up with sean@hydratechicago.com. Winner of the 13-week competition will win a prize package worth over \$10,000, including \$1500 cash, a trip for two, a professional photo shoot and more. 9pm-11:45pm, Hydrate, 3458 N. Halsted, <http://www.hydratechicago.com>

A Tribute To Kate Bush In honor of the release of Kate Bush's first wholly new full-length album since 2005, 9pm, Parlour on Clark, 6341 N Clark, https://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=149835538449415

Friday, Dec. 9

Holidaze Book Sale Thousands of books in over 50 categories; large selection of DVDs, CDs and records; many gift books for holiday giving. 12pm-6pm, 773-381-8030, Gerber/Hart Library, 1127 W. Granville Ave., <http://www.gerberhart.org/>

Caroling at Cloud Gate Concert series - Millennium Windy City Gay Chorus and Aria will be singing and leading holiday carols in front of Cloud Gate (The Bean) in Millennium Park! Come out and join us for some festive sing-alongs under the stars! There'll be complimentary hot coffee and hot cider to keep you warm, plus other treats to make the evening merry. ...Don't miss it! 6pm-8pm, Cloud Gate (The Bean) - Millennium Park

The Eight: Reindeer Monologues Scandal erupts at the North Pole when one of Santa's eight tiny reindeer accuses him of sexual harassment. As the press descends, the other reindeer demand to reveal their stories, and a horrific tale of corruption and perversion emerges. Stage Left brings this hilarious, international theatrical sensation back to the city where it was first produced in a limited run, late-night production. Through Dec. 31; 10:30pm, 773-975-8150, Stage Left at Theatre Wit, 1229 W. Belmont, <http://www.stageleft-theatre.com>; Tickets: <http://www.theater-wit.org>

Tori Amos Pre-Party Get ready for Tori Amos with this pre-party/artist feature set with

DJ Greg Haus. Presented by Cosmix. 10pm, Berlin Nightclub, 954 W. Belmont Ave., <http://www.berlinchicago.com>

Club Kylie All Kylie Minogue all night with DJ Riley York. 9pm, The Call (Chicago), 1547 W Bryn Mawr, <http://www.facebook.com/clubkylie>

Saturday, Dec. 10

Jane Addams Day Celebration with Anita Hill Professor Anita Hill, who put the spotlight on sexual harassment in the workplace, will speak at the "Celebrate Illinois' 5th Annual Jane Addams Day" event. She will be signing her latest book, Reimagining Equality: Stories of Gender, Race and Finding Home. Women & Children First will be providing books to purchase for this event. Free and open to the public. 10am, Chicago Temple, 77 W. Washington, <http://www.womenandchildrenfirst.com>

Santa Speedo Run A benefit for Vital Bridges. \$20 minimum donation to participate in the race, so start your fundraising. Dress code: Speedo and a Santa hat. Elves, Reindeer, Hanukkah Harrys, etc. all are welcome. Bags will be provided for you to check your clothes at The Sofo Tap. 12pm-3pm, Sofo, 4923 N Clark St.

Chicago Gay Men's Chorus Holly Follies A little song, a little dance, a lot of holiday cheer. 8pm, Rockefeller Memorial Chapel, 5850 South Woodlawn Ave., Chicago, <http://www.cgmc.org>

Alien Queen: The Concert The Scooty & JoJo Show and Metro present a special holiday performance of the comic rock spectacle Alien Queen: The Concert at Metro with returning crowd favorite, Battlestar Fantastica, and DJ Boywonder. Alien Queen: The Concert combines the legendary music of Queen with an outrageous parody of the; 10pm, 773-549-4140, Metro, 3730 N. Clark St., <http://www.scootyjojo.com>

Sunday, Dec. 11

Christmas Carols & Cheer ... LGBT-Welcoming Churches Join members and friends of The Chicago Coalition of Welcoming Churches (LGBT-affirming religious communities) for this special holiday gathering. Special musical guests: The Wailin' Mahalias. Hosted by Resurrection Lutheran Church (3309 N Seminary, Chicago), this event includes reception, ritual and mini-concert. Contact Rev. Jacki Belile at jacki@livingwellministries.net for information. 3pm-4:30pm, 773-655-4357, Resurrection Lutheran Church, <http://www.chicagowelcomingchurches.org>

Taverna 750 First Call Brunch Come sample the amazing food and drink of Taverna 750. Spruce up your Sunday as Taverna 750 unveils its tasty creations and wonderful libations. \$20 packages to meet your Sunday Brunch goals! 11am-3pm, Taverna 750, 750 W. Cornelia Ave., <http://www.taverna750.com>

Screening of Pariah by Affinity Followed by discussion with director Dee Rees, lead actress Adepero Oduye, and moderator Iman Crutcher. Free. Please arrive early, first come first serve basis, seating limited to 250. RSVP www.FocusChicago@43kix.com; 6pm-9pm, ShowPlace ICON, 150 W Roosevelt Rd.

