

Between THE Lines

A Delicate Balance

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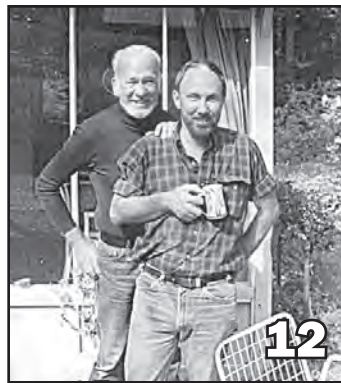
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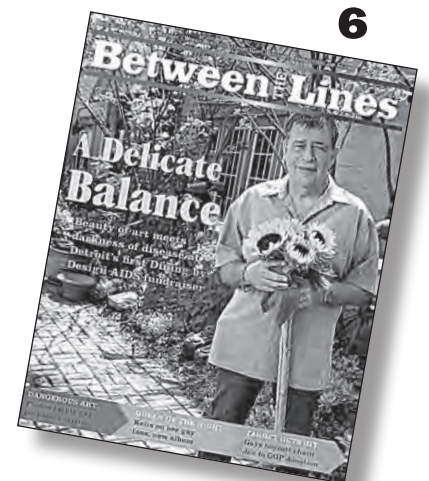
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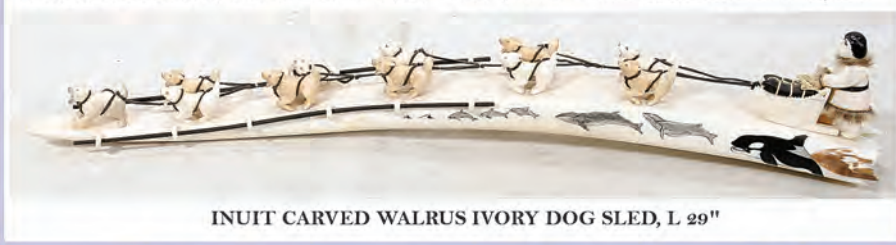
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Tony O'Rourke-Quintana is an organizer for the LGBT Latino nonprofit Detroit Latin@z, and a dedicated lifelong volunteer to HIV/AIDS causes. He is working to promote the LGBT Latino community, as well as help those who are just coming out.

1 Why did you decide to get involved with Detroit Latin@z?

I have been organizing in the LGBT community since the early to mid-1990s. Latinos/as in southeastern Michigan need a place to go and a "family" of supporters with whom to meet, mingle and organize that understands their sensibilities and unique needs. Detroit Latin@z provides just such a resource. Family is everything for us, and without providing a second "family," the true coming out process will not happen.



Many men who have sex with men in the Latino community are very secretive about it. This leads to higher risk factors such as no barrier usage, slower access to medical care, and shame and guilt issues.

2 What has the group been up to recently?

Most recently, we were at Hotter Than July, Detroit's black gay Pride celebration, where we had a table at the Palmer Park Festival and mingled with event participants. We were also at Motor City Pride in Ferndale.

We had a nice big group of folks at Diablos Cantina and Club 9 in Ferndale for Cinco de Mayo this year as well. We also provide a monthly educational forum from fall to spring, usually held at The Loft, home of MPowerment Detroit, downtown.

3 How did you get involved with HIV/AIDS advocacy work?

I started as a volunteer with the HIV/AIDS Resource Center of Washtenaw County in late 1991. Back then, I attended vigils and visited patients in nursing homes, who were always dying. My then boyfriend got me involved, and I have loved the work ever since!

Detroit Latin@z has to ride a tightrope of sorts in that we need to be sensitive to the needs of those coming out, but at the same time try to be as visible as possible. Providing ongoing support for the coming out process is the only way to create a larger, more prominent community.

We need to be at the table for all major LGBT events and decisions, but also provide a space where members can feel safe, secure and supported relative to family and faith concerns. For those members and leaders who are ready to be visible, though, we need to be front and center, not just in southwest Detroit or Ferndale, but at every possible opportunity where LGBT people and Latino/a folks are gathering.

To learn more about Detroit Latin@z, visit www.detlatz.com.

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

4 Why should the Latino community care about LGBT and HIV issues?

Besides the fact that we are over-represented in terms of infection rates (we represent more of those infected than we do the general population), we also have challenges similar to other communities of color. Many men who have sex with men in the Latino community are very secretive about it. This leads to higher risk factors such as no barrier usage, slower access to medical care and shame and guilt issues.

5 How do Latino gays and lesbians hope to become a more prominent part of the LGBT community?

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A Delicate Balance

Beauty of art meets darkness of disease at Detroit's first Dining by Design HIV/AIDS fundraiser

BY JESSICA CARRERAS

Norman Silk is feeling a little bipolar. It's easy to understand why: On any given day, the co-owner of the Birmingham-based floral design shop Blossoms deals with deaths and births, sympathy and love.

The same goes for his feelings about the AIDS epidemic. His late '80s to early '90s – when a positive diagnosis “was a death sentence,” says Silk – were often spent providing arrangements for funerals. Now Silk and his partner Dale Morgan focus their 25-year-old company's philanthropic floral forays on high-end fundraisers attended by the best-of. And on Aug. 14, the king of all AIDS gala events will showcase Blossoms' work like never before when Dining by Design comes to Detroit.

Begun in Kansas City, the Design Industry Foundation Fighting AIDS has since held their state-of-the-art event in design- and fashion-focused cities across the nation – New York, Chicago, San Francisco, Atlanta, Dallas. But never Detroit.

The Michigan AIDS Coalition changed all that when, earlier this year, representatives from the statewide HIV/AIDS nonprofit approached DIFFA with a proposition: bring Dining by Design – a several-hundred-dollar-a-seat event featuring one-of-a-kind tables created by local fashionistas, inventors, artists and florists – to Detroit.

On Aug. 12-14, the dream comes to life with three days of art, food and creations at the city's Benson and Edith Ford Conference Center, culminating with the gala dinner, where distinguished guests will be served a gourmet meal at the uniquely awe-inspiring tables.

Silk is no newbie to table design, having decked out numerous wedding receptions and



Norman Silk and his team at the Birmingham floral company Blossoms are hard at work preparing their Frank Lloyd Wright-themed table for Dining by Design, coming to Detroit Aug. 12-14. BTL photo by Andrew Potter.

other upscale events. But Dining by Design, he found out, is a different animal entirely.

“At first it was like, ‘Oh, this is what we do,’” Silk remembers of the proposal that Blossoms participate in the event. “Then, as I read the guidelines, I realized that this is more like a designer showhouse than it is a table. (DIFFA) had examples of tables that had been created in other cities that truly were like a room from a house with walls – we weren't even going to be close to that.”

But after meeting with DIFFA Director of Special Events Peggy Bellar, Silk and his team are now on track to creating a Frank Lloyd Wright-themed table inspired by one of the architect's famous houses. But which house, says Silk, is still a secret.

For Detroiters, much of what they experience at Dining by Design will be a surprise, including a new format to the Michigan AIDS Coalition's annual ArtWorks for Life event, which is being incorporated into Dining by Design as the kickoff on Aug. 12. On Aug. 13, the entire display – including the completed tables – will be open to the general public. An on Aug. 14, metro Detroit's design and corporate community will merge for an evening of cocktails, dinner, entertainment and an auction benefitting the Michigan AIDS Coalition, which is expected to net over \$100,000 from the weekend.

