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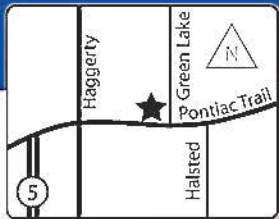
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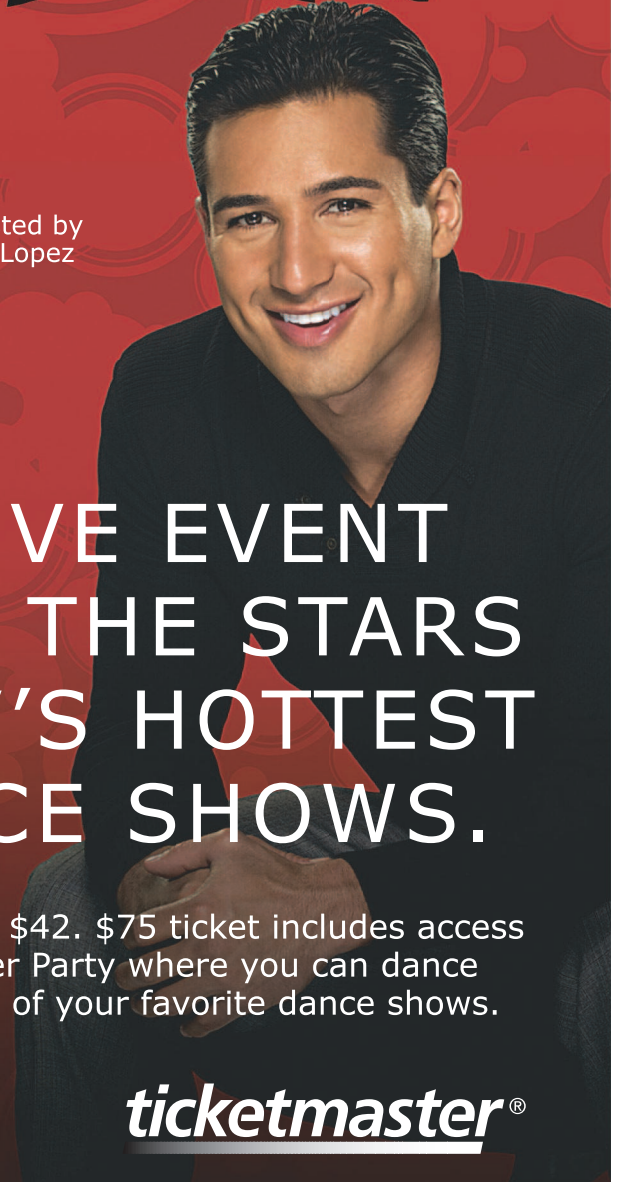
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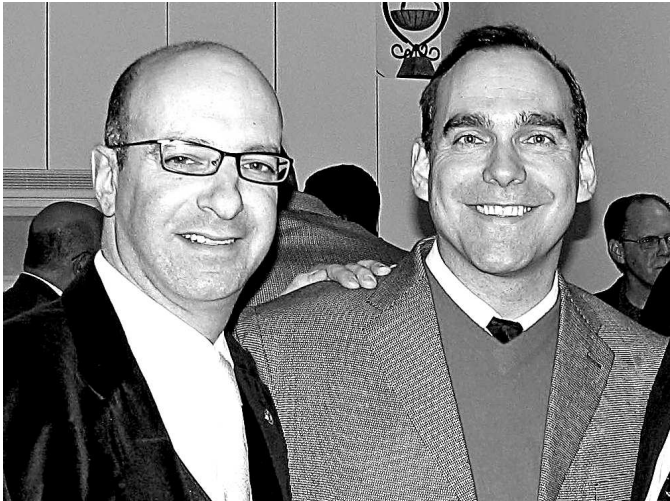
In honor of the release of Focus Features' "The Kids Are All Right," out July 23, BTL's giving away movie prize packs with a T-shirt and wine tote bag! See our Facebook fan party page (search Between The Lines Newspaper) to enter.



Adam Bernard is the director of invitationals for the Lambda Car Club's Detroit Chapter, and also works by day at General Motors. He's also a blogger about cars, gay issues, cooking, TV and more. His group is hosting the Motown 2010 Grand Invitational, featuring automotive and historical tours, fundraising events, special guests and, of course, lots of cars.

1 What sparked your love of cars?

Strangely enough, no one in my family works in the business; my Uncle Ed is the only real 'car guy' in the family. I honestly can't remember exactly where it started - I'm told my dad started bringing home Matchbox cars from work when I was 3 years old and apparently they fascinated me. I progressed from there into building model cars, racing slot cars, subscribing to car magazines, and finally a job at General Motors.



Adam Bernard (left) with his partner, Rich Kwiecien.

2 How did you get involved with the Lambda Car Club?

Back in 2000, GM sponsored one of the dinners at the last Detroit-area invitational, and they provided a couple of concept cars to display. I had never heard of the club, but was asked to attend the dinner in case anyone had any questions about the cars, and so I essentially stumbled into this group of LGBT car enthusiasts.

When I met my partner a year later, he joined as well (eventually picking up a classic Lincoln to show off), and I've become increasingly involved ever since.

3 Why do you think it's important to have a gay-specific club for car enthusiasts?

What could be more fun than hanging out with people who share your enthusiasm for cars where you can just be yourself? It's a great opportunity to make new friends, both locally and - through the national invitationals - from all over the country.

What could be more fun than hanging out with people who share your enthusiasm for cars where you can just be yourself?

4 What event are you most excited about in the upcoming Motown 2010 Grand Invitational?

The highlight for me will definitely be the Saturday, July 31 show, where we expect nearly 200 cars

and trucks. From Italian exotics to pre-war Buicks to disco-era Lincolns, our vehicles are as diverse as our membership. It's also the best time to catch up with friends from out of town we haven't seen for a while.

5 What's your favorite car and why?

Wow - always a tough question for a hardcore enthusiast. I love my classic Mini, but would love to get my hands on a first-generation Buick Riviera to the fleet (if only we had room), and am currently lusting after a Cadillac CTS-V Coupe.

To learn more about the Lambda Car Club Detroit Chapter, or to check out events for Motown 2010, visit www.lccdetroit.org.

Between Ourselves is a weekly feature that highlights members of Michigan's LGBT and allied community. To recommend someone for Between Ourselves, e-mail Jessica at jessica@pridesource.com

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From Stork to Finish

A community without closets

Jewish Gay Network welcomes new members, ideas at annual meeting

BY BETH GREENAPPLE

FARMINGTON HILLS – The July 15 annual meeting and board installation at the Detroit Holocaust Memorial Center's Zekelman Family Campus marked a watershed in the life of the Jewish Gay Network of Michigan. It was the first such event in its short history.

Well-attended, festive and yet serious and purposeful, the meeting brought JGN supporters together around a shared dream: a community without closets. As veteran JGN members reaffirmed their commitments, they welcomed in fresh energy and ideas in the form of inductees to a brand new Advisory Council and an existing Board of Directors.



Keynote speaker Stephen Goldman

The evening began with a passionate personal testimony by longtime supporter and board member Gail Katz, in which she explained that she “understands what it’s like to be the ‘other’” from her experiences growing up as the only Jew in a gentile community and school in Maryland.

Excitement grew as outgoing JGN President Michael Daitch reported on the last year of the organization’s accomplishments. They include book and film sponsorships at the Jewish Community Center’s Book Fair and Film Festivals, a memorial service when young people were gunned down in a Tel Aviv center for GLBT youth and collaboration with a local conservative synagogue in creating a groundbreaking conversation about GLBT Jewish experience. “Our amazing executive director, Judy Lewis, is the force behind the surge of growth in programming by the JGN and its increasing visibility in the Detroit Jewish Community,” Daitch commented.

Also mentioned was a grant received from the Jewish Women’s Foundation for an upcoming program on advocacy for lesbian elders. Next came the nominating committee’s report. Linda Lee, founder and current board member, and the chair of the committee, lent the perfect flavor of formality to thanking outgoing board members and welcoming new and continuing board members for the next term. Each was presented with a binder of “Board Essentials” including bylaws, director responsibilities, resources and contact information. In addition, each received a packet of JGN business cards for use as an ambassador of JGN to the community, and a lapel pin bearing JGN’s tree logo.

When the ceremony was completed, a board member offered a blessing for all assembled, along with all who work “to engender a community that supports and embraces, welcomes and celebrates all Jews.”

Holocaust Memorial Center Executive Director Stephen Goldman served as the night’s keynote speaker. He described the Nazi laws against homosexuality and somehow wove his way through history to leave the group with an inspiring message of hope for the future. Afterward, JGN Executive Director Lewis thanked everyone for their support, saying, “It was a terrific success, and a very satisfying evening.”

Art from the Heart

New exhibit explores the ways in which we love

BY BETH GREENAPPLE

On July 25 at the Janice Charach Gallery inside the Jewish Community Center in West Bloomfield, a unique exhibit will open. Art from the Heart represents a collaboration between the gallery and the Jewish Gay Network of Michigan, with funding support from the Mark/Lis Family Foundation. The JCC and several additional Jewish organizations cooperated, and dozens of local artists have contributed their talents.

The event celebrates love and family in conjunction with the little-known Jewish observance of “tu b’av” – the fifteenth of the month of Av – observed in modern Israel as “chag ha’ahava” – the holiday of love.

“I went to Terri Stearn, the gallery’s director, and suggested we do this together,” explains JGN Executive Director Judy Lewis. “She couldn’t have been a better partner.”

Lewis arranged for simple masonite hearts to be cut by a local carpenter. Then, she put the word out to local artists and agencies. Numerous independent artists purchased one or more hearts for use by their clients. Artists interpreted the themes of love and family with media ranging from oil paint to ceramic tile to fabric to fimo clay and more. “A uniform base was used by artists in a myriad of ways,” explains Lewis. “It parallels the universality of love and family within which there is endless human variation.”

In addition to heart art, children’s words about their own families will be featured as a part of the display.

All artworks will be displayed for sale. The exhibit will continue through Aug. 19. Proceeds from the sale of the hearts will help



Getting art ready for the upcoming exhibit at the Jewish Community Center.

fund programming efforts of JGN and the Charach Gallery.

The Charach Gallery is known for encouraging local artists as well as having exhibits that emphasize Jewish themes, while the Jewish Gay Network of Michigan works toward “a community without closets,” explains Lewis. “We educate, advocate and someday, legislate – not directly, of course, but through education and advocacy.”

Recently, JGN helped Congregation Beth Ahm’s Tikkun Olam (repair of the world)

Committee to hold a community conversation about “Being Gay, Being Jewish,” an example of how it fulfills its mission to educate. Among its recent advocacy activities, JGN assisted two student allies in starting a Gay Straight Alliance at a community high school. Lewis added, “We help people to understand what it’s like living in this world while being considered ‘other.’”

For information about the Charach Gallery, call 248-432-5400. For information about JGN, call 248-432-5661, or visit www.jgnmi.org.

Lambda Car Club revs up for Motown 2010



Once-in-a-lifetime opportunities abound for the automotive enthusiast as the Detroit region of Lambda Car Club International presents Motown 2010: Hits, History, Horsepower from July 25-31 in Detroit.

A week of activities has been planned, including a visit to the 32nd annual Concours D’Elegance of America at Meadow Brook Hall, which is the former home of Matilda Dodge Wilson, widow of auto pioneer John Dodge.

During the week, participants will also have the opportunity to visit private car collections not open to the public, as well as tour the Motown Museum, the Walter P. Chrysler Museum, the General Motors Heritage Center and offerings from the Henry Ford complex, including Greenfield Village, the Henry Ford Museum and the Ford Rouge Plant Factory.

Motown 2010 concludes with a Lambda Car Club car show, silent auction and evening banquet featuring keynote speaker Jim Farley, Ford Motor Company Group vice president, Global Marketing and Canada, Mexico and South America Operations.

To learn more, visit www.motown2010.com.

Michigan HIV/AIDS leaders react to national strategy

Funding, implementation questions cloud enthusiasm over plan's message

BY JESSICA CARRERAS

Several local leaders in Michigan's HIV/AIDS advocacy community have voiced excitement over the July 13 release of the Obama administration's National AIDS Strategy, and yet are quick to note that good plans don't always live up to the goals they set.

The strategy, released after months of collecting commentary and data from communities and organizations in the fight against the disease, identifies three main objectives: prevention of new infections, proper treatment for those living with HIV/AIDS and reduction of health disparities in high-risk communities, such as blacks and gay men.

However, notes HIV/AIDS Resource Center President and CEO Jimena Loveluck, one of the biggest flaws in the plan is the same one HIV activists often face: lack of money.

"We also know from experience that it is often difficult to achieve outcomes like those set out in the NAS without additional funding, and this is probably one of the most disappointing aspects of the plan and an obstacle to implementation," Loveluck noted. "While we can certainly work to use the resources we do have as effectively as possible to target those most at risk for HIV, expansion of prevention efforts and education for all Americans about HIV/AIDS will be hard to achieve without additional funding."

"Expansion of prevention efforts and education for all Americans about HIV/AIDS will be hard to achieve without additional funding."

- HIV/AIDS Resource Center President and CEO Jimena Loveluck

Funding, adds Michigan AIDS Coalition CEO Helen Hicks, often tops the list of needs before prevention efforts for HIV service organizations. "In a recent survey sent to many of Michigan's AIDS service agencies, the No. 1 concern was lack of funding for ASOs, and of the top 10 issues that needed to be addressed, prevention made the top five."

The strategy suggests that necessary funds will come from increased collaboration and fundraising efforts. Loveluck said that is ideal, but unlikely. "The NAS accurately states that this effort will require greater collaboration and cannot be done by the government alone, but with AIDS philanthropic efforts dwindling across the country and locally, where will the resources for the implementation of this plan

come from?"

Still, despite lingering questions and gaping holes in the plan, Michigan HIV/AIDS leaders are applauding the National AIDS Strategy. MAC COO and Ferndale Mayor Craig Covey called it "a welcome relief" from the Bush Administration's blatant disregard for the issue in the U.S., especially in regard to the long overdue recognition of a need for focus on comprehensive sex education and increased prevention efforts for men who have sex with men.

"This new direction seeks to use best practices and science to renew the fight against AIDS," said Covey, "and should help to steer away from the misguided and unsuccessful strategy that focused on abstinence only."

"It's just what the doctor ordered."

Loveluck said the three goals came as "no surprise" to activists who have been working toward those objectives for 20 or 30 years, but were welcome words to hear from the administration. "We applaud the NAS for prioritizing evidence-based strategies, for emphasizing human rights and reducing stigma, for targeting resources to those at greatest risk for HIV while promoting HIV/AIDS education for all Americans, for setting realistic milestones and targets, and for promoting collaboration and public/private partnerships," she added.

"We hope that the NAS will prove to be a mobilizing tool for our country and for our local communities."

Obama renews commitment to combating HIV/AIDS

Strategic report highlights prevention, treatment and health disparities as key issues to address

BY JULIE PACE

WASHINGTON (AP)— President Barack Obama said July 13 that a new strategy for combating HIV and AIDS fulfills America's obligation to stop the spread of the virus and rooting out the inequities and attitudes on which it thrives.

The strategy sets a goal of reducing new infections by 25 percent during the next five years; getting treatment for 85 percent of patients within three months of their diagnosis; and increasing education about the virus, even in communities with low rates of infection.

"Fighting HIV/AIDS in America and around the world will require more than just fighting the virus," Obama said at a White House reception honoring activists in the field. "It will require a broader effort to make life

more just and equitable."

While medical breakthroughs have greatly improved quality of life for the 1.1 million Americans living with HIV, the United States has struggled to lower the rate of new infections. The new strategy sets a goal of reducing new infections by 25 percent during the next five years.

About 56,000 people in the United States become infected each year, a rate that has held steady for about a decade.

"We've been keeping pace when we should be gaining ground," said Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius at a separate event unveiling the strategy earlier in the day.

