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**Like father, like daughter**

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SPRINGFIELD-Mike? Dad? Mr. Speaker?

How does Lisa Madigan refer to her father, House Speaker Michael Madigan, now that she has been sworn in as a state senator?

"I never know what to call him these days," she said. "Everybody refers to him as 'the speaker.' It's very strange referring to your father as the speaker. Obviously in our house, we don't refer to him as the speaker. He's 'Dad.' Calling him Mike seems a little more adult, but still kind of funny."

Voters in Lake View, Bucktown, Ravenswood, Lincoln Park and Uptown probably didn't see that as much of an issue when they chose her for the state Senate last month. Nor did she.

Nonetheless, it is something the newest and second-youngest member of the Senate will have to deal with as she embarks on a promising legislative career that her influential father did not want for her and still seems uncomfortable about.

"I think there are other things she can do with her life, other things she could do than a political career," the speaker said of his lawyer daughter, whom he adopted when she was 10.

But he has grown to accept and take pride in the idea of serving alongside his daughter in the Capitol. Both Democrats, they are the first parent and child to serve simultaneously in the Illinois Legislature in 35 years.

Friends and supporters of Lisa Madigan describe the energetic, 32-year-old Georgetown University graduate as a workhorse much like her father. But establishing her own identity may be her toughest task.

Philosophically, there are differences. The speaker opposes abortion rights, while Lisa Madigan supports them. She is a stronger proponent of a law to ban discrimination against homosexuals. She says an income tax increase to benefit schools isn't feasible. The speaker once pushed hard for such a plan.

"Being the daughter of the speaker of the House can be a double-edged sword," said Rep. John Fritchey (D-Chicago), her former high-school classmate and onetime boyfriend. "She's in the spotlight even before being sworn in. All of her actions will be observed, scrutinized, probably overanalyzed. I think she's definitely up to it, but she'll have pressure on her unlike that faced by any other legislator."

Lisa Madigan has attempted to mold herself as a progressive in touch with 9-to-5 working people and those without a voice in government. A WBEZ-FM (91.5) listener, she takes the L to work most days, but occasionally drives a 1991 Toyota, which friends describe as a "beater."

Her mother sometimes pulls her along to shop at Giovanni's in the Drake Hotel, where gowns cost as much as $ 3,000. But Lisa complains she doesn't have the money to shop there, and instead buys much of what she wears at the Gap and Banana Republic.

"It's kind of funny. My family is very, very down-to-earth. There isn't this plush, lavish life people might imagine there is," said Madigan, who lives in a one-bedroom apartment in Lake View.

Raised a Roman Catholic, Madigan lists her heroes as former Sen. Paul Simon, South African President Nelson Mandela and former Irish President Mary Robinson.

Keep in mind that Lisa Madigan is someone who has not yet cast a vote. Yet she is spoken of as a sure contender for higher political office and already has proved to be a big draw.

On Thursday, 150 lobbyists and political luminaries that included Gov.-elect George Ryan, Sen. Dick Durbin (D-Ill.), several Supreme Court justices, a half-dozen senators and, of course, her parents packed the Supreme Court chambers where she was sworn in.

When has a freshman legislator ever been so feted? "The last time the daughter of the speaker was sworn in. Any more questions?" laughed Sen. Arthur Berman (D-Chicago), who attended the event.

In Illinois' 180-year history, the Madigans are believed to be the first speaker-daughter combination to serve at the same time. But as if to quash the buildup caused by that historical footnote, she said, "I'm going to be a freshman senator, regardless of my last name."

Lisa Madigan has not had that name her entire life. Born July 30, 1966, at what now is Northwestern Memorial Hospital, she was the only daughter of Joel and Shirley Murray. Her parents' relationship ended in divorce two years later.

"The first marriage was a total disaster," Shirley Madigan recalled. "I have no desire to think back to my first husband. I thank God I had Lisa. She was all I wanted from that relationship."

Lisa Madigan's memory of that tumultuous period has faded, much like the contact with her biological father. She last spoke to him when she was 18 and last saw him 20 years ago. The only father she has ever known and cared for has been Mike Madigan.

"Biologically, I'm not his child. But you would never know by the way he treats me," she said.

When Lisa was young, her mother worked at a downtown law firm where she often met Democratic politicians. One of them was Madigan, a state representative. When Lisa was 8, the couple began dating.

"My mom and I lived probably seven of the first 10 years of my life on Wellington, between Sheridan Road and Broadway. My mom got married to Mike when I was 10. Because he had to live in his legislative district, we moved out to the Southwest Side. But I continued going to school on the North Side."

She was enrolled at the Latin School of Chicago, one of the most exclusive private schools in the city, where tuition today runs as high as $ 13,900 per year. After her divorce, Shirley paid the costs of schooling with little financial assistance from her ex-husband.

As a student, Lisa wrote an essay in fifth grade about the injustices blacks faced in South Africa. She also wanted to tour the Cabrini-Green public housing complex as part of another class assignment, an idea she thought up on her own.

"What drew her was there were a group of people who had great needs that were not being met. It was something she couldn't understand," Shirley said.

As Mike Madigan became a fixture in Shirley's and Lisa's lives, a strong father-daughter relationship took root. Lisa accompanied the couple on lunch outings, dinner dates and forays to the zoo and developed a strong affection for Madigan, who often was away in Springfield.

"If he was coming back from Springfield, he would stop by our apartment. There was more than once she'd fall asleep by the door waiting for him," Shirley recalled.