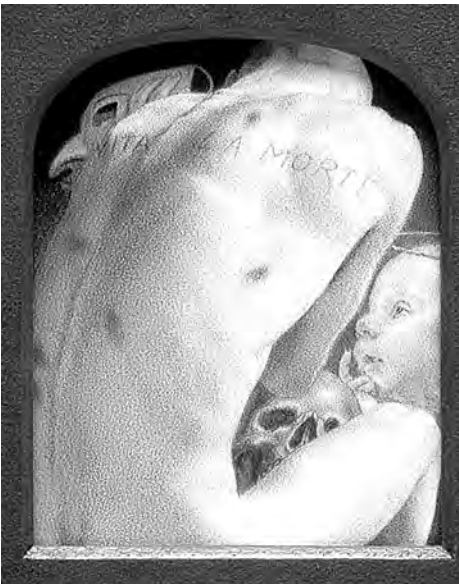
All this, in the name of HIV/AIDS fundraising.

Partygoers just there to have a good time can often overlook the underlying cause for such events. Luckily, DIFFA works with local Dining by Design teams at every turn to make sure that the reason guests are there – to fight HIV/AIDS – is not forgotten.

It's a difficult task, melding the beauty of design and art with the horrific history of the disease, but not something entirely new to the creative minds that have been grappling with the epidemic in their work since its inception.

Like Silk and his team at Blossoms, artist Carl Demeulenaere has lost many friends to AIDS, and has been creating work to raise awareness and funds for addressing the epidemic.

“I didn't have money. I'm not a wealthy person,” Demeulenaere admits of his decision to get involved in the cause some 15 years ago.



Artist Carl Demeulenaere has been donating his work to ArtWorks for Life for 15 years, including his piece shown here, titled “The Masque.”

Messages about the AIDS epidemic at Dining by Design events have ranged from simple inclusion of red ribbons to, in one extreme case at a New York City dinner, a bound-and-gagged live person hanging over the table, representing the silence in which HIV-positive people are forced to live. It's all up to the artists.

“But I had already lost a couple of friends to AIDS and I wanted to become active using my artistic abilities.”

Along with a choice few others, Demeulenaere has donated his work to ArtWorks for Life for the entirety of the event. His work, though classically beautiful, often addresses the interplay of life and death – a topic inspired both by AIDS and his own personal losses.

“I started examining broader issues of life and death in my artwork and combining them with AIDS,” he explains. “So you oftentimes do see a skull in my work and usually a bright figure, alluding to a god-like or spirit-like force.”

At times both morbid and gorgeous, it's a juxtaposition common to Dining by Design events, says Bellar, a veteran organizer of the fundraising galas.

“We've had all different types of AIDS messaging built into installations,” Bellar shares. “You can almost always expect, in every market, that there will be several artists who embrace it – either directly, or sometimes it's so subtle that you could miss it if you weren't looking closely.”

Messages about the epidemic range from simple inclusion of red ribbons to, in one extreme case at a New York City dinner, a bound-and-gagged live person hanging over the table, representing the silence in which HIV-positive people are forced to live.

It's all up to the designers, Bellar maintains, which is what has given Dining by Design its longevity as a fundraiser.

“We've never guided, we've never had a theme. We've always let artists have free reign,” she elaborates. “It's like gay Pride parades, for example, where they ebb and they flow and there's years where it's very political and years where they do something lighter and festive. The design and the art community ... reinvent themselves every single year. That's what keeps

Cocktails by Design /ArtWorks

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\$100

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Dining by Design Gala Dinner

6 p.m.-midnight Aug. 14
\$250

All events held at the Benson and Edith Ford Conference Center, located on the campus of the College for Creative Studies at 460 W. Baltimore in Detroit. For more information visit www.michiganaidcoalition.org.

See Balance, page 7

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Our November deadline



Now that the primary election is over in Michigan, attention shifts to November's general election.

Much of this year has been consumed with speculation about how many seats the Democrats might lose in the upcoming midterm elections, and whether the party could lose control of one or both houses of Congress. However, right now the Democrats enjoy large majorities in Congress, and Barack Obama remains president for at least two more years (and hopefully more).

Since the political reality for progressive causes may be much different in January, it is imperative that Congress and the president work hard on several pieces of unfinished business before November. Though we should not concede the elections before they occur, it is also important that all of us in the LGBT community work hard to put pressure on our legislators now to do the right thing on the issues that affect us most directly.

Item number one on the "to-do" list for Congress is repeal of the military's discriminatory "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy. President Obama announced this as a priority earlier this year, and top military leaders said that they supported the president's decision to end discrimination based on sexual orientation in the military. However, the Department of Defense is moving very slowly in the process of ending the policy, by surveying current soldiers on the most effective way to integrate gay and lesbian soldiers into the military.

Already, the House of Representatives has voted to repeal DADT, as has a Senate committee. As a compromise, the congressional repeal would not go into effect until after the Department of Defense completes its review of the policy; full repeal of DADT would likely occur in early 2011. It is important for the Senate to vote on repeal of DADT, and for President Obama to sign it into law.

The second issue that Congress needs to act on is repeal of the Defense of Marriage Act. This law prevents the federal government from recognizing same-sex marriages or civil unions, and instructs the states that they do not have to recognize gay marriages performed in other states.

Five states – Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Iowa, Connecticut and Vermont – and the District of Columbia now authorize same-sex couples to marry. DOMA effectively violates the equal rights of couples in those places, and makes it more difficult for other states to consider granting equal marriage rights.

Already, a federal court in Massachusetts has banned enforcement of the law in that state. The Obama administration would be legally bound to defend the law in court if the court decision is appealed, as it likely will be. However, this would not be necessary if Congress would do its job and repeal the law altogether. President Obama

Though we should not concede the elections before they occur, it is also important that all of us in the LGBT community work hard to put pressure on our legislators now to do the right thing on the issues that affect us most directly.

has promised to sign legislation repealing DOMA; Congress needs to send a repeal bill to him quickly.

A third item that Congress should place high on its remaining 2010 agenda is passage of the LGBT-inclusive Employment Non-discrimination Act.

This legislation has lingered on Capitol Hill for too long, going back to the Clinton administration in the late 1990s. In 1998, President Bill Clinton issued an executive order banning discrimination based on sexual orientation in the federal government.

Currently, many private companies and some public institutions have employment policies that prohibit discrimination based on a person's sexual orientation or gender identity, but many more employ-

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Contact Sen. Stabenow: <http://stabenow.senate.gov/email.cfm>

HRC "Countdown" campaign on ENDA and "Don't Ask, Don't Tell":

<http://countdown2010.hrc.org/>

Servicemembers Legal Defense Network information on DADT repeal:

www.sldn.org/pages/about-dadt

ers do not. The proposed ENDA legislation would extend such protections more widely in the United States, though smaller employers (those with 15 employees or fewer) would not be bound by this law.

Critics contend that ENDA would infringe on the First Amendment rights of religious organizations that are opposed to LGBT equality. However, the law includes religious exemptions. There is simply no legitimate reason for Congress to delay any further in passing this important legislation; it's simply about equality.

Congress does not have many working days left in this election year. The overwhelming focus of most legislators this fall will be re-election to office. It is important that we put pressure on our federal legislators to act on their unfinished business now, before the elections. These issues concern basic fairness and decency, values that are too often neglected in Washington. The legislators we elected in 2008 have a duty to govern now, during their current term. Time is running short, and Congress needs to seize this unique opportunity to act while it can.