Part of the strategy for lowering new infections relies on targeting HIV prevention efforts at the highest-risk populations, which

include gay and bisexual men as well as black Americans, far more than is done today.

That means finding creative ways to spread successful local programs that help HIV-negative people stay that way, as well as providing education and treatment for people who are living with HIV to reduce their chances of spreading the virus, said Chris Collins of the Foundation for AIDS Research, one of the many groups who advised administration officials during the monthslong process of devising the strategy. That process also included numerous town hall meetings with local activists held in cities across the U.S., which were documented and presented to White House officials.

The administration is allocating \$30 million from the massive health care overhaul Congress passed earlier this year toward imple-

Ruth Ellis Center receives three grants

HIGHLAND PARK — The Ruth Ellis Center, one of the nation's three agencies dedicated to homeless LGBTQ youth, has received a grant from each of the following organizations: Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan, the Detroit Industrial School Foundation and the TJX Foundation. Each grant will support Ruth Ellis Center's programs that enrich the lives of homeless and at-risk LGBTQ youth in metro Detroit.

"It is encouraging to see that such diverse set of funders are recognizing the need to support the LGBTQ community," said Laura Hughes, the center's executive director. "While every aspect of Ruth Ellis Center needs support, from our general fund to each of our programs, funding these initiatives is particularly thrilling for our youth because the contributions go toward something they directly experience."

The Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan provided a grant of \$20,000 from its HOPE Fund to support strategic planning and expanded fund development efforts. The HOPE Fund supports high-quality programs and organizations that serve the LGBTQ community. The Community Foundation is a permanent community endowment built by gifts from thousands of individuals and organizations and supports a wide variety of activities benefitting education, arts and culture, and health and human services.

The Detroit Industrial School Foundation grant is supporting Ruth Ellis Center's Literacy Program. The Literacy Program engages Ruth Ellis Center youth with volunteers and staff members to help them gain skills that can help transition into schools and independence.

The TJX Foundation of the TJX Companies, Inc., the nation's leading off-price retailer of apparel and home furnishings, is supporting the center with a grant for its transgender support group. One of three gender identity support groups at the center, the transgender support group provides a safe space for transgender youth to discuss many of the pressing issues they face including employment discrimination, hormone use and safety.

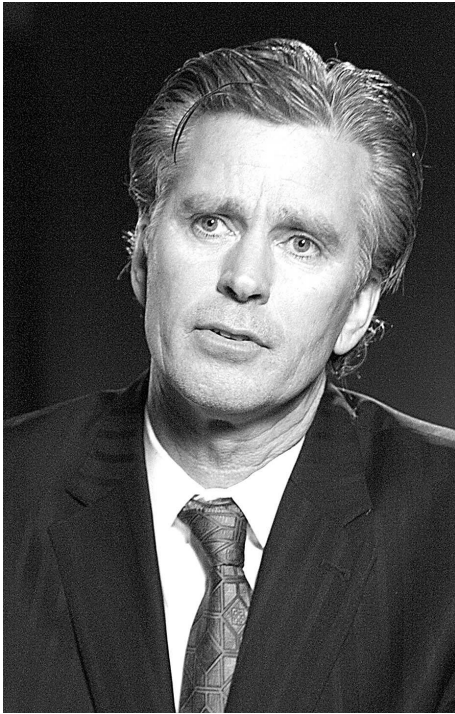
For more information about the Ruth Ellis Center, visit www.ruthelliscenter.com.

Windsor Pride needs volunteers

Windsor Pride, which will be holding its annual festival and services of events Aug. 3-8 in downtown Windsor, is in need of volunteer help for their 2010 festival. Help is needed in all types of areas. A drop-in volunteer information session will be held at the Pride Centre on Pelissier Street from 6-9 p.m. July 22.

To learn more about volunteering for Windsor Pride, or to sign up, contact Mel at 519-817-6357, or e-mail mel@windsorpride.com.

See Obama, page 13



BY JESSICA CARRERAS

Andy Dillon

– Andy Dillon

Credentials: Degrees in accounting and law from the University of Notre Dame. Served as aide to former New Jersey Sen. Bill Bradley. Held law practice in Wayne County, was vice president of GE Capital and president of Detroit Steel Company, and served as magistrate for the 17th District Court. Michigan state representative from the 17th district since 2004, and has served as Speaker of the House since 2007.

Notable endorsements: Detroit City Council President Charles Pugh and council members Kenneth Cockrel Jr and Gary Brown; former Detroit Mayor Dennis Archer; Michigan Spanish Speaking Democrats; Police Officers Association of Michigan; state Sens. Gilda Jacobs, Buzz Thomas and Marc Coriveau; Michigan Teamsters Joint Council 43.

Why do you care about protecting, serving and fighting for equality for the LGBT community?

It's part of the fabric of Michigan. It's part of my life. I live in this world and I have a lot of friends who are members of it and I don't like discrimination of any sort, whether it be those issues or race or gender.

How do you believe you've proven your commitment to the LGBT community?

No. 1, I'm the first person, I think, ever to have moved the anti-bullying legislation. We did it in my first term, which the Triangle Foundation recognized me for as legislator of the year, and we moved it again this session.

I've been very public in my support of partnership benefits. I think it's crazy that we're denying people access to health care, and any rights that they need for visitation or transfer of assets, I'm very supportive of.

What will you do for the gay community if you are elected as Michigan's next governor?

Meet the Candidates

Democratic gubernatorial hopefuls Bernero and Dillon go head to head on LGBT issues

"The cities aren't going to turn around without the partnership from the state, the counties, the cities – as well as the businesses and the churches. We've got to form a partnership."

I will fight discrimination in any form. In my experience, they're a tremendous asset to any community they live in. They improve the neighborhoods, they're entrepreneurs. To me, it's all about jobs and the economy, and their community demonstrates to me that they're aggressive and they invest in their communities and improve them. I think we can learn a lot from them as to how to improve other communities where they haven't migrated to. I think you'll find that I'm all about getting this economy turned around and making certain that everyone has access to opportunities, whether it be members of that community or other areas where people have been discriminated against in the past.

Several important LGBT-related bills have languished in the Michigan legislature for years – Matt's Safe Schools, Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act, second-parent adoption. How will you work to create bipartisan support in the House and Senate on these issues to ensure that they are finally passed?

It's the same way that, let's say, when we did energy. I recognized that we had a real problem in our regulations. In fact, the rating agencies said Michigan had absolutely the worst regulations in the country. It started out by building a coalition. To do something as significant as energy reform, it takes building a coalition to get it done.

So we started with the utilities and they said, "No – been there, done that, don't want to have that fight again." So then I reached out to Mike Nofs, who's the former chair of the Energy and Technology Committee (in the state House), got Mike to agree that we needed to do this, and then we went back to the utilities. They were reluctant, but we got the business community on board, got the environmentalists on board, got labor on board and got some consumer groups on board, and out of that package we changed the regulations.

So we molded the legislation so that all

those stakeholders kind of had a reason to get on board. And on issues like this, it has to be similar. In my view, you need to build a coalition there that includes the business community, the education community, your cities, your health care industry, your labor.

On (LGBT rights) issues, you have to figure out how to build a coalition to get the support. There's enough opportunity, I think, where you can pick up right-minded Republicans who are thoughtful, because for example, on second-parent adoption, it's not just a gay issue, right? I mean, it can be two sisters, living together and raising a kid that is a decedent of their family, so why wouldn't you allow them to both have some parental rights? I think that's how you maybe go get the coalition built to get this thing done.

What do you think is the most important legislative issue to address in regard to LGBT equality in our state?

Anything that prevents discrimination. Like, I was talking to someone from Michigan Messenger and he was telling me – it was new to me – that a lot of folks in the community resist getting medical checkups that they put off with an "ignorance is bliss" type of mentality. We have to make certain that they're not thinking that way, so let's maybe focus on preventative health care measures and making certain that they feel safe and comfortable going to get the treatment and that they have access to go get it.

It's been suggested that creating a more welcoming, inclusive state will drive more LGBT and allied people to choose to live in Michigan, and therefore bring a lot of talent to our state. Do you agree with that statement?

Very much so.

Name a gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender person who has influenced you either personally, or as a politician.

This goes back the furthest: My old next door neighbor passed away of AIDS, and I'll never forget – I was talking to him within the last year of his life and he just had an amazing attitude. Very positive. Every day was a gift. He changed so many hearts and minds in our community because they knew him growing up. Just watching the way he handled the disease and fought through it with tremendous dignity and converted so many people to saying, "Look at this. This is a big problem."

Michigan is seeing a resurgence of new HIV infections among young, gay MSMs – especially young, black males. How

should state health officials respond to this?

The first thing that pops into my head is awareness. It kind of seems that we've forgotten about it. AIDS was a big, scary thing 20 years ago and all of a sudden, we've forgotten about it. Maybe it's because the cocktails are showing some signs of working. But I think you start with awareness, and then when you get into the department, making certain that there is an avenue for those folks to get questions answered and then send them to somewhere that they can get help. So awareness, then the facilitation of what you do if you're caught in that position.

Do you think the HIV/AIDS crisis in Detroit – by far the worst city in our state in terms of infections – is something that the state government should be involved in?

We have what was a 12-point urban agenda for the city of Detroit, and now it's 13, and maybe you're adding a 14th point. What's driving it? Is it intravenous drug use or the lifestyle? I don't know, but I think we need to understand that before we can help prevent it.

The cities aren't going to turn around without the partnership from the state, the counties, the cities – as well as the businesses and the churches. We've got to form a partnership. I've said that there's going to be a cabinet level position responsible for this agenda, because it's not just one thing that's going to get our cities turned around. It's going to have to be someone who has the governor's ear – who has the clout to cross different departments in the state government. So if it's an AIDS issue, they'll have the ability to talk right to the director of community health, and when they pick up the phone and call Dave Bing, that Bing will know he should answer.

To me, one of the critical positions in my administration will be this person responsible for implementing the urban agenda. We're all in this together, you know, and now, just the real contraction of revenues – whether it be in the city, the county or the state – we've got to learn how to work better, quicker, faster, and to collaborate. We just don't have the resources we used to and we're going to have to reinvent the way we deliver government services.

What is your favorite thing about the gay community?

Their parties. I'm serious. I mean, they're just fun people.

To learn more, visit www.andydillon.com.



Virg Bernero

Credentials: Degree in political science from Adrian College. Served as an Ingham County commissioner for eight years. Served for four years as a development officer for Alma College and as executive director for the Michigan Association for Children with Emotional Disorders. Was a legislative aide to Michigan state Sen. James Berryman. Served as a state representative and a state senator, and as mayor of Lansing since 2005.

Notable endorsements: United Auto Workers, Michigan Education Association; Equality Michigan; Michigan Democratic Party LGBT Caucus; Lansing Association for Human Rights; Progressive Women's Alliance; Planned Parenthood of Michigan

Why do you care about protecting, serving and fighting for equality for the LGBT community?

It's personal with me. Maybe I wouldn't have given a lot of thought to it if my brother Victor hadn't have been a gay man – growing up with Victor and seeing the discrimination and sometimes suffering the discrimination a little by extension, because of the homophobia in our youth. I watched when he was called names and picked on, and the discrimination he suffered even as an adult sometimes, being an out gay man. So it just comes naturally.

I'm in politics to stand up for people – especially people who need help, who need to have their rights asserted, so it's a natural thing to be concerned about the civil rights for the LGBT community.

How do you believe you've proven your commitment to the LGBT community?

I've befriended the LGBT community, I've availed myself of the community where I live in Lansing so that I can be aware of what's going on, and so that I can be of help. I've introduced legislation to extend Elliott-Larsen protections for gender identification and sexual orientation. I've supported the anti-bullying legislation, I've supported funding for AIDS research and so on. I received the Ray of Light Award from

“I really believe, as Michigan struggles and we work to come out of this economy, that relationship equality could be a way that we could turn around the job loss and population loss – to become a more welcoming state and become more LGBT friendly.”

– Virg Bernero

the local community. I've hired members of the LGBT community. And, of course, I had a hand in passing the human rights ordinance in the city of Lansing, I'm proud to say.

What will you do for the gay community if you are elected as Michigan's next governor?

We have a lot of work to do, and many of the efforts that I started as a legislator, the battle has to go on to get those things done. Of course, it starts with having a cabinet and a staff that reflects the diversity of Michigan, so I'm sure that my cabinet and staff will include members of the LGBT community. That's one of the first things, and that's important – to surround yourself with the right people. And then we'll pick up the battle for equal rights as I was fighting for them in the legislature.

My commitment as governor is that I'll be working with the community. They'll be partners with me, they'll be represented in my staff and we will partner to try to advance the cause of equal rights and equal protection.

Several important LGBT-related bills have languished in the Michigan legislature for years – Matt's Safe Schools, the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act amendment, second-parent adoption. How will you work to create bipartisan support in the legislature on these issues to ensure that they are finally passed?

That is a question I get a lot about every area – whether it's education, road funding – you name it. The issue comes back to getting beyond the partisan gridlock. And that comes down to my record of effectiveness. I've been able to get things done. I have a lot of experience – as a county commissioner, state representative, state senator and now, as mayor – of bringing people together. Again, we have to work together in partnership with the LGBT community. I think on some of this stuff, we're going to have to think way outside the box. We're going to have to make unconventional approaches, non-traditional appeals.

Every legislator is related to, or is good friends with somebody from the LGBT community. Now, I can't tell you I can prove that, but I believe that. I think we have to talk about and work with the community on how we build on those connections.

What do you think is the most important

issue to address in regard to LGBT equality in our state?

I think that the relationship equality is crucial. That's just my opinion. I'm interested in engaging more with the community to set our legislative agenda, but I think relationship equality and the issue of health care benefits – especially as health benefits become harder to get. That has such a great impact on one's economic status as well, with the high cost of health care.

How we advance that whole thing is going to be important, both for human rights, for the quality of life issues of individuals, and also for the economy of the state. I really believe, as Michigan struggles and we work to come out of this economy, that relationship equality could be a way that we could turn around the job loss and population loss – to become a more welcoming state and become more LGBT friendly.

It's been suggested that creating a more welcoming, inclusive state will drive more LGBT and allied people to choose to live in Michigan, and therefore bring a lot of talent to our state. Do you agree with that statement?

I absolutely do. You talk about attracting creative, successful people and growing the economy, you're talking about the LGBT community.

I've been all around the state now, and I've been to some cities that I'd never been to before, and I'm impressed with Michigan's beauty. It's a big state with lots of room to grow. Of course, I come from a city that is very tolerant and very inclusive and, coincidentally, doing better than most communities in Michigan. We have Michigan State, which is just a wellspring of ideas and ingenuity and innovation, and people from all over the world. So I think we have to build on that, to make a whole state that is welcoming, inclusive, tolerant – but beyond tolerant. I'm really not a big fan on the word tolerance because I'm more interested in welcoming and being fair to all people. I think that's a prescription for growth that we need.

I still think Detroit has great promise. The architecture of Detroit, the physical and human architecture of Detroit is incredible. It's breathtaking. I've met so many beautiful, wonderful Detroiters who have just this indefatigable spirit of Detroit, and it's people that, in spite of adversity and in spite of tough times, it's an indomitable will. They're entrepreneurial, they're innovative, they're loving, they're passionate about the city.

Detroit is the face of Michigan. We can't get away from that. There are people that say, 'Give up on Detroit.' I say, 'Never will we give up on Detroit.' We have to embrace our cities, and this is where Michigan has fallen behind.

Name a gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender person who has influenced you as a person, or as a politician.

It's really (my brother) Victor, and the closest person to me would be (campaign manager) Patrick (McAlvey), in terms of politics.

Along the way, (McAlvey) had some press in the mayor's race (regarding his experience with ex-gay therapy organization Corduroy Stone) and I think at one point he thought that I might not like it, but my attitude was that it is what it is, it's part of who you are and I've been

through things, my brother's been through things, and we move on. What doesn't kill us make us stronger. And it's part of who I am anyway, to advocate for fairness and equality. If people are going to vote against me because of that, then so be it.