Monday, Dec. 12

State Rep. Ann Williams LGBT breakfast Roundtable discussion on legislative priorities. RSVP info@repanwilliams.com or by phone. 7:30am-9:30am, 773-880-9082, Wishbone Restaurant, 3300 N. Lincoln Ave.

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>

Recovery Over the Rainbow New Narcotics Anonymous sponsored/governed meeting,



ALIEN NATION

Saturday, Dec. 10

Alien Queen: The Concert will take place at Metro, 3730 N. Clark St.

Photo by Timmy Samuel

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. 13

Queer Teacher Mixer at the Out in Chicago exhibit Heidi Moisan of the History Museum's Education Department and Jill Austin, the curator of the Out in Chicago exhibit, host the mixer and offer a chance to check out the exhibit. 6pm-8:30pm, Chicago History Museum, 1601 N Clark St., <http://www.chicagohistory.org>

Holidays on Halsted The Lakeside Pride Symphony Orchestra celebrates the holidays with a collection of familiar classical and contemporary holiday favorites. Tickets: \$8 advance; \$10 door; \$5 seniors; \$5 student; 7:30pm-9:30pm, Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted, <http://www.lakesidepride.org>; Tickets: <http://https://www.vendini.com/ticket-software.html?e=2298ac017b0895b992ba2c38fa17e4f2&t=tix>

Bottoms Up Bingo! Join Miss Tajima 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. 14

Windy City Queer at Book Cellar Join editor Kathie Bergquist and contributors David Kodeski, Barrie Cole, Aldo Alvarez, April Newman, and Carina Gia Farrero for a poetry and prose reading from Windy City Queer: LGBTQ Dispatches from the Third Coast. The Book Cellar, 4738 N. Lincoln Ave. 7pm-10pm, The Book Cellar, 4738 N. Lincoln Ave.

Friday, Dec. 16

Amy Armstrong & Freddy Allen "How the Diva Stole Christmas! VI" Hydrate Nightclub and ChicagoPride.com are proud to present Amy Armstrong and Freddy Allen in "How the Diva Stole Christmas! VI" Doors open at 7pm with showtime at 8pm! 8pm-11:30pm, Hydrate, 3458 N. Halsted St., <http://www.hydratechicago.com>; Tickets: <http://https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/214491>

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BILLY MASTERS

"Believe me, I have no idea why anyone hires me."—Mila Kunis tells GQ magazine. I thought it was just me!

Christmas came a bit early to the Masters home as I just received the final executed forms refinancing my little Fort Lauderdale, Fla., beach house. This has been a long, arduous process. When President Obama announced the Help for Homeowners Act, I immediately applied. That was more than two and a half years ago! After six different applications, daily phone calls, weekly faxes, e-mails to bank executives and threats to bring my story to the media (well, I am the media), it finally happened. I share this story to give you all hope. Like so many things in life, you have to treat it like a game ... and when it comes to winning at a game, I'm tenacious. Just be patient—it's worth it.

Last week, I zipped to NYC to see some shows and catch up with some friends, starting with a special reading of Matthew Lombardo's "Tea at Five," directed by Rob Ruggiero and starring Charles Busch—three of my favorite people. To make it even better, my date was the dashing attorney-to-the-stars Mark Sendroff. My adoration for Charles is well-documented, but it went up a few notches that night. I'd never seen him play a real person before—at least not for what amounts to an extended monologue. His grasp on Katherine Hepburn's every nuance in various stages of her life is extraordinary. The team worked hard to trim the play down to a tight single act and, judging from the response, it was a hit! Also on hand were folks like the divine

don't know what you're talking about."