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.

EMU wins court case after counseling student refuses to help gay client

BY LUCY HOUGH

YPSILANTI – On Monday, July 26, a federal court ruled in favor of Eastern Michigan University after former graduate counseling student Julea Ward sued the school for dismissing her from the program because she refused to counsel a gay student and affirm his relationship. Ward's refusal, she told her supervisors, was due to her religious beliefs.

The school justified dismissing her by saying that they adhered to the Code of Ethics of the American Counseling Association which states that "a counselor's primary responsibility ... is to respect the dignity and to promote the welfare of clients" and that "counselors are aware of their own values, attitudes, beliefs and behaviors and avoid imposing values that are inconsistent with counseling goals. Counselors respect the diversity of clients."

"EMU could not confer a counseling degree on a student who said she would categorically refer all clients who sought counseling on topics with which she had contrary moral convictions. Having demonstrated that its policy is reasonably related to legitimate pedagogical concerns, the university did not violate (the) plaintiff's First Amendment free speech rights."

The former student said that the dismissal violated her First Amendment rights by expecting her to change her beliefs. She said that she would not refuse to counsel a gay client, but she would not affirm the students' "lifestyle" and so asked to have that client referred to another counselor. This provoked a series of review hearings requesting that Ward take a remediation course which would ultimately advise her on how to affirm homosexual relationships, but she refused. After a formal hearing, Ward was dismissed from the program.

Ward's counsel, the Alliance Defense Fund, has said that it will appeal the decision to a higher court. They are fighting not only that the university violated the First Amendment, but also that Ward was not allowed due process because of how the formal review was conducted, challenging her religious beliefs toward more than just homosexuality in terms of counseling.

According to EMU, the decision to dismiss her was based on the fact that she refused remediation which would not ask her to change her beliefs, but rather learn to set aside her personal values when helping a student who was looking for help.

Judge George Steeh determined in his 48-page decision that the university had not violated Ward's First or 14th Amendment rights by dismissing her because they were adhering to the ACA Code of Ethics as a part of their curriculum.

Steeh stated in his decision, "EMU could not confer a counseling degree on a student who said she would categorically refer all clients who sought counseling on topics with which she had contrary moral convictions. Having demonstrated that its policy is reasonably related to legitimate pedagogical concerns, the university did not violate (the) plaintiff's First Amendment free speech rights."

For updates on this story, visit www.pridesource.com.

Primary coverage

We go to press as voters in Michigan are deciding key races for Nov. 2, 2010. Please visit www.pridesource.com for analysis of who the winners are and what it all means for LGBT citizens.

► Balance

Continued from p. 6

this event so interesting."

And while some messaging is heavy-handed, other designers, says Bellar, choose to keep activism out, and focus instead on just creating a beautiful table for guests to enjoy.

Blossoms' Frank Lloyd Wright-inspired creation will go that route, although to Silk and his team, the use of flowers can convey so much more than beauty.

"(Flowers) totally express your emotion, whatever it might be, whether you're happy or sad," Silk says. "When you see a tragic event, what's the first thing you see? You see someone carrying a bouquet of flowers and putting it down. They may not even know the person, but they feel like they have to express their feelings somehow, and they do that with flowers."

In the case of Dining by Design, Silk's floral arrangements will express both the tragedy of AIDS and the hope brought on by new and better treatments; his own sadness over the loss of friends to the disease

and the optimism he feels about the future.

"It's always kind of an odd thing when you go to a charity party and you're there to enjoy yourself. You don't want to be overwhelmed by sad thoughts," he admits. "But I still hope that people would remember why they're there; remember what the underlying cause is and, in every aspect, don't lose perspective of what the end benefit is."

It's beauty, it's art, it's design – but it's also helping those in need, preventing new infections, and hopefully, finding a cure.

Holland Is Ready responds to anti-gay ad

Education, building community support key to combatting hate

BY JIM LARKIN

HOLLAND—A community group will not be directly responding to a full-page advertisement that it says contained blatant untruths about gay people, but it will be attempting to ease the pain caused by it.

The steering committee for Holland Is Ready, a community group formed to make the area more inclusive of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people, decided July 28 that it will offer an apology to local LGBT residents for the ad sponsored by the Family Research Council and Request Foods.

The July 23 ad published by the Holland Sentinel stated, among other things, that homosexuality is a choice and homosexuals can be changed into heterosexuals “sometimes spontaneously.” It added that gay people experience higher levels of mental illness than heterosexuals and are not seriously disadvantaged by discrimination.

“Our hearts break when we see statements like that, knowing the pain they cause,” said Jennifer Adams, a steering committee member of Holland Is Ready. “(We are) working on a collective apologetic response from various social justice groups in the area.”

But the majority of the group’s efforts will continue to be focused on education, community action and support for an initiative that would make discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity illegal in the city of Holland.

That initiative has been referred to the city’s Human Relations Commission and it is expected to make a recommendation to the Holland City Council, said Bill Freeman, chaplain of Interfaith

Congregation, who made the initial request for such an anti-discrimination ordinance.

“We will continue doing our work and allow community voices to speak out on the issue,” Adams said.

Those voices have been overwhelmingly critical of the ad. Several lead letters to the editor in the Sentinel have countered the claims made by the Family Research Council, and two of them received more comments than all letters except one. Responses to the those letters were predominantly supportive.

One letter, written by Dr. Dwight McBride, a dean at the University of Illinois at Chicago and Saugatuck resident, drew 68 comments, 50 of which were supportive of his letter.

“Despite what FRC and Request Foods would have us believe, none of this is about behaviors, sexual or otherwise. It is about being free to love and to fall in love without fear that whom I love will cause my civil rights ...to be denied me,” McBride wrote.

“This is not about gay and straight, the political right or left, or even whether you ‘believe in homosexuality.’ It is about my right to live my life with the fullest access to the same life, liberty and pursuit of happiness that my fellow citizens enjoy. No more. No less. Just equal.”

Not all of the readers responding to the letter on the Sentinel’s website liked what McBride had to say.

“I’m sick and tired of homosexuality given equal basis with race, religion and national origin... If this ordinance is passed, then the City of Holland will bind themselves into permitting the Rainbow Coalition to have representation during Tulip Time. A Gay Rights float, but no Right to

Life float. Perfect,” wrote sheriff.

“I’m tired of this gay debate,” added Bjorn-Johnson. “I never thought I’d actually be wishing for more articles about windmills.”

But the big majority supported McBride.

“The FRC and its members and backers are the belly of Holland which crawls through the mud while waving the American and Christian flag. That is supposed to make them superior in cause, patriotism and statute while all others are

lesser mortals,” wrote MorninJoe.

“So sad someone feels they have a ‘right’ to discriminate based on their personal fears and lack of understanding the human condition,” added djds.

“Listening to a bunch of straight people tell gay people they’re not oppressed is insulting to both groups,” wrote sweedgirl.

And one said what is happening in Holland provides hope elsewhere.

Request update

Request Foods, upon learning of the anti-gay advertisement in the Holland Sentinel that had the company’s name printed as a sponsor and was purportedly paid for by the Holland, Mich.-based food packaging company, issued a statement disassociating itself from the full-page paid advertisement.