Michigan is seeing a resurgence of HIV infections among young, gay MSMs – especially young, black males. How should state health officials respond to this?

I automatically think about public health education to targeted groups, and then comprehensive sex education. I would reach out to the community and the public health community and make sure we're on one page with stepping up those efforts, including testing efforts. I've mostly been focused on running my city and the economy, but the three that come to mind are public health education, comprehensive sex education and outreach and promoting testing.

Do you think the HIV/AIDS crisis in Detroit – by far the worst city in our state in terms of infections – is something that the state government should be involved in?

I think the government does definitely play a role. Now is the time. If infection rates are going up and we know where they are, we should always try to be proactive and get in there with testing and education in a more aggressive way. If that means through the school system, through the public health system with medical establishment, we need to be aggressive about it and not bury our heads in the sand. We've seen other countries – and in this country, at times – where problems don't go away – they get worse if you ignore them. So let's get ahead of it, let's get the best minds on it and take action. It's far better to spend some money on the front end with education and outreach than have to deal with more disease later.

What is your favorite thing about the gay community?

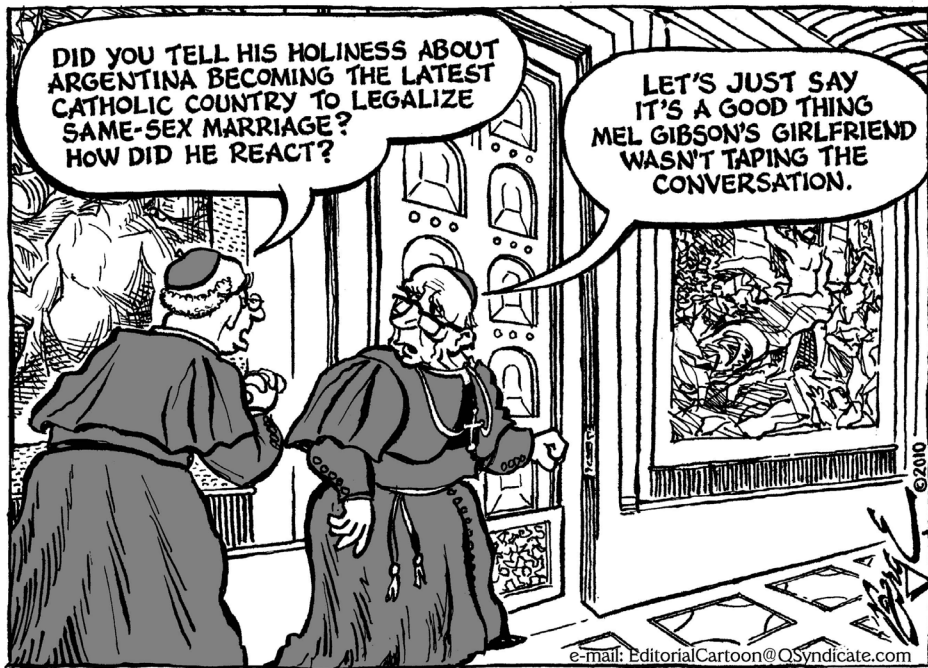
I see a great deal of diversity within the community, so while I can point to individuals with traits I like, I would say that there's no one trait that I can put on the gay community.

I see the whole potential – both in the human spirit and the quality of life – I see incredible benefits of being inclusive as a city. I see it in my city, in Lansing, where I think of individuals who just add to the fabric of our city. They are out and proud, and they're out and proud for our city as well. Their exuberance really powers the city, so when I see that in my city, I just wonder how much better the state could be if we were as welcoming and open as we are in Lansing.

Learn more at www.votevirg.com.

Note: Between The Lines made the decision not to pursue interviews with any of the Republican candidates at this time. Also, out of all Republican candidates contacted by the Pride PAC, only Rick Snyder responded, saying that he was not answering any surveys until after the Aug. 3 primary election.

To read BTL's full endorsement of Virg Bernero, see page 10.



BTL EDITORIAL

Why BTL backs Bernero

On Nov. 2, we have an opportunity to move forward toward full equality, or maintain the anti-LGBT status quo. If we have any hope of passing a meaningful state anti-bullying law, amending the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act and ultimately reversing the horrendous constitutional amendment that discriminates against us and our family members, we must make informed decisions on whom to elect in the state legislature, the governorship and the Michigan Supreme Court.

But this critical election actually begins on Aug. 3, when Michigan holds its primaries.

In this issue of BTL, we focus on the two Democratic gubernatorial candidates – Andy Dillon and Virg Bernero – and their attitudes, stances and goals for LGBT rights in the state. But beyond our community’s issues, we have been studying the records of the candidates these past several months. We have looked at their plans for the economy, for job creation, for green energy and the revitalization of our state.

On Aug. 3, we have an opportunity to select not only the most LGBT-friendly candidate for governor in the history of our state, but also the best person for the tasks at hand to keep Michigan afloat.

Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero will not simply pay lip service to our issues; he will stand with us and fight with us. And what’s more is that he has the legislative background, leadership experience and creative ingenuity to pull off the objectives that will help all of us as citizens of this state, and will attract more great minds to Michigan.

Do not misunderstand us: Andy Dillon is surely a supporter of the LGBT community, and has the state’s best interests in mind.

But in Bernero, we have a leader who can pull off the promises he makes, and who we know will make good on his commitment to LGBT rights, because we have seen him follow through time and again. He is a presence

On Aug. 3, we have an opportunity to select not only the most LGBT-friendly candidate for governor in the history of our state, but also the best person for the tasks at hand to keep Michigan afloat.

at Michigan Pride almost every year. He fought for – and passed – a human rights ordinance in the city of Lansing. He hires, is friends with and has loved many LGBT people (notably, his campaign manager and his late brother, who passed away of AIDS).

We cannot allow Mike Cox – the attorney general who took away domestic partner benefits after Prop. 2 was passed, or Pete Hoekstra – whose HRC Congressional ratings have been at zero since 1993, to become the next Michigan governor. If either of them does manage to win in November, it will be difficult to see any progress on the legislative front for years.

Some people believe we should simply not bother; that a Democrat is not likely to win the governorship in November. But once you have looked into Bernero’s campaign for yourself and watched some of the video footage (especially of him defending the auto industry last year on CNN time and again when Republicans were against a Big Three bailout) you will see the character and can-do nature of Virg Bernero. His campaign motto, “Make Michigan Work Again,” includes all citizens at the table.

But don’t just listen to us. Read our interviews with Bernero and Dillon in this week’s BTL, and then visit Virg Bernero’s website at www.votevirg.com and Dillon’s at www.andydillon.com. And be sure to get out and vote!

VOICES FROM AN URBAN BUSH SISTAH



At home in Detroit

BY C. IMANI WILLIAMS

July is here and it is Motor City hottt! I came home for the birth my granddaughter, McKenzie Marie. Healthy and beautiful, she made her platinum world debut July 3. Weighing in at 7.5 pounds, she has her mother’s eyes and dimple and resembles a Hindu baby. I’m in love. I watched the miracle of her birth and, five minutes later, her eyes were open wide and unblinking, locking with mine. An old soul.

Congratulations, Brittney and Roy.

I also attended a Fourth of July old-fashioned block party thrown, by the N.W. Detroit Griggs Street community. The energy provided soothing salve for this not-so-West-Coast sistah who lives in a diverse community in the LBC. Diversity is great – I

love seeing and talking to people from various backgrounds on a daily basis. Sometimes, however, you need to be nurtured in the arms of the community that raised and loved you back in the day.

As I made my way up the block to my friends’ home, it felt as if Detroit was opening her arms to me. I needed every fiber of that feeling. Bouncers for the kids dotted the block while grills billowing smoke held bellies full of meat that I wouldn’t partake in personally but, that I would watch others thoroughly enjoy. The table spreads were impressive and there was a sense of familiarity with a down-home quality.

I haven’t been home since Christmas, and the block party was it! Delighted to be back on my childhood stomping grounds, I shared memories with new and old friends alike.

Seventies jams like the Isley Brother’s “Summer Breeze” took a sistah back. Watching the kids jump up in down in the bouncers and acting like children and not miniature adults was refreshing. Even the frequency of Weezy in rotation didn’t stop me from singing along and clapping with a goofy grin plastered on my face.

Multi-generational black on black love was in full effect. This could have been the top feature weekend story, had the media shown up. They could have written about families taking time to stop and enjoy home and friends, a community coming together – not just this year, but at least

the last six – to give and receive love, to display a sense of unity and dispel the myths that say we aren’t about LOVE. This six-hour, all-ages event took place without one infraction. It was civil, loving and truly beautiful.

I have not been spiritually fed by community in some time. In Cali, when I count black people there may be two per every 10. At home, I see myself as part of a village that I am still very concerned about.

Though my hosts are my sistahs and SGL, the day was about love that radiated throughout

the entire block for everyone present. This is diversity for Detroit. We didn’t have the gay flag displayed and the brothers and sisters my hosts opened up this special space to were not all SGL. The point is, this was the first time in 10 years that I haven’t felt the

need to be branded as gay/lesbian or SGL. It was OK just to be Imani in the awesomeness of being African American and a black woman.

My community is now defined as the place where I get spiritually fed and may mean different things at different times. I strive to drop all labels, as they are simply too confining. I belong to several communities, all of which feed me on different levels. As a social justice activist, I fight to end oppression against all human beings – and animals, for that matter.

As a side note, I need to share a bit. At this truly community-based event, I got my appetite back. The stress of the last semester left yours truly affectionately nicknamed Snackie Johnson, ‘Snackie J’ for short – unable to eat for a few weeks. Moi, who is always good for a treat or two from a backpack or whatever bag hangs off my shoulder, was unable to eat almost anything. It was not a good look.

My testimony I share is that in the fold of all of that community love, I ate. I had Caribbean peas and rice drenched in jerk gravy, salad grown in my friend’s garden and corn on the cob that was so sweet I swore I was back at my Grandmother’s table in Tennessee as a child. The food and the love that flowed up and down the block were exactly what I needed.

It never fails: Good people, food and music promote change, they can heal what ails you. The fireworks were pretty good, too!

S/he said

Beastiality, Mormons and sporno

COMPILED BY HOWARD ISRAEL

"I have to say, this is a savvy strategic move for the web giant, which competes with a sea of other benefit-heavy Silicon Valley companies for its talent. When Google makes a statement like this, other companies are likely to follow. Nice work, Google. Your gayglers – as the company's queer staff are known – are lucky to have you."

- Ryan Brown, in a column titled "Google ups benefits for gays," about Google's announcement that its gay and lesbian employees will be given a higher rate of pay to compensate for the tax disparity they face when claiming health insurance benefits for their same-sex domestic partners, www.salon.com, July 1.



Angel Chandler

"It definitely makes the victory a lot sweeter knowing that not only did we win the case, but for other gays and lesbians across Tennessee, those judges aren't going to be able to say, 'You're not good parents because you're gay,' or 'You can't have your kids because you're gay,' or 'You can't stay together.' It is gratifying to think that other judges will be held in check because of the decision from the appellate court on our case. Hopefully (other couples) won't have to go through as much as we did."

- Angel Chandler, in an article titled "Landmark legal victory for gay Black Mountain couple," after more than a three-year court battle, Chandler and her partner can finally have her children legally stay in her home, www.citizen-times.com, Asheville, Tenn., July 6.

"In the grand scheme of things, the Catholics and Muslims have more queer blood on their hands than the Mormons, though granted the popes and mullahs did have a head start. But when it comes to sheer, organized, anti-gay lockstep campaigning, '8: The Mormon Proposition' makes it pretty clear that the LDS is leading the way. And doing so with a big, caffeine-free smile."

- Simon Sheppard, in his column titled "The Church of Latter-Day Bullshit," about the new documentary "8: The Mormon Proposition," <http://carnalnation.com>, June 28.



Annette Bening and Julianne Moore

"The film deserves note for its frank and lighthearted depiction of lesbian sex. In one memorable scene, the women get it on in their suburban bedroom while watching their favorite gay porn. Under the covers, Bening's character uses a vibrator on her increasingly frustrated wife. Things are going well until a mishap with the television's volume blasts gay porn grunting throughout the entire household. It's refreshing to see lesbian sexuality portrayed with a respect and humor rarely exhibited in mainstream movies."

- Andrew Belonsky, in a review of "The Kids are All Right," www.salon.com, July 11.



"What's going to happen next? Men and sheep? Women and dogs?"

- Bob Giuda, New Hampshire Republican congressional candidate, responding to a question about same-sex marriage, www.wmur.com, June 29.

"Masculine coquettish-ness no longer offers an intense enough image. Or provokes enough lust. However, the homoprovocative nature of sporno is much less easy to overlook than it was in metrosexuality, which could pretend when it wanted to that it was 'straight' and something entirely for the ladies. Where metrosexual imagery stole slyly from soft gay porn, sporno blatantly references hard gay porn."

- Mark Simpson, in a column titled "Sporno," about the intersection of sports, advertising and sex, www.marksimpson.com, April 17.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Our 'Kids are All Right'

As the film "The Kids are Alright" sets to open in Royal Oak next week, I find it ironic, and hopeful, that we will all rush to see a film about this modern family, many of us belonging to one quite similar.

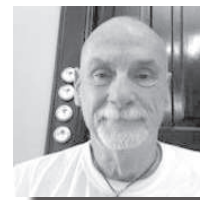
I hope this film helps enlighten the straight public – and those in the judicial system – that families are very much 'mo-dern, as BTL calls it ("Mo-dern Family," BTL Issue 1828). And right here in our own backyard, we have a local woman battling in the court system to regain visitation and joint custody of her three children, conceived with a sperm donor, and raised jointly in a "mo"dern lesbian family.

Unfortunately in this case, the biological mom cheats on the partnership of 19 years and, a year and a half after the split, decides to pull rank and rip the children away from the non-bio mother after 10 years.

The irony? This "mo"dern family now becomes modern in custody battles that do not recognize same-sex parenting in Michigan.

As we all watch this film, chuckling and lusting over Annette and Julianne, please keep in mind this local woman, who is fighting with her life to see her children, to change Michigan law, and to help others in her same situation so that "parents" are never denied their children based on same-sex and non-biological issues. For more information contact council for Renee Harmon, Dana Nettle, at 313-963-4529, and follow this ever-important case as they now continue the fight in the Michigan Supreme Court.

Juli Seymour



Parting Glances

Then & Now

BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

Who says it's alien abduction? (Pt. 2)

I've learned from a gay friend of a gayer friend that a Windy City drag queen, Cheeks La Beverage, was abducted by aliens two years ago.

Miss La Beverage was broad-beamed aboard a UFO, surgically examined and dumped on the Oak Street Beach, New Year's Day.

She swears she hadn't been drinking or pilling, but awoke minus bird-seed-filled falsies which – flickering last images in her violated mind – the aliens were totally (and irately) baffled by.

After her UFO seduction she gave up showbiz for good, got saved and now works for a Southern Baptist travel agency for minimum wage. "There's a possibility I might have been demon possessed," she frets.

The most famous UFO abduction happened in 1961 to married couple Betty and Barney Hill. Their encounter was made into a 1975 TV movie starring James Earl Jones and Estelle Parsons. It was the Hills who first called the aliens Greys. It's stuck.

The Hills, in their mid-40s, were driving late at night along a familiar route that usually took under an hour to travel. They realized once home that three hours had elapsed, with mental blank spaces they couldn't account for.

Each experienced troubling dreams, vivid nightmares of intrusion, so much so they sought psychiatric help. Under hypnosis – supposedly separate from each other – their mutual uncanny alien abduction tale unfolded.

In turn, the story got wide media coverage, dozens of fascinating interviews, New Age magazine articles, a first-hand encounter book, and decades of follow up, with retelling embellishment by Betty and Barney, both of whom recently left our earthly plane for cosmic afterlife considerations.