The revelation led the school to place Hogan on paid leave while it investigates. Intriguingly, response to the report has not been particularly favorable. According to the local FOX affiliate, viewer feedback has been split 80/20—with 80 percent AGAINST the station. (There's no differentiation between being against the style of the report or the nature of the story.) Because you know I'm a stickler for research, I tracked down some of Hytch's work. Let me share a detail no one else has brought up—aside from being shaved within an inch of his life, his penis has a Prince Albert piercing. Also, while the movie I watched employed the use of a condom, at a certain point it disappeared! That may have happened when his erection began to subside; if you look inside his partner, it might still be there—or perhaps you'll spy it when you watch the video on BillyMasters.com.

Now, time for more of "Billy's Holiday Gift Giving Suggestions." This week we have a book by one of my favorite people. Porn legend Tom Judson has released *Laid Bare—Essays and Observations*, which is really a collection of short stories from various times of his life. Some are outrageously funny, some insightful, some tender, some sentimental, but all quite entertaining and written in Tom's unique voice—you'll love it! You can buy it at Amazon.com, and at BillyMasters.com we'll run a video of Judson reading a story aloud.

Let's slip in a quick "Ask Billy" question. Someone on our Fan Forum asked: "What do you



Billy Masters caught up with the inimitable Charles Busch (above).

Julie Halston and my new best friend, Hunter Ryan Herdlicka, who I almost sent to the emergency room ... but that's another story. Oodles of money were raised for the Ali Forney Center, which is a safe haven for homeless LGBT youths in NYC. Congrats!!!

While I was in NYC, a story was breaking in my own backyard. This concerns Kevin Hogan, who is an English teacher at a Malden, Mass., charter school. He's also head of the English department as well as—I almost hate to say this—the coach of the crew team. So you know what's coming, right? Well, you're wrong. No one got touched in a locker room, but it was discovered that Mr. Hogan also goes by the name Hytch Cawke—a name that really only works if you say it aloud, and even then it's kinda stupid.

Hytch has appeared in three gay pornos: *Fetish World 1*, *Just Gone Gay 8* (are we up to 8 already?) and *Ass Fucked by a DILF 2*. In case you're wondering, he is one of the DILFs. This story was uncovered by a FOX reporter in Boston named Mike Beaudet. He confronted Kevin/Hytch in one of those ambush-style interviews usually reserved for presidential candidates accused of philandering or corporate heads who spill oil on pelicans! Hogan repeatedly said, "I

know about HSN cutie Brett Chukerman? He looks really familiar, and he's adorable."

Before he was hawking his wares on cable, he was an actor. You likely remember him from *Eating Out 2: Sloppy Seconds*, where he showed all in a steamy scene with the equally delectable Marco Dapper. He again played gay in *The Curiosity of Chance*, where he does a striptease! Regarding his personal life, he's quite coy: "I want to be everyone's fantasy, it's part of my job." Fantasize away while you watch every inch of him on BillyMasters.com.

When FOX viewers are on the side of a gay-porn star, it's definitely time for me to end yet another column. The next few weeks will be a whirlwind of travel—miles to go before I sleep. But no matter where I am, you can get the latest gossip at www.BillyMasters.com. My more tawdry tales can be found in Billy's Boudoir, which is getting more popular by the moment. If you have a question that needs my personal attention, dash it off to Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before we see Tom Judson hawking bee pins on QVC with Joan Rivers! So, until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible.

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Sunday, Dec. 11
TRUE FAITH
80S NIGHT
 DJ Chester, No Cover

Wed. Dec. 14, No Cover
MANAISE Bear Party
 DJ: Zack, Hosts: Jason Cox
 Followed Adam EL (*Sixteen Candles*)

Thursday, Dec. 15
VOGUE FOR TOTS #5
JD SAMSON (*Le Tigre/MEN*)
 Rene Romero; Host Dida Ritz (*Ru Pauls*
Drag Race); Open to any contestant

Saturday, Dec. 17
THE HOUSE OF
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TWISTED with DJ Larissa

Sunday, Dec. 18
MINOGUE-FRAPP
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Tuesday, Dec. 20
SINFUL HOLIDAY
\$1 DRINK NIGHT

Wednesday, Dec. 21
GLO EURO POP
NIGHT til 1am, DJ Gabriel
 Then- DJ Adam El (*Sixteen Candles*)

Thursday, Dec. 22
 Sdust & LA Jesus' Holiday pageant
GHOSTHOUSE
 (Live Set)

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Men's basketball action tips off

BY ROSS FORMAN

The longest-running and largest LGBT basketball league in the world kicked off Dec. 3, at Amundsen High School on the North Side—about a month before its traditional start of the season.