Here’s what the statement said:

“On July 23, a paid advertisement appeared in the Holland Sentinel addressing the issue of homosexuality as a civil right. The ad inaccurately stated that it was sponsored by Request Foods. Request is a privately held company with multiple investors. The ad was paid for by one of these investors without our management team’s knowledge or permission. The opinions expressed in the ad do not reflect Request Foods’ views and the ad should not have included our company name.

Request Foods is a leading co-packer of frozen prepared entrees, side dishes and specialty items. For over 20 years, our company has been comprised of people from various races, nationalities and backgrounds. Integrity, respect and teamwork are core values of our company. As a good corporate citizen, we also strive to be honest, fair, courteous and professional in all that we do.”



State Supreme Court could make progressive shift

With two seats up, voters could turn conservative court in liberal direction

BY LUCY HOUGH

Much more is at stake this upcoming election in Michigan than just who is to become governor. Though often a race that flies under the radar, two seats in the Michigan Supreme Court are up for re-election—and what comes of these seats will determine the political climate of the court for years to come.

Right now, the Michigan Supreme Court is considered conservative with a 4-3 majority, and this November’s election will provide an opportunity to change that.

Justices Robert Young and Elizabeth Weaver, both up for reelection, are considered more conservative. Though this election is considered non-partisan, nominees are put on the ballot typically by nomination from a political party, during conventions that won’t be held this year until August 28. According to Jay Kaplan, LGBT Project staff attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan, the two are likely to be nominated at the Republican convention.

The Democratic nominees, which will provide an alternative choice for voters, will not be known until that party’s convention on the same day in August.

But any option will make it possible for a majority shift—which could be especially beneficial to the LGBT community, which has seen friction from the conservative-leaning court since 1999. This majority contributed specifically in May 2008 when the state Supreme Court ruled that Proposal 2, which said that marriage in Michigan was only between a man and a woman, included domestic partner benefits, making it illegal for public institutions such as schools and government offices to grant basic benefits to same-sex partners.

Kaplan said he hopes that people will educate themselves on the candidates and the overall race, especially once more information as known as to the candidates, so that more people will vote for this often overlooked election. “People need to understand how this impacts their lives, and

“If the configuration of the Michigan Supreme Court changes to more progressive justices, then we have a shot at the courts. Right now, we have hit a brick wall.”

— ACLU of Michigan LGBT Project Staff Attorney Jay Kaplan

they have to educate themselves,” Kaplan said.

The justices elected will sit on the court for eight-year terms, so Kaplan warns that this election is especially important because it will set the tone for LGBT decisions in the future.

“If that configuration changes to more progressive justices, then we have a shot at the

courts,” Kaplan said. “Right now, we have hit a brick wall.”

Progressive change, however, isn’t completely new to the court. In 2008, Judge Diane Hathaway won in an election against former Chief Justice Cliff Taylor. What was often assumed a guaranteed reelection for Taylor ended up being a huge upset for conservatives when Hathaway won the seat and the conservative majority became a little smaller.

For the LGBT community, this upcoming election is a clear opportunity to continue the progressive change that was started with Hathaway’s election.

Kaplan imagines that if the majority does shift, the LGBT community will see more claims being brought before the court and hopefully some former decisions being overturned. The only way this is possible, he said, is if people act and elect a more progressive court.

“It would be a shame, with this opportunity,” he said, “if we ended up with the same court.”

Dangerous Art

Exhibit aims to reveal societal truths – including ones on same-sex parenting

BY JESSICA CARRERAS

At first glance, Thomas McMillen-Oakley's photographs won't yield much response: They're photos of kids, sometimes with adults, sometimes playing outdoors with each other. Big deal. But a closer look at the Jackson-based artist's work – namely, a purposely blurred piece that shows him reading to his two kids – might startle you. The book isn't "The Berenstain Bears Visit the Dentist." It's a collection of works by notorious gay erotica photographer Robert Mapplethorpe.

Don't sic the American Family Association on McMillen-Oakley and his partner just yet: He never actually showed their adopted daughter and son those photos. But it sure is fun to make social conservatives think that he has, hence the idea behind the artist's photography collection, "The Dangerous Lives of Children," showing as part of the "Social Realism 2010" exhibition Aug. 7-Sept. 18 at Plymouth's Art & Ideas Gallery.

"There's so much fear propagated by the conservatives and by the religious right that gays shouldn't adopt because we're going to warp the kids somehow," McMillen-Oakley says of his work. "But yet, if you come to our house and sit down and have dinner with us, we are the most normal family in the world. (These photos are) playing with that idea and really giving the religious right something to think about.

"I'm feeding into their fears."

It's bold subject matter for the father of two and professor of studio art at Jackson Community College. He lives and teaches in a relatively conservative part of Michigan, but insists that the local community's reaction to his family and his work is nothing but supportive.

"There are very vocal anti-gay people (in



Story time: Mr. Mapplethorpe's Neighborhood, a photograph from Thomas McMillen-Oakley's collection, "The Dangerous Lives on Children."

Jackson) who show up whenever the civil rights ordinance tries to get passed," McMillen-Oakley admits. "But we've had a very accepting experience here with the adoption. The fears of 'Is this town too conservative for this?' are, to me, unfounded. We've never been questioned; we've never been harassed."

Likewise, he finds that art galleries are supportive of his work. McMillen-Oakley has exhibited at The Gallery Project in Ann Arbor, and Art & Ideas Director Mike Tolinski was

equally thrilled to include the artist's work.

The Plymouth-based gallery is less than a year old, but McMillen-Oakley praises them for their already stellar commitment to diversity. "I don't want to be 'the gay artist,' because that smacks of tokenism, but I'm glad that they're letting other voices be heard," he says. "They're open to a diverse roster of artists, and I like that."

And equally committed to challenging gallery-goers with their "Social Realism" exhibition, which includes two artists in addition to

McMillen-Oakley, Julia DeClerck of Metamora and Shaq Kalaj of Livonia. Kalaj, the gallery's artist-in-residence and curator of the show, sought photographers whose work aimed to expose compelling social truths. "But in our case," she adds, "we were also looking for humor and irony depicted about our current situation in the U.S. and southeast Michigan."

McMillen-Oakley fit the bill perfectly with a collection of photos that focus on children as subjects, with all adults either absent from view, or blurred out. It's a commentary both on what's "normal" in family life, and the lack of biological parents that many children face – including his son.

"Our son was taken away from his parents because of abuse and ... we adopted him from foster care. So for Eli, the adults that brought him into the world are indeed absent," McMillen-Oakley shares. "He looks at us as the parents now. We're Daddy and Papa, and that's what he knows."

But through both his photographic work and his parenting, he tries to show that all types of parents can help nurture a child. "I think that's one of the big reasons that kids do get in trouble sometimes and why life can be dangerous is because they don't have an adult to help them make wise decisions," he explains. "They don't have an adult to be their Jiminy Cricket and say, 'Maybe you should think twice about doing that.'"

The message of McMillen-Oakley's work often has serious undertones. On the surface, however, it's all about showing kids having fun – another value he tries to teach his own children. "One of the things I want to instill in my kids is a sense of play and a sense of wonder, and I think a lot of these pictures reflect that," he says. "When kids are being creative and when they're letting their guards down, that's when the fun happens."