Since Betty and Barney, there have been hundreds of reported similar abductions. Cases have been documented by "authority" Budd Hopkins, Whitley Strieber (himself encountering Greys) and Harvard psychiatrist John Mack. (Mack's credentials are impeccable: over 150 scientific articles and a Pulitzer Prize.)

Dr. Mack became interested in alien abduction in the late 1980s, interviewed over 800 abductees, organized a 1992 MIT five-day conference to discuss the topic. His books on the topic still sell well. "I believe in the possibility of aliens," he said.

On the subject of UFOs, my photographer/artist friend S. Kay Young says she's had a recent UFO encounter. Her e-mail: "In April of this year, my niece and I went to Ferris State to pick up her daughter and her daughter's boyfriend. School was over 'til fall.

"It was about 10:30 p.m. We were traveling on 94 e-way – pitch black – stars – no moon – only farm country. To our left we saw what appeared to be a tower with three red lights in the shape of a triangle and two white lights between, except it moved.

"The lights followed us – no sounds – seemingly able to stop on a dime – move straight up and straight down. I looked out the van window. It was a HUGE ship – the size of both sides of the e-way AND the median. It was directly above the van traveling with us, but in a pattern unlike an earth ship could move. Its lights were amazingly bright.

"I had my head hanging out the window. UFO was the shape of a stealth bomber but of an alloy I had never seen. Silent, and with a very tight lighting pattern carved into the alloy. As it passed over us – mind you I didn't even have time to grab my camera – as the end of the ship passed over – NOTHING! No sound. No lights – didn't go up or over or back – just disappeared.

"Three witnesses! The young ones were frightened. I was amazed. Thankful for the sighting. Beautiful."

Been alien put upon lately? Share at <http://gaysagainstrape.blogspot.com>. (Tell 'em Cheeks LaBeverage sent ya! Bird seed optional.)

Charles@pridesource.com. Facebook, too.

GOP group challenges policy on gays in military

BY JULIE WATSON

RIVERSIDE, Calif. (AP) – President Barack Obama’s remarks that the military’s “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy weakens national security shows it should be declared unconstitutional, a lawyer for the nation’s largest Republican gay rights group told a federal judge July 13.

Attorney Dan Woods said in his opening statement of a U.S. District Court trial that he plans to use the president’s statements to support a lawsuit by the Log Cabin Republicans that has put the government in the position of defending the policy while Obama is pushing Congress to repeal it.

U.S. District Judge Virginia A. Phillips is conducting a non-jury trial of the lawsuit, the broadest challenge to the policy in recent years.

The 19,000-member Log Cabin Republicans include current and former military members.

Woods said that if the lawsuit prevails he will ask the judge to immediately halt use of the policy.

“Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” prohibits the military from asking about the sexual orientation of service members but requires discharge of those who acknowledge being gay or are discovered to be engaging in homosexual activity, even in the privacy of their own homes off base.

“Our military excludes these men and women from service solely on the basis of status and conduct that is constitutionally protected,” Woods said in his opening. “We aim to show you at this trial that there is no legitimate basis for ‘Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell,’ and there never has been.”

U.S. Department of Justice attorney Paul G. Freeborne presented the policy’s legislative history but said the government would not present any other evidence or witnesses.

Freeborne said the Log Cabin Republicans were trying to force change through the courts when it should be up to Congress.

“LCR’s entire case is at its core an attempt to re-do those proceedings before Congress,” he said.

Some legal experts say the trial could not come at a worse time for Obama, who derided the policy but has failed to get it off the books since taking office last year. Not only are midterm elections approaching, but the group suing the U.S. government is Republican.

“This trial is taking place as a direct consequence of the president’s political decision in January 2009 to put the repeal of this law on the back burner,” said Richard Socarides, an attorney and a senior adviser to President Bill Clinton on gay rights issues. “We shouldn’t still be living under a law that excludes people from military service because they are gay.”

Socarides asserted that the Justice Department’s defense of the policy in court is nonsensical.

“On the one hand, the president has said he’s working hard to stop these discharges. And on the other hand, the Justice Department is spending taxpayer dollars defending their ongoing right to kick people out,” Socarides said.

In a statement e-mailed to The Associated Press, the Justice Department said it is “defending the statute, as it traditionally does when acts of Congress are challenged.”

But the agency also noted the position of Obama, who is working with military leaders and Congress to repeal the law.

“The president believes and has repeatedly affirmed that ‘Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell’ is a bad policy that harms our national security and undermines our military effectiveness because it requires the discharge of brave Americans who wish to serve this country honorably,” the Justice Department said.

The government tried to block the case from going to trial, arguing among other things that it was unnecessary because of congressional debate.

The U.S. House voted May 27 to repeal the policy, and the Senate is expected to take up the issue this summer.

The case is unique in that it is not based on an individual’s complaint but rather is a broad, sweeping attack on the policy.



Gay Iraq War veteran Lt. Dan Choi in April after chaining himself to a White House fence. Photo courtesy: GetEqual

Charges dropped against gay veteran protester

WASHINGTON (AP) – Prosecutors have dropped all charges against an openly gay Iraq War veteran who twice chained himself to a White House fence to protest the military’s “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy.

Lt. Dan Choi and James Pietrangolo, a gay army captain honorably discharged for disclosing his sexual orientation, were in court July 14 on charges of failure to obey police orders during the March and April protests. All charges were dropped against them.

Choi and his attorney had subpoenaed President Barack Obama to appear, but an attorney for the prosecution said the subpoena wasn’t served.

Prosecutor Christine Chang declined to comment on why the government dropped the case.

Choi said he believes Obama administration officials didn’t want to draw attention to the policy.

Argentina legalizes same-sex marriage

Argentina legalized same-sex marriage July 15. The vote in the Senate at 4:05 a.m. was 33-27 with 3 abstentions.

The lower house previously passed the bill and, at press time, President Cristina Fernández de Kirchner was planning to sign it in a July 21 ceremony at the Casa Rosada.

“The bill has passed. It is law. The executive power will be notified,” the Senate president said as the vote was displayed on an electronic board in the chamber.

The debate lasted nearly 15 hours.

“The result sparked euphoria among the (LGBT) activists who, despite the polar wave

that grips the city, held a vigil in the Plaza of the Two Congresses,” said Buenos Aires’ Clarín newspaper.

The website of Argentina’s main political gay group, la Federación Argentina LGBT, was booted from the Internet and replaced with a “Bandwidth Limit Exceeded” notice.

“Today’s historic vote shows how far Catholic Argentina has come, from dictatorship to true democratic values, and how far the freedom-to-marry movement has come as 12 countries on four continents now embrace marriage equality,” said Evan Wolfson, head of the U.S. group Freedom to Marry.

“Key to Argentina’s human rights achievement was strong leadership from legislators and the president. It is time we see more of our own elected officials standing up for the Constitution and all families here in the United States,” Wolfson said. “America should lead, not lag, when it comes to treating everyone equally under the law.”

The International Lesbian and Gay Association called the bill’s passage a “triumph.”

“Today, there is definitely more freedom and equality in the world thanks to Argentina: an example for the many countries in Southern and Northern hemispheres which still consider les-

bian, gay, bisexual, trans and intersex people as second-class citizens,” said ILGA Co-Secretary General Renato Sabbadini.

City officials said the first wedding will take place Aug. 13 in Buenos Aires’ trendy Palermo area. A longtime gay couple in their 60s will tie the knot at the office where they were turned away when they tried to marry three years ago.

Same-sex marriage is legal in Argentina, Belgium, Canada, Iceland, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Mexico City, Connecticut, Iowa, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont and Washington, D.C.

First Europride in Eastern Europe

Europride, which has roamed from country to country since 1992, was staged in Eastern Europe for the first time this year, culminating with the July 17 parade through the streets of Warsaw.

Around 8,000 people took part in the march despite temperatures about 100 degrees. Some previous Europrides in Western Europe have attracted up to 1 million celebrants.

The Warsaw parade’s main demand was that Poland pass a civil-partnership law for same-sex couples.

Around 2,000 police officers protected the

marchers from more than 200 anti-gay protesters, who threw bottles of water, rocks, eggs and Bibles at the parade, participants said. At least eight counterdemonstrators were arrested for throwing things, damaging flags or, in at least one case, assaulting a cop.

“The protesters were numerous and incredibly violent,” said American gay activist and “Milk” screenwriter Dustin Lance Black, in an e-mail to California gay leader Rick Jacobs. “The worst was when a mob threw two large, homemade percussion-style bombs over the police line

and onto our float. When the second exploded, pieces of it struck both (my boyfriend) Frank and I and left me deaf in one ear for about an hour.”

Black said police charged into the group from which the explosives emerged and restrained and beat the counterprotesters.

Other participants praised the event’s policing, said they did not feel threatened, and hailed the parade’s arrival behind the former Iron Curtain.

“It’s incredibly positive that this pan-European event is now taking place in a former

Communist country,” said Ulrike Lunacek, co-president of the European Parliament’s Intergroup on LGBT Rights. “Not only does it constitute a very important signal for Eastern Europe that mentalities do slowly change, but it also shows how membership of the European Union can facilitate this change.”

Moscow Pride founder Nikolai Alekseev said: “The police did an incredible job. ... We felt very safe at all times, even when we left the parade at the end.”

Next year’s Europride will be in Rome.

Marriage moves forward?



Argentina is the latest country to grant equal marriage rights to same-sex couples, an issue that is far from settled in the United States.

However, there are some hopeful signs of progress on gay marriage in this country.

Just two weeks ago, a federal district court in Massachusetts struck down the federal Defense of Marriage Act, a law that prevents the federal government from recognizing same-sex marriages or civil unions, thus denying citizens the right to various legal benefits typically given to married straight couples.

The Massachusetts court dealt with two separate cases involving DOMA. In one, the court ruled that DOMA violates the 10th Amendment reserved powers clause in the Constitution because it infringes on the right of states to pass laws on marriage. In a separate case, the court ruled that DOMA treats gay and straight couples differently, thus depriving same-sex couples of their 14th Amendment right to equal protection of the laws.

The Massachusetts decisions apply only in that state, but they may eventually be appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court.

While it is easy for LGBT people to agree with the results of these two cases, there are some questions about the 10th Amendment reasoning in the first case.

Since Massachusetts allows same-sex couples to marry, the court declared that DOMA infringes on the legal rights of the states, since a state could lose federal money if it allows same-sex marriage. This reasoning is often used by opponents of federal civil rights and progressive legislation to attempt to strike down laws that they believe are too intrusive in the affairs of the states.

It is clear that DOMA is wrong and needs to be struck down or repealed. However, there are often good reasons for the federal government to pass laws that apply nationwide, and such statutes could

be undermined by the reasoning used in the first of the two Massachusetts cases.

The federal court's equal protection reasoning in the second case is more solid, and would be a preferable basis for guaranteeing equal marriage (and other) rights to all LGBT people. DOMA clearly creates two classes of American citizens – straight and gay – by extending federal protection to the first group while denying it to the second.

The court used the rational-basis test for equal protection in this case, basically ruling that the federal government has no

The fate of same-sex marriage before the Supreme Court is very unclear, as the court would likely be divided on this issue.

It's important to put pressure on Congress to repeal DOMA, negating the need for further legal action on that issue.

legitimate reason for treating gay couples differently from straight couples. Though the Massachusetts court did not give protected legal status to sexual orientation or gender identity in this case, a stricter level of review than the rational-basis test, the court's equal protection reasoning is still a positive step forward in the law.

As we digest the two Massachusetts cases, a federal judge in California is deliberating over a same-sex marriage case challenging the constitutionality of that state's discriminatory anti-gay marriage law, enacted by the voters in 2008.

The tone of the proceedings in that case would seem to indicate a favorable result for equal marriage rights when the final decision is handed down. However, it is guaranteed that whichever side loses in California will appeal up the federal judicial chain, very likely sending this case to the U.S. Supreme Court.

The fate of same-sex marriage before the Supreme Court is very unclear. The court would likely be divided on this

Contact President Obama and your members of Congress to urge quick repeal of DOMA:



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issue, with Justice Anthony Kennedy being the likely decisive vote on this issue. Justice Kennedy is generally considered to be more conservative on most issues, but has stood up for LGBT equality in past cases involving sexual orientation. Where Justice Kennedy might come down on the issue of marriage equality is anyone's guess. Elena Kagan, who will likely be confirmed to the Supreme Court this month, has not stated her opinion of DOMA, so it also unclear how she would vote if the Massachusetts cases make it to the high court.

These cases will not likely make it to the U.S. Supreme Court right away. It is important, however, for all of us to continue lobbying our elected officials to do that right thing on marriage equality. It's important to put pressure on Congress to repeal DOMA, negating the need for further legal action on that issue.

While it can sometimes seem that the struggle for equal rights is uphill, there is still hope. Argentina has now legalized same-sex marriage in our own hemisphere; it's time the United States followed suit.

Eric Rader teaches political science at Henry Ford Community College in Dearborn. His courses focus on American government and state and local government. From 2003-2004, Rader served as an assistant policy advisor in the office of Gov. Jennifer M. Granholm, focusing primarily on education and civil rights policy, including LGBT issues. He currently lives in Ferndale and is proud to be part of Michigan's LGBT community.

of the steps credited with spurring the success of a Bush-era policy to fight AIDS in hard-hit developing countries. That includes setting specific targets and mandating coordination among different government agencies to guard against missteps and wasted, duplicated efforts.

"We've never had that kind of coordinated, accountable effort to address AIDS in America, and that's what we need," Collins said.

There is a new HIV infection every nine-and-a-half minutes in the United States. But about one of every five people living with HIV does not know it.

Access to care plays a role in pre-

vention, too, because the more virus in someone's bloodstream, the easier it is for that person to spread infection through such things as unprotected sex.

In one step toward reducing disparities in access to care, the Obama administration on July 9 reallocated \$25 million to states that have waiting lists for their AIDS Drug Assistance Programs, which provide treatment for the uninsured and underinsured.

The National Alliance of State & Territorial AIDS Directors reported that more than 2,200 people in 12 states were on waiting lists for ADAP help as of last week.

Creep OF THE Week

Rick Santorum

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

Around of applause for Rick Santorum, everybody. What a brave, brave man.

In his July 14 Philadelphia Inquirer column, Santorum congratulates himself for being such a courageous and relentless fighter against marriage equality.

"Political consultants warn candidates to stay away from (cultural) issues because they are so personal and emotionally charged," he writes.

A weaker man might've taken such advice. Not Santorum. Take abortion, for example. "I simply could not square voting to permit the killing of an innocent baby in the womb with the Constitution I swore to defend, the God I try to obey, or the people I pledged to serve," he writes.

Nor could he stand by and watch marriage be destroyed by homos.

"Back in 2004, I was part of a small group of Republican senators that forced a floor vote on a motion to consider a constitutional amendment defining marriage as being between a man and a woman," he reminisces. "We needed 60 votes to proceed; we fell just short of 50. Many senators who voted 'yea' privately castigated me for making them 'walk the plank' on such a tough issue."

You know, I'm pretty sure somewhere on Craigslist you can hire a guy to "privately castigate" you and make you "walk the plank," if you know what I mean. (Do you? I don't. It just sounds dirty.)

Sexual predilections aside, the reason for Santorum's sense of urgency was the 2004 Massachusetts Supreme Court ruling legalizing marriage for same-sex couples in the state. Marriage was clearly under attack, yet nobody seemed to care!

"The response from Congress was scant and predictable," he writes. "Almost every member of Congress said he or she personally supported the definition of marriage that had existed since the country was founded. But they expressed about as much commitment to righting the judicial wrong as those who say they are 'personally opposed' to abortion."

That's right. Personal opposition is not enough. Dictating what you will and won't do with only your own life is just lazy. Real commitment to an issue means doing your damndest to dictate other peoples' lives as well. The more personal and none-of-your-fucking-business the matter, the better.