The predominantly male league is in about its 23rd season and this is its second season run by the Chicago Metropolitan Sports Association (CMSA).

"The competition level was amazing," in week one, said Mark Sakalares, commissioner of the league. "Of the eight games played, three went into overtime. I actually was surprised that as many teams came out as prepared, as competitive as they did. Usually, the first few weeks [of the season] are kind of sloppy as teams are just getting going, but the level of play really was fantastic, really something to see."

There are 157 players, spread across three



CMSA basketball action. Photos courtesy of Royce Covington



divisions: Recreational (seven teams), Intermediate (six) and Competitive (five). In addition, there's a fourth division—Master's, for players 40 and older—scheduled to launch in January with four teams.

The 157 players are down from 180 last year, which Sakalares attributed to the economy and the earlier season start.

"We've always been a competitive league; we've always tried to make sure the divisions were balanced well," said Sakalares, 50, who lives in Rogers Park. "The league is a great place to meet new people, stay in touch with old friends and also, of course, play a sport that we all love."

Players this season range in age from 18 to 63, and some players even commute into Chicago from Milwaukee. The league features three women, each playing in the Recreational Division, and about 90 percent of all players are gay, Sakalares said. The season has been expanded from 10 to 12 games, plus playoffs.

The season started earlier than normal to limit conflicts with out-of-town softball tournaments that many participate in and to not conflict with the Coady Roundball Classic, the longest-running and largest LGBT basketball tournament in the world, held annually in mid April.

Sandusky talks again; Syracuse coach Boeheim apologizes

Embattled former Penn State University defensive coordinator Jerry Sandusky has made more revelations in an interview with the New York Times. Among his claims are that former head coach Joe Paterno (fired in the midst of a child sexual-abuse scandal involving Sandusky) never spoke to him about the abuse charges. In addition, Sandusky said that the Second Mile charity he worked for did not restrict his access to children until a 2008 criminal investigation.

Sandusky did admit that he gave money to the disadvantaged boys at his charity and even opened bank accounts for them. He said his household in State College, Pa., became a sort of recreation center or second home where games were played and sleepovers arranged. Sandusky also said his wife, Dorothy, was concerned about the group dynamics.

Meanwhile, Syracuse University men's basketball coach Jim Boeheim has apologized for comments he made after several ballboys accused now-fired assistant coach Bernie Fine of molestation. According to CBSSports.com, Boeheim approached the subject at a Dec. 2 press conference after his team, ranked fourth in the nation, edged No. 10 Florida 72-68.

"I believe I misspoke very badly in my response to the allegations that have been made. I shouldn't have questioned what the accusers expressed or their motives. I am really sorry that I did that, and I regret any harm that I caused," he said.

Fine has maintained his innocence.

Chicago Force tryouts Dec. 17

The Chicago Force women's football team is holding its second set of tryouts for its 2012 season Saturday, Dec. 17, at Evanston Town-

ship High School Fieldhouse (indoor gym) 1600 Dodge Ave., Evanston, 1-3 p.m.; arrive by 12:45 p.m. to register.

Prospective players should also plan to attend a post-tryout meet-and-greet with coaches and players immediately following the practice.

Both tryouts will consist of sprints; agility and strength assessments; and football fundamentals. It will also include a Q&A session. Tryouts are open to women 17 and older.

There is a one-time \$20 tryout fee for new players. Call the Force hotline at 312-405-4130 or visit <http://www.chicagoforcefootball.com> for more information.

HRC urges leagues to protect against anti-gay bias

The Human Rights Campaign (HRC) has called on the National Basketball Association (NBA), Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA) and the National Hockey League (NHL) to adopt non-discrimination policies for their LGBT players and staff.

The call comes just days after Major League Baseball (MLB) added sexual orientation to its non-discrimination policy. In a statement, HRC suggests that the NBA, WNBA and the NHL go one step further and also add gender identity.

"Unfortunately, NBA, WNBA and NHL players and staff can be discriminated against for no other reason than their sexual orientation or gender identity," said HRC President Joe Solmonese. "Seeing as the NBA is currently in negotiations with its players union and the NHL collective bargaining agreement is set to expire next year, now would be a great opportunity for both organizations and the NBA's women's counterpart to adopt a non-discrimination policy that protects players and employees."