Social Realism 2010

Opening reception 6-10 p.m. Aug. 7

Runs Aug. 7-Sept. 18

www.artandideasgallery.com

Setting high GOALS

New organization provides community for LGBT law enforcement professionals

BY LUCY HOUGH

A slew of LGBT and allied public safety and law enforcement officials have recently launched Michigan Gay Officers Action League. The first of its kind in the state, MI-GOAL is a chapter of the larger national organization Law Enforcement Gays and Lesbians International.

Cole Bouck, president of MI-GOAL and employee of the Michigan Department of Corrections Executive Bureau, said that a resource

for LGBT people in this profession is especially important because oftentimes, law enforcement officials feel the need to hide their sexual orientation, or else encounter problems because of it.

"First and foremost, (the organization's importance) is just the ability to connect with other lesbian, gay and transgender people," Bouck said. "The idea that we have people ... who go in every day and lie about a little piece of their life, that they are LGBT, and yet they are asked to follow the laws of their state. For them to have to lie and hide is not just unfair, it's wrong."

Those who wish to be a part of the group can join anonymously if they feel they more comfortable doing so, and anonymity is guaranteed by the group. People can also become active members if they are someone who is paid or volunteer, full or part-time and are public safety or criminal justice professionals.

One of the organization's first obstacles will be gaining the respect and recognition of the law enforcement community, especially because they are representing a demographic that is not usually

seen in this particular profession. Bouck said that they have already received some hesitation from a group they tried working with, but he believes that such acknowledgment will come with time.

"I think any new organization struggles at the beginning to get themselves recognized and find their place at the table. We're going to have that just because we're new, and we know that," Bouck said. "I think that LGBT organizations within certain professional circles struggle a bit more because it's likely for LGBT people to be minimized; sometimes there's a demasculinizing thing about it, sometimes you're not taken seriously."

Bouck, who received the Triangle Foundation's Catalyst Award in 2008 and has spearheaded many positive changes for LGBT prisoners and MDOC employees, personally hasn't had a problem with being out in his history as a corrections officer. But he knows that isn't always the case, and hopes MI-GOAL will provide a community for people who are either afraid to come out or have had some resistance in the past.

"It has been good for me, but I know people within my department who are gay or lesbian and are afraid. I can't tell anyone that it's going to be OK because you don't know it will be," Bouck said. "I wish 19 years ago (that) there was at least some place that I could have contacted that would have made me feel like I'm not alone."

Bouck first learned of organizations such as this 10 years ago in an online search. He attended the national convention in 2000 and was the only person to represent Michigan. In years since, he has seen more and more people from Michigan attend; this year, 18 Michiganders were present at the conference. MI-GOAL's hope is to eventually hold the national conference in Michigan, but Bouck admitted that's a long way off.

In the meantime, he hopes that MI-GOAL will be recognized not only as an LGBT organization, but also as a professional law enforcement and public safety group.

"It's crossing that barrier to just get recognized as not just an LGBT organization, but one that represents a collection of professions whose sexual identity is just a part of who they are. We are seen as successful, skilled and professional individual who happen to be LGBT."



BTL EDITORIAL

Holland fights hate

The gay community is used to being bombarded by negativity by anti-gay organizations and individuals. From Westboro Baptist Church to the American Family Association, we see protestors at Pride events, signage at concerts and sometimes, even advertisements in local media outlets.

But within the past week, we have seen a community's response to one such form of hate that has shown us that, even in cities and towns we wouldn't normally refer to as "pro-gay," support is there. Sometimes, it just takes a little prodding to help it come out.

On July 23, a full-page paid advertisement appeared in the *Holland Sentinel*, courtesy of the Family Research Council. Titled "Is Homosexuality A Civil Rights Issue?" the advertisement addressed so-called "gay myths," spreading atrocious lies about our lives and our community in an attempt to persuade readers to prohibit the anti-discrimination ordinance currently before the Holland City Council.

Thankfully, due to many interlocking factors, the advertisement failed. Miserably.

The first "thank you" goes to the group Holland Is Ready, a gay activism organization started this year to promote equality in the area. From Dustin Lance Black's not-so-warm welcome to Hope College to the current battle for the ordinance, Holland Is Ready is on the fast-track to making Holland, Mich., a more LGBT-friendly place.

Likewise, they jumped on the FRC ad, encouraging readers to respond to the paper, gathering reactions from pro-gay city leaders and reaching out to all corners of Michigan for support.

Their work paid off, and so our second "thank you" goes, surprisingly, to the citizens of Holland, who showed their overwhelming disapproval of both the message in the ad and the *Holland Sentinel's* choice to accept money and run it.

"The ad was hate mongering propaganda through and through. Derisive accusations were

All in all, it seems that the Family Research Council's attempt at spreading hate in Holland has done more good for gay rights than harm.

made toward members of our own community," wrote Eric T. Voigt. "Paid advertising is fine. This was paid discrimination."

"The ... advertisement represents to me blatant evidence that discrimination against the LGBT community exists in Holland," added Audrienne Hill. "While no one was physically attacked with the ad, it cannot be denied the ad was an emotional attack."

The letters of support for the LGBT community were wonderful to see. But, as icing on the cake, this week the Holland-based food packaging company Request Foods, which was listed as providing financial support for the advertisement, denounced the ad and insisted that it was a private investor – not the company – that helped pay for it. "The opinions expressed in the ad do not reflect Request Foods' views and the ad should not have included our company name," the company wrote in statement on their website.

All in all, it seems that FRC's attempt at spreading hate has done more good for gay rights than harm. It has sparked important discussions in a city desperately in need of change. It has galvanized a community to show their support when otherwise, they might sit idly by. And it has shown the Holland City Council that yes, discrimination toward LGBT people does exist in their quaint little West Michigan town.

So I suppose our last "thank you" goes to FRC for being the catalyst Holland needed to fight LGBT discrimination. Now let's pass that ordinance.

VIEWPOINT

Gays using anti-gay law



Parents denying rights to their same-sex ex-partners hurts our quest for equality

BY JAY KAPLAN

You may have seen the recent media reports that singer Melissa Ethridge and her partner of five years, Tammy Lynn, are splitting up. The California couple had two children together. California law recognizes same-sex couples and allows for dissolution of a partnership through the courts, where disputes over property, child custody and visitation are resolved.

Conversely, Michigan law unfortunately does not recognize same-sex relationships and the doors to the courts in Michigan remain closed to gay couples when their relationships end.

It's discouraging and disheartening that Michigan courts apparently only view parent-child relationships in the tidy world of traditional heterosexual nuclear families, when in fact there are so many children who do not live in that world and are being raised in non-traditional families. Our state legislature has yet to summon the courage or insight to amend Michigan law to acknowledge this reality. In the meantime, the courts and our elected lawmakers fail our children when they put "tradition" ahead of the best interest of child.

But there is an equally disheartening element in response to this prejudice at law: When same sex couples experiencing a contentious break-up use these barriers in the law to deny an established parent-child relationship.

Harmon v. Davis is one such case. It involves a lesbian couple in Wayne County who lived together for 19 years and had three children before breaking up in 2008. After the breakup, Davis, the birth mother, refused to let Harmon see their children. Harmon filed suit in Wayne County Circuit Court requesting parenting time. But Davis had other ideas and responded by denying that any parent-child relationship had existed between Harmon and the children and requesting that Harmon's suit be dismissed due to lack of legal standing.