So just why was Congress so apathetic about the Massachusetts ruling? Santorum argues that they were lulled into complacency by the Defense of Marriage Act. Santorum knew better.

And yet, the federal marriage amendment didn't pass. And Santorum was voted out of office. And now a federal judge has ruled that DOMA is unconstitutional.

DOMA was passed in a panic after Hawaii's Supreme Court ruled in 1993 that gays should be allowed to get married there.

"The concern (in the '90s) was that other courts, using the U.S. Constitution's Full Faith and Credit Clause, would force other states and the federal government to recognize these judicially imposed marriages," Santorum writes.

OK, wait a minute. Santorum says he was worried that courts would use the Constitution to legalize marriage for gays and lesbians. This same Constitution he earlier said he used to justify his opposition to abortion. So it's OK for Santorum to use the Constitution as a guide, but it isn't OK for judges to use the Constitution as a guide – especially if they make legal rulings Santorum personally disagrees with. Got it.

Sadly, even with DOMA on defense, Santorum doesn't think anyone is doing enough to "save marriage."

"With the exception of a core group of conservatives, most politicians – including the president – continue to publicly back marriage while eagerly awaiting the day when judges will take this issue out of their hands. In this case, silence," he writes, "is not golden; it's yellow."

What a bunch of gay-marriage-loving pansies. Sickening. Incidentally, "golden showers" are also yellow, not golden.

► Obama

Continued from p. 7

mentation of the new plan.

Some AIDS activists criticized the plan for not setting more ambitious goals and for not funding the benchmarks it lays out.

"The president's plan is so flawed that it might actually represent a step backward in combating HIV and AIDS in the United States," said Charles King, president of Housing Works, a community-based AIDS organization.

The strategy aims to copy some

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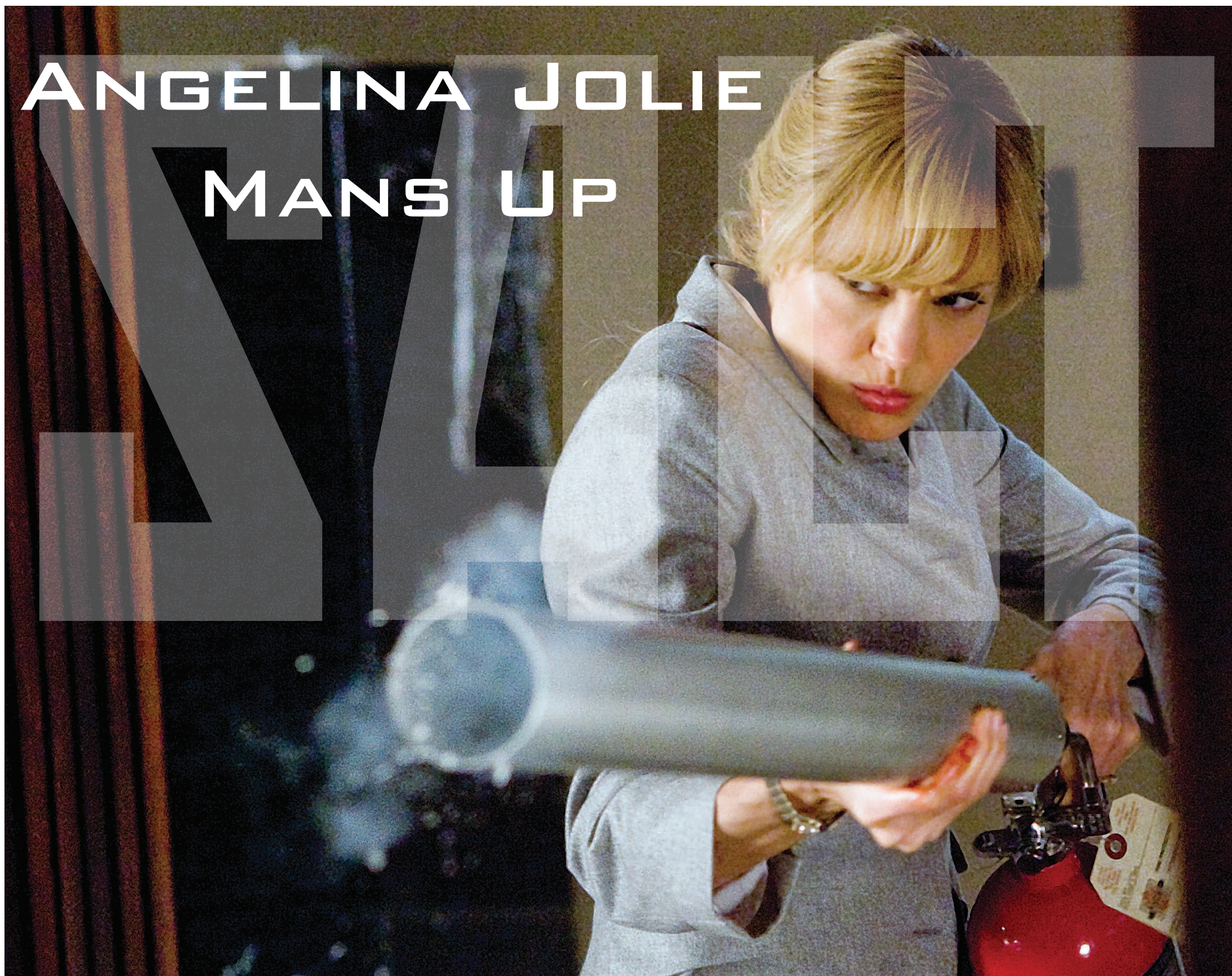
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ANGELINA JOLIE MANS UP



'Salt' actress talks about her sex change, tips from her drag-doing co-stars and kicking butt in her new spy action-thriller

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Angelina Jolie's just one of the boys. Not only by being a butt-kicking bombshell in "Wanted" or the "Tomb Raider" series, but truly transforming into a man for her role in "Salt," an is-she-isn't-she? espionage action-thriller that casts one of the most famous and bankable bisexuals as a tenacious CIA agent who's framed as a sleeper spy.

Jolie's character is Evelyn Salt, who freaks and hides when a walk-in outs her – resulting in a sweaty-palms-producing popcorn flick that finds Jolie doing daredevil stunts: balancing on skyscrapers, hop-scotching across trucks and fighting off men almost twice her size.

The actress is toothpick tiny – and also, on this particular day at a Ritz-Carlton suite in Washington, D.C., just before the film's July 23 release, she's all woman. With a black knee-length skirt, flowing locks and those famous pursed lips that exaggerate her cheek bones, the 35-year-old's a picture-perfect beauty who seemingly walked out from one of the countless magazine covers she's graced.

So stunning, actually, that she left co-star Liev Schreiber, her

"You realize every lead in this movie has cross-dressed? It's just the greatest thing. I'm surprised that picture hasn't got out: the three of us next to each other, in our matching drag photos."

- Angelina Jolie on "Salt"

CIA boss in the film, nervously in awe – until they started talking about their kids and time-outs and teething.

"All the sexual tension went out of the room," Schreiber recalls, sighing with relief. "All the anxiety about her being very famous and a superhuman celebrity went away, and I found this very nice, easy person that I could relate to."

And then, as Jolie underwent the man makeover, they had something else in common: drag. Three years ago, Schreiber cross-dressed, starring as Vilma in Ang Lee's "Taking Woodstock"; their "Salt" co-star, Chiwetel Ejiofor, did the same as Lola in the 2005

comedy "Kinky Boots." Now Jolie had her shot, and she was just ecstatic: "I couldn't help myself!"

"You realize every lead in this movie has cross-dressed? It's just the greatest thing," she adds – that big ol' grin cutting across her face. "I'm surprised that picture hasn't got out: the three of us next to each other, in our matching drag photos."

More than a doctored pic might be on the way, though, according to Schreiber: "I'm actually nervous, because Angelina's fairly powerful in Hollywood and she's got it in her head that she wants to do a movie with her, me and Chiwetel ... where Chiwetel and I are women and she's a man." He pauses: "I have a feeling that she's going to actually make this happen."

Not that Schreiber would mind. A similar thought's already crossed his mind: a TV show starring him and Ejiofor as two cross-dressing cops. He's even ahead of Jolie; there's a name for the series: "Sassy & Butch."

Wondering who'd be Butch?

"I'm Butch," he deadpans. "Come on, I'm 6 feet tall."

With Jolie's own butch turn in "Salt" (whom the crew named "Johnny," she notes), the actress received gender-bending tips from

See Salt, page 18

Out from the Kage

Michigan author shakes it up with humorous spy thriller

BY CORNELIUS A. FORTUNE

If you're a fan of "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to My Sexual Orientation" and "Andy Stevenson Vs. The Lord of the Loins," Kage Alan's latest book, "Gaylias: Operation Thunderspell," has all the wit and banter you've come to expect. Only this time, the Harrison Township native isn't using Andy Stevenson's voice — these are new characters. And yes, some might call it a departure. In actuality, it was his muse pointing to an unexpected destination.

Alan was deep into writing the third Andy Stevenson book when a song by German metal vocalist Doro led him on a different path. The song was called "Thunderspell."

"I listened to this song and the film trailer played in my head," Alan says. "I could see all these different scenes. I stopped writing the book I was writing and I started writing the 'Gaylias: Thunderspell' book. I threw every idea into this book. I needed to get away from writing the Andy stories. The problem was trying to figure out what came next."

He hopes that the book is well-received, as he already has ideas for the next one, and for the third, making it a trilogy.

Alan's editor describes "Gaylias" as "I Spy" meets Monty Python.

"It is a slight departure in that the other two

books were dealing with an 18- and a 19-year-old as my primary character," Alan says. "In this one, the two main characters are (in their) early 30s. I was able to get away from humor geared toward that (teen) age group."

"Gaylias: Operation Thunderspell" centers around the relationship between Nicholas Inker and Anthony Hamilton, two agents who equally love and annoy each other. Their assignment: the League, a terrorist group with an unknown agenda. Alan cites the "Thin Man" film series as inspiration for the colorful banter the main characters delve into.

"These people know each other, (but) they don't always like each other," Alan says. "These two characters don't really give a crap what's going on around them. They're determined to irk the shit out of each other if at all possible. You can take this set-up and you can turn it on its head and really have some fun with it."

Alan's own relationship with his partner spans 15 years, and he drew on some of the playful exchanges they enjoy.

The book should be identifiable for anyone straight, gay, married, or in a long-term relationship, he adds. Though these are new characters, he hasn't turned up the sex scenes in search of pure shock value; or perhaps worse yet, genre conventions. Those hardly interest him.

"I'm not a person who writes a lot of sexual

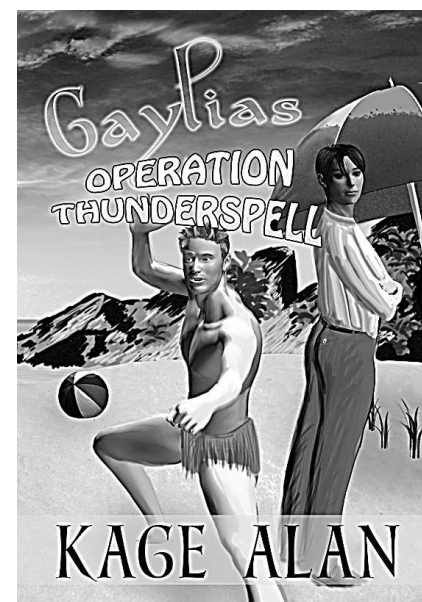
situations," he says. "My parents read these books, so I'm very aware of that, and I'm very aware that I have a lot of straight friends that will read the book. If there doesn't need to be graphic sex at all, why have it in there? That's not what they're about."

With gay novels, notes Alan, there's a preconceived notion that it must have explicit gay sex to meet the expectations of not only the public, but sometimes even the critics.

"I think that's a huge fear, and that's why a lot of people don't give these books a try," he says. "They're afraid it's going to be all about 'that,' and they're going to be freaked out, and that just does not exist in the books that I'm writing. There are some situations, but they are in no way graphic. These could very easily be mainstream books."

Alan is amazed that the bulk of his new readers have discovered him through e-books and consequently, not under the banner of "gay and lesbian fiction"; rather, it is often filed simply as "humor."

"I do know that (my) e-books are outselling the paper copies," Alan says. "I knew nothing about e-books until two years ago when 'A Funny Thing' was republished and 'Andy Stevenson Versus' came out. 'A Funny Thing' has had really stellar ratings, and for the last two years, both books have usually stayed in the top 20."



Author Kage Alan

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Alan says he is very pleased with "Gaylias" and looks forward to sharing it with the world.

"The more I read it, the happier I get," he says. "I think people who have read the previous books are going to have a really fun ride with this one, whether you're straight or gay."

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Liev Schreiber, Chiwetel Ejiofor and Angelina Jolie in "Salt." Photo: Sony Pictures

► Salt

Continued from p. 15

her co-stars, basically telling her to just go for it – be dude, and have fun doing it. But hearing her speak, with short hair and a manly mask, weirded out everyone – including her partner, Brad Pitt.

"Nobody could talk to me," Jolie remembers. "It wasn't as much what he looked like; it

was when I spoke, when it was my voice coming out of him. Brad came to visit me once and I said, 'You don't want to come; I'm going to be the man.' And he said, 'It won't bother me. It's you. Whatever.' Then he came, and I was changing, so I was half-woman, half-man. (He was) so creeped out by that!"

Outside of Brangelina, and being a full-time job for those pestering paparazzi, Jolie's also

noted for her roles – from a desperate mother in 2008's "Changeling" to her many memorable action heroines. Her genre-spanning work has earned her accolades (an Oscar for 1999's "Girl, Interrupted"), critical adoration (as the bisexual, AIDS-infected model Gia in the eponymous HBO biopic) and screen roles that are almost always made for men. Very few females lead action flicks like Jolie does.

None of her stunt work in "Salt" is blue-screened. There's no CGI trickery. Just the actress and her badass self doing – with longtime stunt coordinator Simon Crane's assistance – mad-crazy jumps, fights and balancing acts that made director Phillip Noyce, who compares her brave bits to "Cirques du Soleil," an anxious mess. The job sounds freaky even for the most macho man (Harrison Ford almost lost his head on the set of Noyce's "Clear and Present Danger") – and initially, the role was made for one.

Evelyn was Edwin, until Tom Cruise backed out and Jolie jumped on board – for obvious reasons, says Noyce: "You get to see one of the most beautiful women in the world beat up an army of guys," he laughs, "and having Tom Cruise or somebody else beat up an army of guys, well, we've seen that before."

But Noyce wasn't ready – and, by the nervous laughter he lets out while recalling those gutsy scenes, probably never would be – for Jolie to pull off those physical feats. The first time they worked together – on the eerie thriller "The Bone Collector" – Jolie just walked casually through creepy corridors with a flashlight. That was over 10 years ago. Some things change. Noyce says, "Success has given her more fearlessness – in

every way."

Success – or power, really – has also enabled Jolie to call the shots, nabbing some of the best roles for women. Evelyn, and the fact that she kicks ass without gender being a limitation, is one of them. The character's crafty, fast as all hell and surprisingly desexualized. Even unglamorous. Angelina ... not half-naked?

Jolie explains: "It was extremely important to me (to desexualize Salt), because I just felt that she was better than that. Not that it wouldn't have been fun to do if it was appropriate in a scene, but it just felt like if we can find a way to not need that, let's not."

Sadly for some, sex scenes were cut (look for them on the DVD, assures Noyce) as the focus became Evelyn's dude-defeating deftness. On-set powwows concluded with this: She'd have to be darker, meaner and badder than the boys.

"I've never underestimated women, so I'm not surprised to start seeing women do these things," Jolie says. "That's why we didn't actually approach it as, Salt's a woman; we just approached it as, Salt's a badass and happens to be a woman and this should be no real huge surprise for anybody."