Lisa's first visit to the state capital came when she was 8, launching a summertime ritual that would last through her teenage years. She helped with chores in Madigan's office and ran errands for representatives, ending most days with a big restaurant dinner with her father.

"I just thought it was a good idea for her and I to get that time together," the speaker said. "I didn't bring her down to plant the idea in her head to become a member of the Legislature."

But an interest in government emerged. After graduating from the Latin School, she enrolled at Georgetown University. When not attending class, she worked part time for Sen. Paul Simon, a job arranged by her father.

"On two occasions when I was in the Senate, I had people who are my political friends ask me to hire somebody," Simon said. "One was Ted Kennedy. The other was Mike Madigan with Lisa. In both cases, I did it with some reluctance because I thought if I had to fire someone, it wouldn't help in my relations with Ted Kennedy or Mike Madigan. As it turned out, both were superb."

At Georgetown, she was away from the strict supervision of her parents' household. But she said she didn't use that freedom, as many have done in college, to experiment with marijuana or other drugs.

"I drank, really just beer," she said. "I was obviously conscious when I was growing up that I was Mike Madigan's daughter. Because of that, I made conscious decisions not to do certain things: not to get drunk, not to get arrested, not to do drugs. And at this point in your life, you can look back and say, 'Good decision.' "

In 1988, she graduated from Georgetown with a degree in government and a B+ grade point average. But rather than begin job-hunting, she enrolled in a university program that allowed her to teach for a year at a Catholic boarding school in South Africa for tribal youngsters.

When the program ended and she returned to Chicago, Madigan mulled over law school and several job offers, settling finally on an assistant dean's position at Wright Community College.

She helped establish after-school programs for teenagers in Austin, Logan Square and Humboldt Park. Madigan befriended a police officer involved in the effort named Lisa Nigro, who got her interested in another cause: the homeless. Nigro, who is still a close friend, established a North Side restaurant for the homeless. Her curiosity piqued, Madigan got involved.

"She and I used to walk through the streets of Uptown with this little red wagon and serve people bagels and cream cheese, peanut butter and jelly on bagels, coffee and orange juice," Madigan said. "Here we are in the richest nation in world, and there are people living in the streets. I can't deal with that hypocrisy sometimes."

Madigan began pursuing a law degree, taking night classes at Loyola University while working at Wright during the day. She quit Wright to become a full-time student in 1992 and became a member of the bar two years later, landing at the prominent Loop law firm of Sachnoff and Weaver.

It wasn't until 1996 that her political juices began flowing. That summer, incumbent Sen. Bruce Farley (D-Chicago) was indicted on federal ghost-payrolling charges.

She swears Farley's difficulties had nothing to do with her timing. But gathered with her family a few months later at Trattoria Roma, an Italian eatery a block from Mike Madigan's alma mater, St. Ignatius High School, she sprung her political plan.

"I didn't think anything of it," the speaker said. "I discouraged it for several months. Then, after maybe three months, I finally relented and agreed. 'OK, we'll try and do this.' But I laid out for her what kind of nightmare I was going to go through."

She made a strong case to her father.

"It was mainly a very fatherly reaction. His concern, which he is absolutely correct about, is I will . . . end up bearing the brunt of his enemies. People who can't attack him will attack me. I said, 'OK. I recognize that. I think I have the strength to deal with that.' "

In short order, the district's ward committeemen grew angry. They strongly supported Farley, despite his legal troubles, and made clear they would not welcome an intrusion into North Side politics by the Southwest Side Democrat -- no matter that Lisa Madigan had lived, worked or gone to school on the North Side for nearly her entire life.

"You can imagine I heard quite frequently from those people: 'Where do you get off coming up here with your daughter?' It was a situation where I tried to be as diplomatic as possible. But at the same time, I made sure they understood I was there to stay. I wasn't going to go away," he said.

Madigan's assistance gave his daughter a massive fund-raising edge over Farley, plus staff and other resources. On election day last March, she steamrolled Farley by a 2-1 ratio. Both Madigans maintain that was the direct result of Lisa's tireless campaigning in the district.

All sides now say there is a truce, and some of Farley's friends speak highly of her.

"Because she did beat Bruce, who I consider to be a good friend, you always look at it askance," said Sen. Denny Jacobs (D-East Moline), who gave $ 4,000 to Farley's campaign. "Is she the ogre, I guess, that some painted her out to be because she is Mike Madigan's daughter? I really don't see that in her. I see a hell of a lot of independence."

Because Democrats are in the minority in the Senate, much of any legislation she develops will be stymied by Republicans, who still haven't quite figured out how to gauge her presence in the chamber. She doesn't know what her first bill will be.

"No lobbyists or anybody are really going to be able to think when they're dealing with her, they're dealing with just her," said one lawmaker, who requested anonymity. "Going through their minds will be: If I jam her bill, what's going to happen to me."

Senate President James "Pate" Philip (R-Wood Dale) chose his words delicately when asked about her.

"I've met her before. She's a nice kid, bright," he said. When pressed about whether he thought she would be an asset to the Senate, the normally blunt Philip said, "Every member is an asset to the chamber."

Despite talk about a possible run for statewide office, Lisa Madigan's eye is squarely on Jan. 11, the date she will finally get to take her seat on the Senate floor.

"I've got one goal: to be the state senator of the 17th District," she said. "Right now, that's all I want to do. Will that change one day? I don't know. I need to see if this is an arena where I can make a difference and make things better for people. If it is, great. If not, I don't know what I'm going to do."