In an enlightened decision, Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Kathleen McCarthy refused to dismiss the case. However, the victory was short-lived.

The decision was reversed by the Michigan Court of Appeals, dismissing Harmon's case because she does not and cannot qualify as a parent under Michigan law. According to the Court of Appeals, only a birth parent or an adoptive parent, a legal guardian, or a legal relative can seek child custody or visitation and the court has no equitable power to entertain an action by anybody else, regardless of their actual relationship with the children.

Davis v. Harmon unfortunately is not the only example of parents behaving badly.

The ACLU of Michigan is currently in-

olved in a case representing the non-biological mother in a parenting time dispute. The couple had a child during their relationship and jointly adopted through a process called "second-parent adoption," giving each partner legal standing as a parent. After the couple broke up, they entered

The laws that many of these parents have used against their former partners are the very laws that as a community we have fought against for years.

into an agreement regarding custody and parenting time, but the biological mother eventually refused to honor the agreement.

Five years after the second-parent adoption was granted, the biological mother asked the court to void the adoption, which would effectively strip her former partner of all legal rights as parent to their daughter. In her case, the biological mother maintained that Michigan law does not permit gay couples to jointly adopt because they are not married, so the adoption should have never been granted.

The ramifications of this case go far beyond a messy breakup – should this adoption be voided, other second parent adoptions involving gay parents are at risk of being invalidated.

The laws that many of these parents have used against their former partners are the very laws that as a community we have fought against for years. Other states have recognized the second non-legal parent to have legal standing, but the Michigan Supreme Court has limited the concept of de facto parenthood to legal marriages.

Furthermore, many Michigan judges mistakenly believe that our adoption law limits joint adoptions to only legally married couples, making it difficult, if not impossible, for a child of same-sex partners to have the legal protection of both parents. Since Michigan voters passed Proposition 2 of 2004 to amend our state constitution to prohibit same sex couples from marrying or, as interpreted by the Michigan Supreme Court, prohibiting civil unions, domestic partnerships and the recognition of same-sex relationships by the state and local governments, gay parents are left out of the mix.

Granted, break-ups between same-sex couples can be just as messy as between heterosexual couples. However, when heterosexual parents have a child custody dispute regarding parental fitness, they turn to the courts, where a

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PRIDESOURCE
dot com

S/he said

Dancing, Anne Rice and the 'gAyTM'

COMPILED BY HOWARD ISRAEL

"\$300 million can do incredible damage to not only the Democratic Party, but to the LGBT community. The Republican Party remains viscerally opposed to equal rights for LGBTs. If you think sitting on your wallet is helpful to our community, you are simply wrong. I realize not every Democrat is perfect and some are downright wrong on our issues. This is why I urge the DNC to create an LGBT fund. Allow us to contribute to the DNC while knowing our money won't support candidates who do not support us. In the mean time, it is not time to hold back. We are too close to our goals to allow the conservatives to take over."

- Joe Mirabella, in his column titled "Don't Close the 'gAyTM,'" about calls from LGBT activists to discontinue contributions to the Democratic Party until we see a return on our investment, www.huffingtonpost.com, July 9.

"I want an LGBT movement that is visionary, bold and unafraid of difference. I want an LGBT movement that represents the full breadth and depth of our communities without hesitation or compromise. I want an LGBT movement that is ready to move into the 21st century with the kind of leadership and risk taking necessary to ensure that we move beyond a narrow single-issue agenda. Simply put, our mutual survival depends upon it."

- Lisa Weiner-Mahfuz, in her column titled "21st Century Leadership: Queers and Interdependence," www.bilerico.com, July 18.

"No, there is no such thing as an 'ex-gay.' There are plenty of miserable gay people simulating heterosexual lifestyles, however."

- Comment posted by Buffy, in response to a posted article titled "Is there such a thing as an ex-gay?," www.truthwinsout.org, July 22.



Anne Rice

"Today I quit being a Christian. I'm out. ... It's simply impossible for me to 'belong' to this quarrelsome, hostile, disputatious and deservedly infamous group. For 10 years, I've tried. I've failed. I'm an outsider. My conscience will allow nothing else."

- Anne Rice, as quoted in a column titled "Why Anne Rice Has Never Been More of a Christian," about the author's Facebook announcement that she is quitting Christianity because of its anti-gay, anti-feminism and anti-secular humanism positions, www.huffingtonpost.com, July 30.



"We agree watching same-sex ballroom can take some processing. The first 10 minutes is strange, but after that, you just watch the dancing. In all ballroom dance, there is undeniable sexual tension, even among platonic pairs. On the dance floor, it's like making love."

- Ballroom dance partners Steve Valentine and Robert Tristan in an article titled "Let's Get Ready to Rumba!," about their training for the same-sex ballroom dancing competition at the 2010 Gay Games, which kicked off July 31, latimes.com, July 25.

"The Department of Defense just paid the research firm Westat the outrageous sum of \$4.4 million to design and administer an email-based survey about the repeal of the 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' law. ... The survey, which went out to 400,000 service members, turned out to be laced with bias, inaccuracies, and derogatory assumptions and insinuations about gay and lesbian Americans. Demand that Westat and the Pentagon repay the American taxpayer for this outrageous waste of \$4.4 million!"

- An online petition posted by Servicemembers United, an advocacy organization dedicated to repealing Don't Ask Don't Tell, <http://surveyrefund.org/?cat=1>, July 12. As of July 28, only about 10 percent of the surveys had been returned, with an Aug. 15 deadline.

► Gays

Continued from p. 10

determination is made based on the best interests of the child.

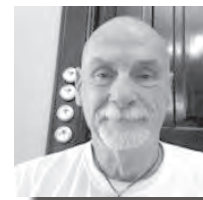
Under Michigan child custody law, it is a rebuttable presumption that it is in the best interests of a child to have continued contact with both parents after a divorce. But because current Michigan law treats non-biological gay parents as strangers to their children, the biological parent can

effectively unilaterally decide to end the others relationship with the child.

It is truly distressing to see members of the LGBT community use inadequacies in Michigan family law to harm one another. The commitment made by partners in a same-sex relationship includes the responsibility to parent their children, and that responsibility doesn't end just because the relationship ends. If we are to change the hearts and minds of our fellow Michi-

gan citizens regarding our fundamental right to marry and raise our families with dignity, then we cannot use the courts for personal retaliation. Michigan law fails our families and our children, but that's no excuse for gay people to do the same.

Jay Kaplan is the lead attorney for the ACLU of Michigan's LGBT Project. To contact Jay, e-mail kaplan@aclumich.org. To learn more about ACLU's mission and current battles,



Parting Glances Then & Now

BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

Round peg, square whole

A major evangelical outreach – Send Our Denominations Out Ministering (S.O.D.O.M.) – is “thrilled with the unprecedented success” of its buddy-buddy approach to changing “Satanically bent” gays into God’s straight shooters.

The Summer 2010 Issue of “Gay-No-Morah!” editorially boasts, “Our mission to confused, sexually addicted, unsaved, morally obtuse, degenerate, line-dance-crazed, party 24/7, homospecials is paying big dividends spiritually (and financially), as indicated by our July Done & Broadstreet, CPA-verified listing of ex-gay cures.