Few films like "Salt," with a lead lady throwing down and dirtying up, ever surface. But this one's especially unheard of – and a first for Jolie. "It's the opposite of actually every action movie I've ever done, because there's never really been a female action movie based in reality. They're always fantasy."

Pondering, she smiles big again, then laughs: "I've done most of 'em."

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HotBoyz calendar

Thursday, July 22

Kickoff and Strip Off Party, 9 p.m. Featuring a performance by Bebe of "RuPaul's Drag Race." Part of HTJ 2010. The Woodward, 1040 Woodward Ave., Detroit.

Friday, July 23

Blak Ice Grand Opening, 9 p.m. The premiere black gay night, featuring performer Teairra Marie. Ice Nightclub, 11425 Joseph Campau, Hamtramck. www.icedetroit.net

Saturday, July 24

Official HTJ Party, 10 p.m. With performances by Vivica Fox, Trina and Diamond, plus DJ Nique. Tickets: \$20. Hot Boyz, 4120 Woodward Ave., Detroit. www.majesticdetroit.com

Sunday, July 25

HTJ Bowling Party, 8 p.m. Free bowling, live DJ and drink specials. Majestic Detroit, 4120 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 313-587-1933.

Dance Party, 11 p.m. Ages 21 and older welcome. Menjo's Complex, 928 W. McNichols, Detroit. 313-587-1933.

Monday, July 26

HTJ Ball, 1 a.m. With special performance by singer Chelley. St. Regis Hotel, 3071 W. Grand Boulevard, Detroit.

Life HOTTER THAN JULY

Hot Boyz head hypes up HTJ happenings

Star performances, huge crowds will mark this year's black gay Pride parties

BY JESSICA CARRERAS

Tramaine Cotton's old boss is kicking himself right now. Cotton used to serve as the bar's main marketing and promotions person, but at the same time, was launching his career as a party promoter to the LGBT community. "He didn't like me throwing gay parties," Cotton recalls of his boss.

Given an ultimatum between the two, Cotton made perhaps the most important choice of his life. Now, the CEO of Hot Boyz Detroit is hosting a weekend of parties for Hotter Than July 2010 expected to draw thousands to the city to celebrate black, gay Pride from as far away as Atlanta, Miami, New York, Los Angeles and Houston. They've already sold out rooms at the St. Regis Hotel, which is the host location for HTJ. In fact, the Hot Boyz parties are expected to be an even bigger draw than HTJ itself, which has events running throughout the weekend as well.

And though Cotton, 25, knew what he wanted to do with his life, he never saw his party promotions career getting as big as it is now. "I started throwing parties in my 11th grade year of high school," he explains. "I was very popular in school and I did laser tag lock-ins, skating parties, hall parties."

This weekend, he'll go high-profile with a star-studded party that doesn't stop until Monday morning.

It all starts with the Kickoff and Strip Off Party on July 22 at The Woodward, where Bebe, the original winner of "RuPaul's Drag Race," will make an appearance. On July 23, pop star Teairra Marie will hold her record release party at Blak Ice — part of Ice Nightclub in Hamtramck — for the bar's black, gay night premiere. The party will continue at Detroit's Majestic Theatre and Café on July 24 with a slew of performances, plus bowling at the Garden Bowl on July 25.

Things will wind down — or, perhaps heat up — with an all-night HTJ Ball that runs from 1-6 a.m. July 26 at the St. Regis Hotel.

Cotton, who does first Friday events at the Majestic every month, says his sold-out parties will be even bigger for HTJ. "It's just something different, because I know we'll have a much bigger crowd," he promises. "It's going to be really nice."

Much to the chagrin of Cotton's ex-employer.



Teairra Marie performs to a sold-out Hot Boyz crowd at the Majestic Theatre in March. Photo courtesy of Tramaine Cotton.

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HOTTER THAN JULY 2010 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

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11TH ANNUAL RUTH ELLIS PRIDE MARCH
SPONSORED BY: YOUNG BROTHERS UNITED
5:00 P.M. PRIDE MARCH REGISTRATION - 6:15 P.M. PRIDE PROCESSION BEGINS
AT PONTCHARTRAIN BLVD & MERRILL PLAISSANCE ST.

MONDAY | JULY - 19TH
HTJ2010 ART EXHIBITION & RECEPTION
ARTISTS: STEPHANIE HOLLOWAY AND JOSEPH WELCH - SPONSORED BY LOCS NETWORK
6:00 P.M. - 10:00 P.M. AT HOTEL ST. REGIS
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TUESDAY | JULY - 20TH
HTJ2010 FILM FESTIVAL SPONSORED BY: S.P.I.C.E.
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SATURDAY | JULY - 24TH
15TH PALMER PARK FESTIVAL: NOON - 8:00 P.M.
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AT PONTCHARTRAIN BLVD & MERRILL PLAISSANCE ST

SUNDAY | JULY - 25TH
HTJ2010 JAZZ BRUNCH NOON - 3:00 P.M.
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Hotter than July, indeed!

Porn star comes to Palmer Park Festival

All it took for Markell to launch his porn career six years ago was a lay-off from his fast food job. Now, the bisexual adult-film star is shooting ... movies, and spending some time in Detroit filming and meeting fans. He'll hang out from 12-5 p.m. July 24 at the Palmer Park Festival (look for him at Entertainment West Studio's table) and later that night from 9-11 p.m. at The Woodward. Markell took a few minutes to answer some questions about the porn industry, his first experience and whether all porn stars are sluts.

What interested you in doing porn?

It was actually a joke. I just wanted to see if I could make it. I didn't plan on going, but I lost my job at Rally's and then it didn't seem outlandish to go out to Chicago and start doing porn, so I went.

How was your first experience?

I had to work within an hour of arriving in Chicago. I signed the contract and had to get ready for the video shoot in an hour. I was in the middle of a kitchen – having sex with six other guys.

Was it what you expected?

Actually, I expected it to be a lot hotter than it

was, but it came across more as a job. I had to try to stay hard, try to come, try to stay focused. I expected it to be more easy going than it was, but it was a job.

What are you doing in Detroit?

I am in Detroit working with ThugSeduction.net. About two months ago I came up to do a shoot with one of their models, Dash, and I had a great time. It was my first time having sex with a DL-type guy.

Is there a pressure to look a certain way in this industry?

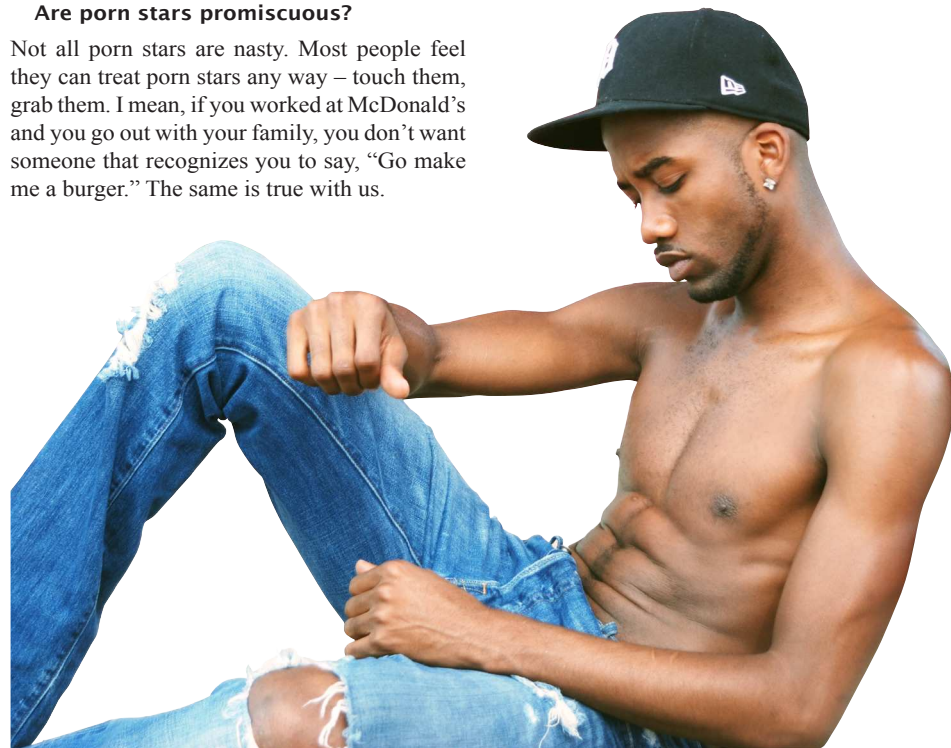
Being in the gay community alone has the pressure to be perfect from head to toe. Face must be flawless, body amazing. I do my best to keep up with it. I don't feel like I have to look like the Incredible Hulk, and I know I don't want to look like a stick figure.


Is it a hard standard to maintain? Do directors expect you to be a certain way all the time?

More so the fans. It's a lot to live up to, a lot of work.


Are porn stars promiscuous?

Not all porn stars are nasty. Most people feel they can treat porn stars any way – touch them, grab them. I mean, if you worked at McDonald's and you go out with your family, you don't want someone that recognizes you to say, "Go make me a burger." The same is true with us.






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Long-range planning can be an emotional process, but I'm really glad we did it, and I'm especially glad we did it with Mike."

John Corvino, Ph.D.
Wayne State Professor
Author, "The Gay Moralist"



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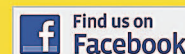


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Many artists, therefore, won't be seen at other Michigan art shows. Patrons will have the opportunity to purchase artwork of all media, including paintings, sculpture, clay, glass, photography, wood, fiber and jewelry. For each booth, the artist is present at the show. Attendees are welcome to approach the artists with questions as to how they make their work or what inspires them.

The show has been voted in the top 100 art shows in the country the last three years and won five awards from 2009 Michigan Festivals and Events. A team of art professionals who have spent many years involved in the arts jury the show.

In addition to the art, there will be live entertainment, children's art activities, local food and the Chadwick Accounting Group's Youth Art Competition for grades K-8.

The event opens on Friday, July 30 with a ticketed Caesars Windsor Artist Preview Party from 6-9 p.m. This casual gala provides patrons with first choice to purchase the artwork and includes complimentary hors d'oeuvres, catered by Vineyards Deli and Redwood Grill, and beverages, including beer and wine. Tickets are available online at www.HotWorks.org/OrchardLake.



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The show is from 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Saturday, July 31 and 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 1. Donation fee is \$5 (12 and under are free).

Parking is open off Orchard Lake Road, behind the Beaumont Medical Center, Barnes & Noble and at the West Bloomfield Corporate Plaza.

For more information, visit www.HotWorks.org.

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Williamston dishes out five courses of fun

BY BRIDGETTE M. REDMAN

Williamston Theater is currently serving five courses of love in a variety of spicy flavors.

In this three-person musical, "Five-Course Love," directed by Tom Woldt, the audience is dished up a delectable fantasia of would-be lovers hoping that Cupid will smile upon them.

The appetizer course (served at Dean's Old-Fashioned All-American Down-Home Bar-B-Que Texas Eats, where all the men are Butch and all the women Rosebud) was a bit on the heavy side for a starting course. Nonetheless, the flavors of a steamy serving between a very single guy and a Barbie-girl in her Barbie world kept the exchanges tasty and clued the diners in to what to expect for the rest of the tuneful meal.

Laura Croff, Matthew Gwynn and Aaron Moore twirl through a series of bigger-than-life characters who sing of love trysts both touching and absurd — mostly the latter. After the Texas appetizers, the courses are served progressive style with projections changing the restaurant sign and Moore (mostly) passing out new menus. Course 2 is Italian, followed by German, Mexican and ending at a 50s-style diner.

Croff makes the largest swings between characters, accompanied by a delightful array of wigs. She commits fully to each of the archetypes — the lustful, country-western Barbie blonde; the sophisticated, unfaithful Italian mob wife; the leather-bedecked, whip-wielding German sexpot; the sought-after horseback-riding, clean-faced ingénue; and the timid bookworm whose overtures of love are too subtle for the object of her affection.

She infuses each course with distinct flavor, proving herself



Laura Croff, Aaron T. Moore and Matt Gwynn in "Five-Course Love." Photo: Chris Purchis

a master chef in full command of accents, body language and characterization. Each new dish is a delight that tickles the senses.

Gregg Coffin, who wrote the book, music and lyrics, serves up more meat-and-potatoes roles for the two men, though the narrower range of types are no less filling for being less exotic. Gwynn is given all of the wandering romantic leads, while Moore stays firmly attached to each locale as owner, waiter, maitre'd and cook. Within those set roles, each of them equals Croff's commit-



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REVIEW

'Five-Course Love'

Williamston Theatre,
122 S. Putnam Rd., Williamston.
Thursday-Sunday through Aug. 15. \$18-\$24. 517-655-7469.
www.williamstontheatre.org

ment and energy, creating a full menu of varied flavors that blend into a perfect palette-pleasing meal that sates its diners without overstuffing them.

Woldt makes the most of the tight Williamston space, with choreography that ranges from sultry to raucous, and even has Gwynn jumping the banisters in the aisle.

While it is the feast of acting and singing that most audiences will remember, the meal worked not just because of the zesty performers, but because of the fitting style of the place settings, decor and ambiance the technical and musical artists provide. Musical director Jeff English was a perfect partner on the keyboard, giving the performers perfectly timed musical cues and the running soundtrack that injected extra mood into each scene. Nor was his presence ignored by the other performers, with he and Moore frequently exchanging sly winks and mischievous moments.

The set was completely adaptable, able to move very quickly between scenes with only a few iconic pieces of set dressing to help change the locales. Costume designer Melanie Schuessler created strikingly different costumes that the actors were able to quickly don and shed as they moved between courses.

Williamston even gave its audience a pre-meal snack with a delightfully clever recorded curtain speech sung in the comedic style of the entire musical.

"Five-Course Love" is a tangy low-fat smorgasbord that parodies the romance genre with adult-rated, boisterous and rowdy panache.

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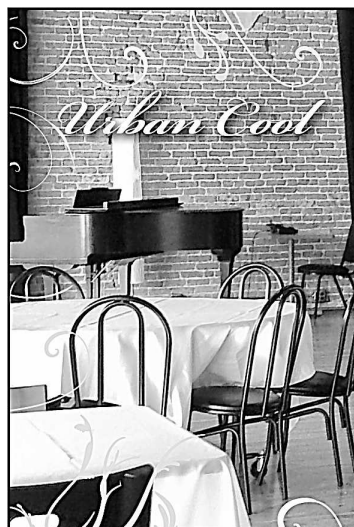


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Colorful 'Trailer Park' hits high notes

BY JUDITH COOKIS RUBENS

You might be a redneck if you laughed out loud at the campy treat that is "The Great American Trailer Park Musical." Or you might be a discerning theater patron, simply won over by the huge talent and rockin' tunes that are on display in this Farmers Alley Theatre revival.

Either way, you're likely to leave in a good mood.

The Kalamazoo theater assembled a hit last year with "Trailer Park," a 2005 off-Broadway creation, and director Laurel Scheidt reunites nearly the entire original cast for a look at life in Armadillo Acres, northern Florida's most disturbed trailer park.

Front and center is (what else?) a love triangle. Mismatched high school sweethearts Norbert and Jeannie Garstecki (the football star and the math-lete) are approaching their 20-year anniversary, but things aren't so rosy in their double wide. Agoraphobic Jeannie (Whitney Wade) hasn't stepped off the couple's porch since

REVIEW

'The Great American Trailer Park Musical'

Farmers Alley Theatre,
221 Farmers Alley, Kalamazoo.
Thursday-Sunday through Aug. 8, plus
Wednesday July 28 & Aug. 4.
\$23-\$25. 269-343-2727
www.farmersalleytheatre.com



Amanda Martin as Pippi, Adam Weiner as Norbert and Whitney Wade as Jeannie in "The Great American Trailer Park Musical." Photo: Farmers Alley Theatre

1983, when, while out getting the world's worst perm, her baby son is kidnapped. The tragedy still haunts the couple, who are becoming distant strangers.