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STRATEGIES FOR AVOIDING CRAZY RELATIVES

For all LGBT couples there is always the concern that if they should die their families will try to contest their wills. With the holiday season upon us the time is now to honestly assess which of your relatives could make life a living hell for your partner if you are not around to take care of matters. For anyone who has greedy/crazy/psycho relatives, here are some suggestions and strategies to protect your partner and property from their greed.

Joint Tenancy. After the death of one joint tenant, the remaining joint tenant will continue to own the entire property. No probate. One drawback is that if you create a joint tenancy bank account by putting your lover's name on the account, he or she can take all the money and spend it for whatever they want.

Name a Beneficiary. If you name your LGBT partner as beneficiary of your life insurance, IRA and employee benefits—such as 401(k) and pension and profit-sharing plans—that asset won't be subject to probate. It goes directly to the person you name.

Totten Trusts. A Totten trust is simply the name for a kind of bank account where one person deposits money in his or her name as trustee for another. The depositor reserves the power to withdraw all or part of the money at any time. Upon the death of the depositor the money in the bank account is paid to the named beneficiary of the trust.

Lifetime Gifts. Property you give away during your lifetime can't come under the probate court's control. Rather than waiting for death for the transfer of your assets, make gifts while alive so that you can see your life partner, friends, family members or charities enjoy the benefit of your gifts. You may have to pay gift taxes and file gift tax returns.

Living Trusts. A revocable living trust is a legal arrangement where a person executes a written trust document naming themselves as the trustee of their own trust and, while alive, they transfer their property to their trust so that the trust holds legal title to all their assets. The living trust acts like a will and disposes of the maker's property upon death. There is less chance of a lawsuit by family members to contest a living trust than there would be with a will.

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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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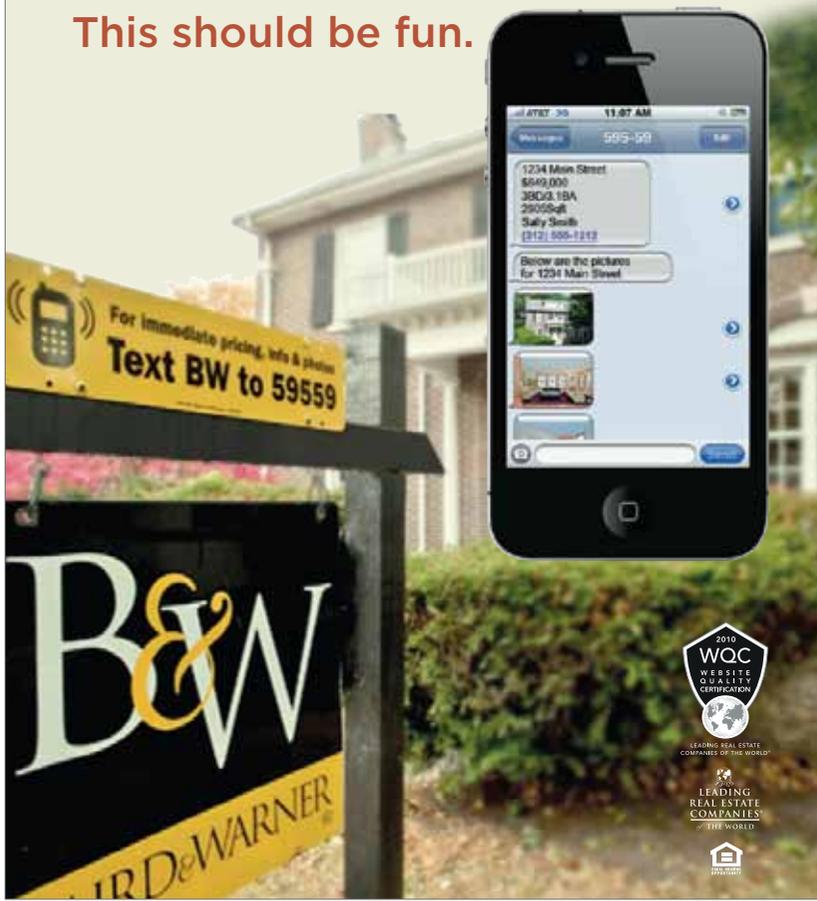
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