“SODOM applauds (hallelujah!) – thanks to generous donations from British & American Airways Luggage Carriers for Jesus, Ass’n. – the 5,600 former homospecial abominables who abandoned a disgraceful lifestyle choice, got down on their calloused knees before God, and obeyed His divinely mandated, original “be fruitful and multiply” command of hardline genital dissemination.

“We SODOM reparative therapists, ministers (and certainly our choir directors – too long disabused by rumors of – might one say on the midweek testimonial QT – a musicality contrary nature), welcome into the born-again fold these lavender sheep ready for a long-overdue shearing, tho’ Mosaic Law neutering is what they deserve.

“It’s time for America to realize, sexually – economically – biblically speaking: You can’t put a square peg in a round hole. Conversely, a round peg in a square hole. Holy Holistics! To use a vulgar expression homospecials understand, it sucks.

“As homospecials are in so many ways responsible for America’s ongoing economic depression – and, one might add, BP oil spill, Afghanistan War, 3-D Shrek movies, Lady Gaga and Betty White – our present fiscal year gay cure rate is smashing.

“Watch for Dow Jones to get it on! Googol to kick some sarsaparilla, Sarah Palin to replace Larry King. (Or, Whoopi Goldberg.) America’s on the mend, one homospecial at a time.”

Truth of the matter, gentle PG reader, is SODOM’s buddy-buddy system is “drop-dead, right-on working.” Statistics don’t lie. Liberals may fudge; but fundygeicals (one hand on a Scofield Bible) are Second-Class Scout Honor bound to be truthful. (Ask AG Cox.) Here’s statistics from SODOM’s website: www.Godmatesgays.com.

“As of 2009, there are an estimated 250,025 homospecials. (150,025, in San Francisco; 60,000, in New York City; 35,000, in St. Lake City, and – shocking to admit – 5,000, in typical, suburban Ferndale, Mich.). The 5,600 buddy-buddy cures is a big whopper of 40 to 50 percent (depending on which understaffed media we report findings to.)”

SODOM-endorsed buddy-buddy RT is scripturally sanctioned. It has biblical precedence. The first disciples were admonished to get off “two by two,” dusting sandaled feet in any town not welcoming them. (Mormon missionaries spin bike tires. Or flash their sacred undergarments.)

However, the SODOM system is – contrary to blowing its own evangelical horn – not something brand new. Nor is it the result of quote-unquote “divine inspiration.” Rather, it’s frequently an important part of 12-step programs.

In a nutshell: Those experienced 12-steppers become buddies to those inexperienced. These longevity “tops” – called sponsors – pair off with those ranking as “bottoms” (figuratively speaking). It seems to work. One step at a time.

Take Dieters Anonymous (popularity second to SODOM’s program). Once a bond is established between reasonably thin sponsor and heavyweight newbie, the former may recommend direct-action strategy – like tying the 350-pounder’s hands behind his back ‘til hunger pangs subside. (A week usually does the trick.)

In gay-centered SODOM programs, the “top” (again, term of convenience) keeps the “bottom” (ditto!) in line; but, in fairness to other 12-step traditions, the adjustment period’s longer. Ex-gay pairs live together “as helpmates” for months on end as they adjust to a jointly-shared – but religiously acceptable – new sexual personas. True missionary positioning.

“Buddy helping buddy to overcome.” In 36 months average they’ll be ready for the real thing. Pegging that fits. One lay, er, day at a time. (Ah-men!)

Charles@pridesource.com. Facebook, too.

Gary McCullough

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

Ellen DeGeneres has got to be so pissed at Gary McCullough right now. Everything was going so well for her on "American Idol" and he had to go ruin everything by blabbing to the world that she's a homo. I mean, yes, everyone already knew she was a homo but had kind of forgotten over the years because she's so harmless and lovable. You know, like Elton John.



Gary McCullough

But McCullough, director of Christian Communication Network, didn't forget. And when God got the news via His Christian Newswire iPhone app, He got up in Fox's face and was all, "Hey, 'American Idol' is a family program through which I transmit my message of hating gay people. The lesbo has got to go."

And then he was all, "Thanks, Gary. I totally follow you on Twitter. LOL."

And my, oh my is McCullough pleased with himself, now that DeGeneres has left the show. "When it comes to the business relationship between 'American Idol' and Ellen DeGeneres, to the chagrin of Pansy Hilton and a multitude of homo-fascist bloggers, I am on an I-told-you-so roll," he wrote in a July 30 opinion piece.

He then declares 'American Idol' dead and says it was all Ellen's fault for being a lesbian. Christians don't want to watch homos on TV, he says, because it burns their eyes and makes Jesus cry.

"There is a moral to the story of this DeGeneres-'Idol' saga. There is a limit to what Christian viewers will tolerate, and I am using 'Christian' in the broadest of definitions," McCullough writes. "The revenue-generating ability of television programming that promotes homosexuality has its limits."

The revenue-generating ability of television programming that promotes Christianity also has its limits, which is why so much of it is on public access. But I digress.

"The encouragement I take from the firing of DeGeneres (she actually resigned, but that doesn't matter to McCullough) is that someone in Hollywood understands what I have been saying; that the promotion of homosexuality and the production of family entertainment do not mix."

It's strange to me that simply having Ellen on the show was, to McCullough, promoting homosexuality. Perhaps if the other judges had pelted her with stones and called her a bull dyke then McCullough would have had no problem with her tenure there.

It's true that ratings have slipped this season. While still insanely popular, 'American Idol' isn't quite as popular as it was. I hate to burst McCullough's bubble, but I think there might be some factors he's not considering here.

First off, I don't watch 'American Idol,' but from everything I've gathered, it seems like Ellen was a pretty terrible judge. For whatever reason she wasn't very funny, nor was she very judgy. Now, I'm not a TV executive, but I reckon that this would pose a problem for someone who's been hired as the "funny judge" to replace Paula Abdul. Ellen even noted when she left, "It was hard for me to judge people and sometimes hurt their feelings."

Nor does McCullough take into account the fact that Ellen's arrival coincided with the departure of Simon "I'm A Jerk To Everybody Yet This Is How I Wear My Hair On National TV" Cowell. I mean, let's face it: Part of the appeal of the 'Idol' was seeing Cowell make people cry.

Last but not least, 'American Idol' is kind of a shitty show. Maybe, just maybe, people are finally opening their eyes – and ears – and realizing that there are better ways to spend their time than watching marginally talented people do karaoke. Not to mention the fact that constant change of the judging guard is super disruptive. Even for people who love the show and never miss an episode, it's not really the same show. Swift change isn't exactly America's strong point.

And when it comes to gays on TV, it's not McCullough's either.

California gay discrimination suit yields \$600,000 settlement

Man kept from partner in hospital; denied ownership of property

GUERNEVILLE, Calif. – Sonoma County has agreed to pay \$600,000 to settle a lawsuit by an elderly gay man who said social workers kept him from seeing his dying partner in the hospital.

Clay Greene, 78, of Guerneville, Calif., filed a lawsuit earlier this year, claiming the county's Public Guardian program discriminated against him because he's gay.

Greene accused social workers of denying him hospital visitation rights to see his partner, Harold Scull, despite signed wills, medical declarations and powers of attorney naming each other as spouses. The couple was not married nor registered as domestic partners.

The lawsuit also alleged that after Scull's death, social workers forced Greene into a nursing home and sold the couple's property, including art and heirlooms.

The county's lawyer, Gregory Spaulding, denied the discrimination claims but admitted mistakes in selling the couple's property.