Enter new neighbor, Pippi (Amanda Martin), a stripper on the run, who develops a thing for lovable schmuck Norbert. Just as it seems Jeannie might conquer her fear and step outside, Norbert cheats on her with Pippi.

OK, so the plot is probably less creative than a Jerry Springer episode, and its

hokey, whiplash-inducing ending is worse than one of Jeannie's favorite Lifetime movies. But this production has more than a few moments of brilliance. Its musical talent elevates these cartoonish characters into people you actually root for and care about.

To read the complete review, log on to EncoreMichigan.com or PrideSource.com.

MSF brings 'Romeo & Juliet' back to life

BY D. A. BLACKBURN

Saturday night the Michigan Shakespeare Festival officially kicked off its 16th season with "Romeo & Juliet." A more fitting opening could not have been had. Not only because the company chose to open the festival with Shakespeare's best known, most loved work, but also because they opted to recognize recently retired Artistic Director John Neville-Andrews and publicly pass the torch to Janice Blixt.

And this is as much the story of the 2010 MSF, as the three productions to grace the stage of the Michael Baughman Theatre (Jackson Community College) this season. Neville-Andrews, after all, had been the driving force and public face

REVIEW

'Romeo & Juliet'

Michigan Shakespeare Festival, Michael Baughman Theatre on the campus of Jackson Community College, 2111 Emmons Rd., Jackson. Plays in repertory through Aug. 8. \$15-\$35. 517-998-3673.
www.michiganshakespearefestival.com

of the festival for some 13 seasons, and a changing of the guard is sure to produce a different result.

On the surface, the 2010 MSF looks and feels much the same as years past — held in the same venue, with the same deco-

rations and familiar pre-show discussion groups — but sitting for "Romeo & Juliet," or even breezing through the show program, the differences are readily apparent.

Blixt, a Hilberry Theatre alum and Chicago transplant, has stocked her cast largely with Chicago talent. There are far fewer Michigan thespians on stage than in previous years, and while the festival has always drawn performers from afar, the skew toward actors from the windy city seems disproportionate.

Perhaps even more noticeable is Blixt's very pure concept for "Romeo & Juliet," for which she also serves as director.

To read the complete review, log on to EncoreMichigan.com or PrideSource.com.

A disturbingly darker 'Awakening' in A2

BY DONALD V. CALAMIA

As young thespians move from college into the workplace - often with few jobs in the local professional theater industry to support them - these energetic and creative souls often leave the state or create their own small theater companies in which to ply their trades. Others, meanwhile, simply want opportunities to tell stories about THEIR lives and THEIR interests. As a result, it's companies and voices like these that help create Cool Cities and provide real-world experience for up-and-coming artists to succeed or flop outside the protective cocoon of academia.

Southeast Michigan has been a hotbed of such action in recent years, the latest of which is The New Theatre Project based in Ann Arbor. After a string of previews last month at Performance Network Theatre, the troupe has modified its inaugural effort and moved a short walking distance to Pot & Box - it's not what you're think-

REVIEW

'The Spring Awakening Project'

The New Theatre Project at Pot and Box, 220 Felch St., Ann Arbor. Friday-Monday through Aug. 2. Contains adult themes and partial nudity. \$15. 810-623-0909
www.thenewtheatreproject.org



The New Theatre Project debuts with "The Spring Awakening Project." Photo: Amanda Lyn Jungquist.

ing, folks - where a sold-out crowd on July 16 attended the company's first-ever official opening night performance. And while "The Spring Awakening Project" has its share of flaws, there's no denying that these talented and passionate artists are a welcome addition to the community.

Based on the Frank Wedekind script of the early 1890s and NOT the currently running, award-winning musical, founder and director Keith Paul Medelis held auditions, cast his show and then early this

year gave his creative team the following assignment: to write in their journals about a moment in which they realized they were no longer a child. Drama exercises followed, as did a script by Jason Sebacher that uses their work to more deeply explore six of Wedekind's 30-plus characters.

To read the complete review, log on to EncoreMichigan.com or PrideSource.com.

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by Chris Azzopardi

Lots to love on Kylie Minogue's 'Aphrodite.' Plus: '30 Rock' actress makes (hilarious!) cabaret debut

Also Out



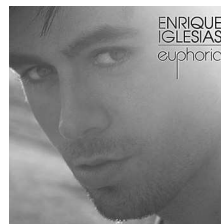
Kylie Minogue, 'Aphrodite'

As if gay men haven't already crowned Kylie Minogue the queen of dreamy dance-pop, her 11th studio album names itself after the almighty Aphrodite. That the Greek goddess is known for her sexual energy seems appropriate; so is Minogue, who gloriously sweeps us into the heavens with the fantastically airy and sensual first single "All the Lovers." "Dance," she sweetly chirps. "It's all I wanna do." And that's reinforced by the following 11 songs, which seem designed for an all-night dance-a-thon with blissful European-inspired bait ceaselessly aligning its stars into connect-the-dots unity. For once, Minogue's not hankering for hits in a scattershot made-to-please piece, like with 2007's unremarkable "X." The Aussie's still bobbing for big crossover singles, though, and "Aphrodite" is powered with mainstream potential: the grrl-power title track sounds like her "Hollaback Girl," while "Cupid Boy" is a levitating dance-rock wet dream. But it's the irresistible "Better Than Today," with its celebratory charm and funky-pop rhythm, that redefines Kylie's dance dynamic. Even when all that glitters under her disco ball isn't gold – like on the faltering filler "Too Much" and "Put Your Hands Up (If You Feel Love)" – she sustains momentum with music-maker Stuart Price and Scissor Sisters frontman Jake Shears' non-stop hooks. The goddess of love – and gays – just might finally rule the stateside charts. *Grade: B+*



Jane Krakowski, 'The Laziest Gal in Town'

Adored as a ditzy fame whore on "30 Rock," Jane Krakowski isn't just her TV persona, Jenna Maroney. And she doesn't just sing "Muffin Top." But she's surely got that saucy sense of humor kicking through her cabaret debut (recorded live in New York City), dropping "oh, snap!" innuendo, sharp quips and self-deprecating digs. With standards, show tunes and rarities, her nightclub gig pays tribute to Ann-Margret on the peppy '60s song "Thirteen Men" and updates the Marilyn Monroe-popularized "Diamonds Are a Girl's Best Friend" with a hysterical rap outro, An original number, "Tweet! Based on 'Zip,'" comes courtesy of musical mavens Marc Shaiman and Scott Witman – with lines that poke at the passing of Prop. 8 and pop culture, from Whitney Houston to Neil Patrick Harris ("Tweet! Alec Baldwin wasn't brilliant today. Tweet! Doogie Howser makes it hip to be gay.") "The Laziest Gal in Town" is also the dirtiest – though her hypersexual sassiness may be too garish outside of Broadway. Kudos, anyway: Not many people can see the sex appeal in a Sesame Street song – "Rubber Duckie," no less – like the wickedly charming Krakowski can. *Grade: B+*



Enrique Iglesias, 'Euphoria'

On his ninth album, the oo-la-la Latino aims to please. Good thing he's versatile: His bilingual latest has Enrique doing dance (synth-washed "I Like It" with Pitbull), suave roots riffs and pop love ballads ("Heartbeat" with Nicole Scherzinger). Almost all of it's more cool than caliente. The heat rises when Usher shows up for "Dirty Dancer," a spicy bump-and-grinder that, with two of the hottest men in music, almost makes a better fantasy than song.



Eminem, 'Recovery'

You'll almost wish Eminem were still a druggie, because his edge is lacking on his post-narcotic album. Hooks are few, even with Pink on board for "Won't Back Down." Rihanna, though, helps turn "Love the Way You Lie" into a winner, and single "Not Afraid" is sly empowerment. Otherwise, he's stale (still knocking Mariah), immature (farting) and still dropping homophobic slams despite the big "go gay marriage!" hug we got from him recently.



Kevin Rudolf, 'To the Sky'

Throw it on for some party pop, but otherwise, the NYC producer's disposable made-for-clubs sophomore CD squanders its ghetto guest list – Three 6 Mafia, Flo Rida and Lil Wayne – on generic beats and cliché credos. It uses typical Top-40 tricks and manages to slam-dunk a couple of sticking melodies. But even the super-catchy cuts like "Don't Cry" and "I Belong to You" sound like New Kids on the Block doing a one-man dance show. The world needn't suffer more.

Reach Chris Azzopardi at chris@pridesource.com.



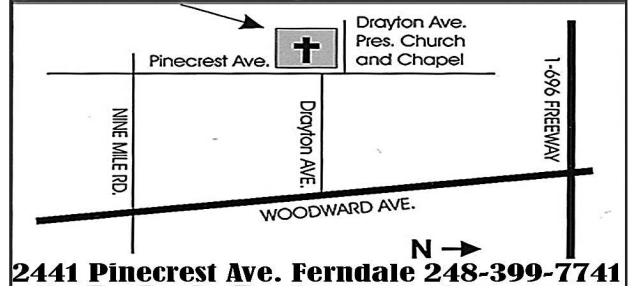
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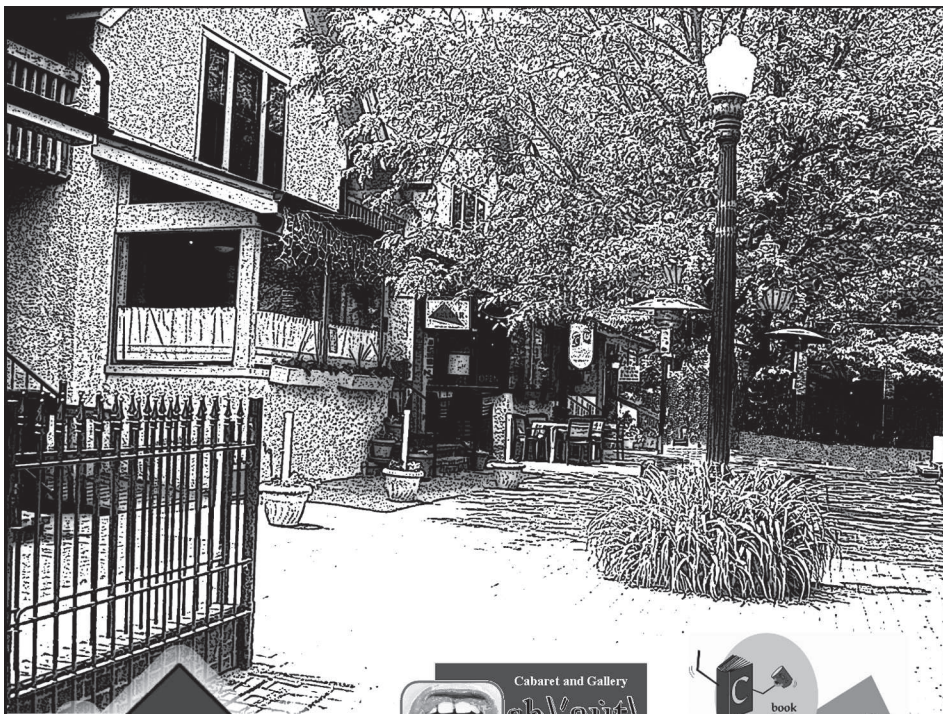
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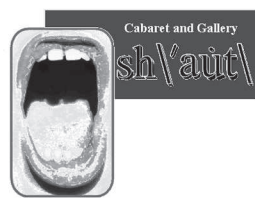
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My possessive partner

Q. My daughter, who is 33, is coming to visit me this summer. I am so happy to see her as it has been quite some time. I want to take her and my partner camping. My partner, "Sherry," and I both love to go camping, and so does my daughter "Marie." The problem is, Sherry doesn't like sharing me with my daughter. She doesn't admit that, but she acts so possessive and doesn't let Marie and I have a minute alone. I can sense that she is not happy when we are all together, and I know she wishes Marie wasn't with us. I don't know if Marie knows how Sherry feels because she has never mentioned it to me. Sherry is always kind and loving toward Maria, and on the outside, it looks like everything is fine, but I think I can read what underlining things are really going on with Sherry.

I'm thinking of asking Sherry to stay home this time so she doesn't ruin my time with my daughter. I asked Marie if she wants me to do that. She said that she didn't want me to do that (she's a real sweet person) because she loves her Aunt Sherry (that's what she calls her).

What's your read on this? Do you think I should ask Sherry to stay home so I can enjoy my daughter, without any tension?

Three's A Crowd?

A. From what you told me, I'm not sure why you think Sherry doesn't like sharing you with your daughter, other than what you "sense" about Sherry's feelings. Your daughter - who is an adult - said she loves her Aunt Sherry and didn't want you to ask her to stay home. If what you're needing is some time alone with your daughter, talk with Sherry about this, and then set up some other plans for you and Marie to do something special together.

Boyfriend's a drunk mess

Q. I went to Common Ground in Lansing last night to see Adam Lambert. I loved him.

Adam is a great dancer, singer and performer. I was so looking forward to his concert. We were right at the front, and I was having so much fun until my boyfriend, "Kenny," started getting drunk and obnoxious. First, he was trying to get up on the stage with Adam, and the bouncers had to move him away; they threatened to remove him if he continued. He backed off for awhile, but the next thing I knew he was unzipping his pants, saying he was going to give Adam a "golden shower"; my friends and I kept that from happening. Luckily the security didn't see this. After that he was just pretty much out of control, kissing and slobbering all over friends, telling them Adam was all about love, and so was he. I ended up not enjoying the concert at all because I was so embarrassed, and also because I felt like I needed to try to keep Kenny out of trouble.

I really love Kenny, but I hate it when he gets drunk - and he does that a lot. What should I do? He is a kind, loving, and considerate person when he isn't drinking.

Embarrassed

A. It sounds like Kenny has a pretty serious drinking problem. Encourage him to get into treatment, because alcohol is certainly interfering with his life and relationship with you. If you haven't already let him know, tell him how much he changes when he drinks and how he embarrasses himself, as well as you, when he acts like that.

Whether he goes into treatment, if he starts drinking, you don't need to stay and watch. Let him know ahead of time that you won't be part of his drunken behavior; you will leave. You may benefit by attending Al-Anon meetings to help you deal with his drinking, as well as learn ways to keep from enabling his behavior.

Jody Valley spent 12 years as a clinical social worker. She worked with the LGBT community both as a counselor and a workshop leader in the areas of coming out, self-esteem and relationship issues. The "Dear Jody" column appears weekly. Reach Jody at DearJodyValley@hotmail.com. Letters may be edited for clarity and length.

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Stop and think, Leo!

As the Sun enters Leo, he offers chances to reconcile the opposition between Saturn in Libra (conservative social controls) and Uranus in Aries (individualistic impulses). Standing up for yourself and looking good may feel too important. Focus on the special gifts you have to offer others. The real challenge there is to keep generosity untainted by ego. Paradoxically, the best way is to acknowledge your own selfish motivations.

ARIES (March 20 – April 19): Fun and games can help you dodge problems in relationships even when they feel like solutions. The real solution lies in working through your most private fears and pains. Direct those playful urges to creative healing.

TAURUS (April 20 – May 20): Cleaning house is not the problem, but could be the solution. Focus on questions about your friends and your future while putting things into order and the answers will surprise you with their clarity and foresight.

GEMINI (May 21- June 20): Sure, all work and no play – what kind of creative fun can be used to bolster your work rather than to distract from it? Reassessing your goals may be a necessary step toward that answer.

CANCER (June 21- July 22): The clash of your ambitions against the roots of your traditions shows some creative awareness, but those roots are important. Find a meeting point in your personal values. Reconciliation comes better from empathy than logical ideology.

LEO (July 23 – August 22): You're feeling your oats and ready to roar, but stop and think. You can focus all that brainpower and energy into something really spectacular. Greatness takes work, patience and discipline. Be ready to transform yourself as prerequisite to changing the world.

VIRGO (August 23 – September 22): New erotic ideas are stoking your imagination. Within your fantasies it's all fair game, but with a partner you'll need to reconcile dreams with real-life limits. Some limits are open to renegotiation at least!

LIBRA (September 23 – October 22): In these tough times your instinct is to hunker down and get serious, but your partner (or your impulse to find one) is proving disruptive. Think ahead, welcome new input, but

do it with careful consideration, grounding and discipline.

SCORPIO (October 23 – November 21): Careful, conservative instincts will help you get to the top. More daring ideas from colleagues and aides can be useful. At least consider them and see how they can fit in constructively. Use expert opinions from authorities and those "in the trenches."

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 – December 20): Welcome new ideas even if they do send your mind into a dizzying variety of directions. Talk with friends to get integration and grounding. New insights into family problems offer you a chance to ameliorate problems that may never be entirely solved.

CAPRICORN (December 21 – January 19): Behind-the-scenes work will still be noticed, and will help boost your career. Family and community support may look counter-productive, but harnessing that support constructively is key to your success.

AQUARIUS (January 20 – February 18): Crazy new ideas are knocking against long-held ideals. You can't solve the dilemma on your own, but engaging a partner or a respected opponent can help you see how the pieces can fit together.

PISCES (February 19 – March 19): Look into any potential health problems you have been neglecting. You're due for a rude surprise, but can still nip it in the bud. Pay special attention to your heart, circulation, kidneys and pancreas.

Jack Fertig, a professional astrologer since 1977, is available for personal and business consultations in person in San Francisco, or online everywhere. He can be reached at 415-864-8302, through his website at www.starjack.com, and by e-mail at QScopes@qsyndicate.com.

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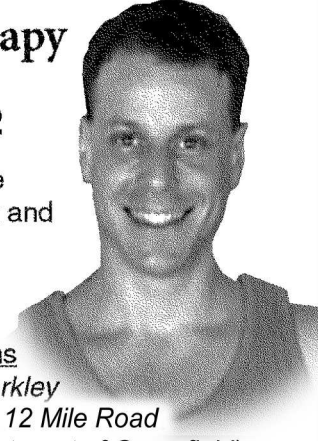
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Solution to puzzle from page 30

L	I	P	O		S	M	A	R	T		B	A	K	E	S			
E	T	A	L		I	S	S	U	E		A	G	I	L	E			
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1. Search this issue of *Between The Lines* for the one ad that is the fake ad. Here's a clue: the fake ad will include the line "between the sheets" somewhere within the text of the ad.
2. Go online at www.Pridesource.com and click where it says "Click here to win!"
3. Scroll down to the entry form for the fake ad contest and enter your name, etc.
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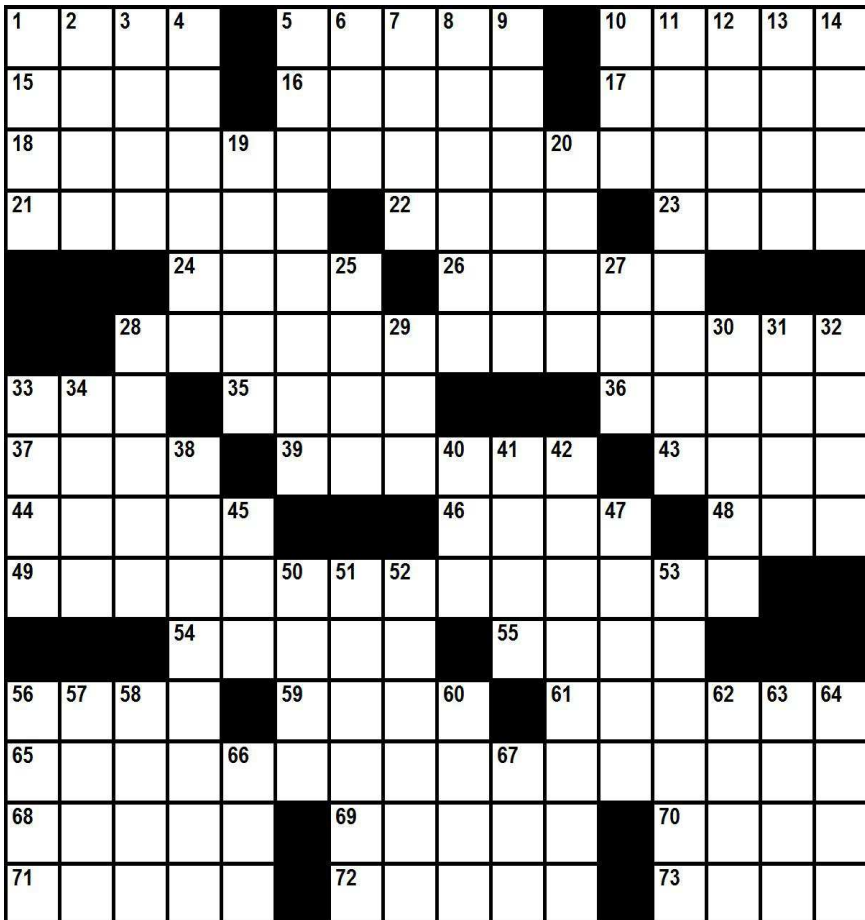
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FIND THE FAKE AD CONTEST





Q P U Z Z L E Flight Plan

Across

- 1 Certain cosmetic surgery that sucks
- 5 "Designing Women" co-star Jean
- 10 Suffers in the sun
- 15 Series ender
- 16 Particular "Advocate," e.g.
- 17 Light in the sneakers?
- 18 Start of a question about "Bewitched"
- 21 S&M namesake
- 22 Follower of bears
- 23 Miss among Cole Porter hits
- 24 Its teeth point in all directions
- 26 International money
- 28 End of the question
- 33 Austin's Oilcan Harry's, e.g.
- 35 Foe of Peter Pan
- 36 "We ___ please"
- 37 La Salle of "ER"
- 39 Spanish titles
- 43 Stuff for oral gratification
- 44 Cause of "bed death"
- 46 Skater Mattis
- 48 P-town's Crowne Pointe, e.g.
- 49 Start of the answer
- 54 Like a rare baseball game
- 55 Actor Richard
- 56 Opposite of fem.
- 59 What's in the stallion's mouth?

- 61 Pack up
- 65 End of the answer
- 68 Hatcher, on "Desperate Housewives"
- 69 It's a good thing
- 70 Penetrate slowly
- 71 Garbo, for one
- 72 Egg holders
- 73 Water whirled

Down

- 1 Like porn
- 2 Spillane's " ___ Jury"
- 3 Puts bills in the G-string, e.g.
- 4 "Ripe" stage of life
- 5 You can shoot them off from the hip
- 6 ISP option
- 7 Regarding
- 8 Chicago Bears ball carrier, e.g.
- 9 Join hands (with)
- 10 Meadow murmur
- 11 One who doubts there's a Divine Miss M?
- 12 Catwoman portrayer Eartha
- 13 K-12 grades, collectively
- 14 Salty bodies
- 19 What comes out of your head
- 20 Vidal's Breckinridge
- 25 South Korea's first president

- 27 "Cat ___ Hot Tin Roof"
- 28 Dry with a twist
- 29 Fabric suffix
- 30 "Like, no problem, man"
- 31 Alfred Douglas' school
- 32 Like spilled seed
- 33 ___ poet (Ginsberg as a vegetarian)?
- 34 River near Michelangelo's "David"
- 38 Satisfied
- 40 Rene Auberjonois on "Deep Space Nine"
- 41 Straddled a stallion
- 42 Throws out
- 45 Simpson trial judge Lance
- 47 Randolph Scott's companion Cary
- 50 Moby Dick chaser
- 51 "The Prophet" writer
- 52 Idle
- 53 Cut into
- 56 Funny Mabley
- 57 From the top
- 58 Eye problem
- 60 Pleasure oneself, with "off"
- 62 Served perfectly, to Mauresmo
- 63 TV Guide info
- 64 Catch sight of
- 66 It may come before long
- 67 Came upon

See solution on page 29

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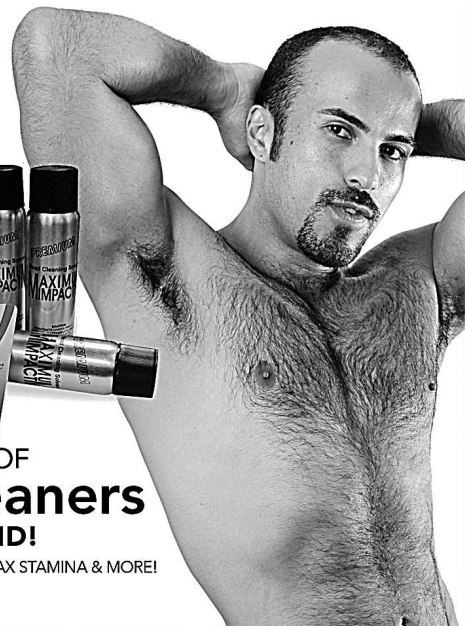
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Rear View COCKTAIL CHATTER

by Ed Sikov

Snobs invent Fire Island Iced Tea

Six of us were lined up in beach chairs judging the gym rats on parade at the water's edge.

"Why does that guy have 'Bondi' printed on his ass?" I inquired. "I love 'Make Way for Tomorrow', too, but it's a strange film to be referenced on a musclehead's butt."

"It's not Beulah Bondi, darling. It's Bondi Beach in Australia." This came from my partner, Dan, who then turned on me: "Did you hear what Dr. Film Studies just said?" he trumpeted to the others, who made snorting noises at my expense.

Jack Fogg yawned, stretched, and said, "Let's make Long Island Iced Tea." "You would drink that," his boyfriend Sammy replied.

Jack became defensive: "What's wrong with Long Island Iced Tea?"

"People will think we're from Massapequa," Chipper explained.

"Or Hicksville," Paolo added. "Can you imagine saying you're from Hicksville? You might as well be from East Jesus."

I agreed. "We're making 'Fire Island Iced Tea' because we're on Fire Island, not Long Island."

"What's in it?" Sammy asked.

"We're inventing it," I declared. "What should be in our drink?"

"Lots of fruits," said Dan.

"And lots of alcohol," Paolo added.

"It needs a fire component," Chipper said. "What tastes hot?"

I had an inspiration: "Absolut Peppar!"

Chipper got into the spirit(s): "And Citron for the fruit. And Orange Curacao. And your inevitable lime juice."

"Why do you always have Orange Curacao?" asked Jack, the reporter; he was prone to interviewing people, which irritated me, so I answered: "Because Blue Curacao turns an orange Screwdriver the color of vomit."

"Aha," said Jack, buying my made-up reason. I'm dementedly jealous of Jack, so I put

a notch on the Ed vs. Jack scoreboard I keep in my head.

Michelangelo's David strolled by. "What can we add to represent him?" Dan asked.

"Coke Zero!" Sammy shouted to our communal delight. The poor, perfect hunk thought we were laughing at him and glared.

We tried a few recipes before we found one that worked, which meant we were hammered by dinnertime. I grilled the Lemon-Dill Lambburgers to death. Dan burned the buns. But Paolo, always under control, pulled off a lovely Caprese Salad, and since we bought a peach pie from the grocery store, dessert was fine. "Where do these great pies come from?" I once asked the Long Island teenager behind the counter. "Poh't Jeff!" she answered, meaning Port Jefferson. The accent alone proved why we had to have an "Iced Tea" of our own.

Fire Island Iced Tea

2-parts Absolut Peppar

2-parts Absolut Citron

1-part Beefeater

1-part cup tequila

1/2-part Orange Curacao

1-part or 1/3-cup unsweetened lime juice

3-parts Coke Zero or the soda of your choice

Fill a tall glass with ice and add liquors and lime juice. Pour soda in gently to keep the fizz. Note: The conventional drink is called "Iced Tea" because the cola turns the white liquors tea-colored. But I prefer Limonata, the Italian lemon soda, which makes the drink taste like spicy lemonade. Use what you like, and don't worry about what color the result is. If it looks gross, put it in an opaque plastic cup, stick a straw in it, and nobody will know the difference.

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1. Jill, Debbie and Michelle @ The Adam's Apple
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 3. Jack and Tim @ The Hayloft
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Meryl Streep. Photo: Columbia Pictures

Streep meets Thatcher at the movies?

She's already accomplished so much, but now it looks like Meryl Streep will become the British Prime Minister, the 1986 version anyway. The "Julie & Julia" star is currently in talks to

star in a biopic about Margaret Thatcher, Prime Minister during England's last lengthy conservative era, the 1980s. A millimeter more socially progressive than Ronald Reagan – Thatcher was an early supporter of decriminalizing homosexuality in England – she still supported a controversial anti-gay statute in England called Section 28, which sought to squelch the "promotion" of homosexuality. So even though the proposed title is "The Iron Lady," the director is Phyllida Law, who worked with Streep once before on, of all cute things, "Mamma Mia!" In other words, let's hope the eventual movie doesn't gloss over that sort of detail in the hope of making Thatcher more adorable than she actually was. Maybe they could call it "The Devil Wears Drab Conservative Garments" instead.

Mark Ruffalo follows his 'Heart'

Anyone who follows the development hell of gay-themed film projects as they wind their way through the treacherous, unforgiving studio lots of Hollywood can tell you that there is almost no more propped up and knocked down title than Larry Kramer's "The Normal Heart." The list of people who wanted to turn the semi-autobiographical 1984 play about the early days of the AIDS crisis into a movie and who failed to do so is too long to rehash here. But it looks like there's forward momentum yet again and that Mark Ruffalo, currently starring in the lesbians-

meet-their-sperm-donor dramedy "The Kids Are All Right," is on board to star and "Glee" creator Ryan Murphy is reported to be circling the director's chair. With any luck, this project won't be scuttled once again and wind up waiting for the day that Dakota Fanning's ready to direct it.

Jane Lynch fills 'iCarly' with glee

It's understandable if you've never watched "iCarly." It's unlikely that you are an elementary school-aged child, the hit Nickelodeon show's target audience. But if you're reading this, it's a safe bet that you probably know and enjoy the work of "Glee"'s comic villain, Jane Lynch. Well, the two worlds are about to collide as Lynch has signed on to shoot a guest spot on the children's sitcom. She'll play the never-before-seen mother of Carly's (Miranda Cosgrove) best friend Sam (Jennette McCurdy). Lynch's own 8-year-old stepdaughter is such a huge fan of the series that a reference to it was included in Lynch's recent wedding vows to her partner, so this was probably a family-inspired job application. And it'll further serve to open up Lynch's already-booming fan base expansion. The episode is shooting now and will air during "iCarly"'s third season. And it's safe to assume that track suits will almost certainly be banned from the costume trailer.

Rupert Everett to treat Gyllenhaal's 'Hysteria'

You'd think that the much-beloved genre of British period films (the kind your mom loves and whose popularity soared with the career surge of filmmaking partnership Merchant-Ivory) had exhausted its supply of innovative story lines. But here comes a naughtier and more historically accurate spin on the Victorian world. "Hysteria," set in the mid-19th century, will explore the invention of the vibrator. It was a medical device used on women who were diagnosed with "hysteria," a condition that, at the time, was characterized by irritability and anger and was, in turn, also a tool to keep women in line. Its treatment? Manual pelvic massage, which surely pleased the condition's "victims" and most likely, if indirectly, set the stage for their eventual social liberation. To be directed by up-and-comer Tanya Wexler, the film, due in 2012, will star Maggie Gyllenhaal ("Crazy Heart"), Rupert Everett, Hugh Dancy, Jonathan Pryce and a prop department full of vintage personal massagers. Teatime is looking sexier than ever.

Romeo San Vicente thinks teatime and all of its delicious biscuits should be instituted in America, since massage is already popular enough here. He can be reached care of this publication or at DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com.



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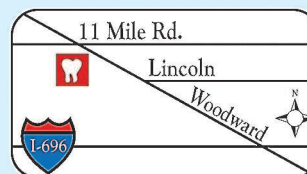
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