Greene was kept away from Scull because of previous domestic violence allegations, according to the county. According to a sheriff's report, Scull went to authorities with a black eye and said Greene threatened to kill him, though Scull was later unwilling to lodge a formal complaint.

"The county remains confident in its position that there was no discrimination in this case," Spaulding said, noting that the plaintiff removed the discrimination allegations from the lawsuit three weeks ago.

Under the law, officials can sell prop-



Clay Greene, 78, of Guerneville, Calif., filed a lawsuit earlier this year, claiming the county's Public Guardian program discriminated against him because he's gay. Greene accused social workers of denying him hospital visitation rights to see his late partner, Harold Scull.

erty worth \$5,000 or less to cover medical expenses, but the couple's property sale brought in more than \$25,000 at auction, Spaulding said. Errors in that case have led to revised policies at the Public Guardian's office, he said.

Spaulding said the county settled the case July 22 to avoid further expense.

"It just made economic sense to stop the bleeding," Spaulding said. "To end the case and avoid all expenses and costs."

"This settlement will allow Mr. Greene to finally have the quiet retirement he deserves," said Anne N. Dennis, one of Greene's attorneys. "Although nothing can undo the harm to these gentlemen, we believe the changes made because of the lawsuit will improve services to elders and

The lawsuit also alleged that after Scull's death, social workers forced Greene into a nursing home and sold the couple's property, including art and heirlooms.

other individuals who need the assistance of the Sonoma County Public Guardian's Office."

Plaintiff Jannette Biggerstaff, the executor of Scull's estate and a longtime friend of the couple, added: "There is no possible justification for what happened to my friends Harold and Clay, and I still feel outraged and heartbroken that they suffered such a terrible tragedy, which was made worse by the county spreading such terrible lies about Clay," she said. "But I am pleased that their rights have been vindicated, and I'm hopeful that their story will help to prevent this from happening to other vulnerable people."

The National Center for Lesbian Rights heralded the decision, but echoed sentiments that money was no suitable replacement for keeping Greene and Scull apart.

"What Clay and Harold lost can never be replaced, but this settlement brings a measure of justice to their story," said NCLR Senior Staff Attorney Amy Todd-Gher. "This victory sends an unmistakable message that all elders must be treated with respect and dignity, regardless of their sexual orientation, and that those who mistreat elders must be held accountable."

HRC Calls on Ball Memorial Hospital to adopt LGBT Inclusive Patient's Bill of Rights

WASHINGTON - The Human Rights Campaign - the nation's largest lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender civil rights organization - today called Ball Memorial Hospital in Muncie, Ind., to immediately adopt an LGBT inclusive patient nondiscrimination policy and train all hospital staff on compliance in the wake of a recent incident experienced by a transgender woman who faced degrading treatment at the hospital.

On July 18, Erin Vaught, a transgender woman, went to the emergency room at Ball Memorial, accompanied by her wife and their son. She was seeking treatment for what she suspected was a lung infection. According to an account of the incident published in the Muncie Star

Press, Vaught faced degrading treatment at the hands of numerous hospital staff. At one point, Vaught's wife was asked by a nurse, "So is it a he or a she? Or a he-she?" In the end, after a two-hour wait without any medical treatment, Vaught was told "we don't know how to go about treating someone with your condition," referring to her gender history.

"No one should be forced to pick and choose which hospital to go to for safe and respectful treatment," said Human Rights Campaign President Joe Solmonese. "The incident at Ball Memorial Hospital is a sad reminder of discrimination and hostility faced by LGBT patients in hospitals across the country. Transgender patients often face the worst of these discrimina-

tory actions."

This incident occurs in the same year that both the Federal government and the nation's largest healthcare accrediting organization have taken strong positions on nondiscrimination policies for LGBT patients. In June 2010, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) published draft rules that will require all hospitals that receive federal Medicare and Medicaid funding – nearly every hospital in America – to protect the visitation and healthcare decision-making rights of LGBT people. In January 2010, the Joint Commission, which accredits and certifies healthcare facilities, announced new, fully inclusive patient non-discrimination standards as part of their accreditation process.

Target Corp. defends GOP political donation

Gay groups call for boycott of chain, case shines light on corporate donations

BY MARTIGA LOHN

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP)— Target Corp. on July 27 defended the use of its new freedom to spend money on political campaigns as employees and gay organizations criticized a \$150,000 donation that will help a Minnesota GOP gubernatorial candidate who opposes gay marriage.

Chief Executive Officer Gregg Steinhafel assured employees at the company's Minneapolis headquarters in an e-mail that the discount retailer's support of the gay community is "unwavering." He said employees, some gay, raised concerns that the money is helping state Rep. Tom Emmer, a fiery conservative who is his party's likely nominee for governor.

Target's headache illustrates the potential risks for businesses that seek to take advantage of a recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling that threw out parts of a 63-year-old law that prohibited campaign donations from company funds. The ruling changed regulations in about half the states, but the Target donation in Minnesota is among the first major new corporate moves to come to light.

Target's money went to MN Forward, a group staffed by former insiders from outgoing Republican Gov. Tim Pawlenty's administration. MN Forward is running TV ads supporting Emmer. Steinhafel's e-mail said Target's political donations are intended to support business objectives such as job creation and economic growth.

He said the company doesn't have a social agenda or necessarily agree with all the positions

of candidates it supports. "Let me be very clear," he said, "Target's support of the GLBT community is unwavering, and inclusiveness remains a core value of our company."

Monica Meyer, the interim head of the gay rights group OutFront Minnesota, said the gay community has long viewed Target as a supportive employer, and many are surprised by the large donation to the pro-Emmer group.

"A lot of people feel betrayed by this place where everybody goes to shop and you get to see them at Pride and you feel good that you're supporting a corporation that's giving back to the community," she said.

As of last Tuesday, Target was the largest single donor to MN Forward, which had raised more than \$1 million from industry trade groups and companies including Best Buy Co., Pentair Inc., Hubbard Broadcasting Inc., Davisco Foods International Inc. and Polaris Industries Inc.

Best Buy spokeswoman Susan Busch said the company informed employees of its \$100,000 donation and received only a handful of phone calls about it.

OutFront Minnesota posted an open letter urging Target to take back its money from MN Forward. Two new "Boycott Target" Facebook groups together had more than 1,000 followers by mid-afternoon July 27, with some people posting business phone numbers for Target and Steinhafel, who individually also gave Emmer \$2,000, the maximum donation under state law.

Similar corporate help for political candidates could be happening outside public view in

other affected states with weaker disclosure laws, said Paul Ryan, an attorney at the nonpartisan Campaign Legal Center in Washington. Some businesses also may reserve their new spending rights for federal races, where the stakes are higher and there is little disclosure.

"Just the threat of being able to spend unlimited money out of corporations' coffers is a significant change in the rules of the game," Ryan said.

MN Forward's money could help Emmer overcome a financial disadvantage with his Democratic rivals. Emmer has raised less than \$800,000 this year, compared with nearly \$1 million for Democratic House Speaker Margaret Anderson Kelliher. Two other Democrats, former U.S. Sen. Mark Dayton and former legislator Matt Entenza, together have put in a combined \$6.9 million, mostly their own money.

Independent expenditure groups on the left have spent more than \$1 million attacking Emmer on TV.

The contrast between Emmer's outspoken conservatism and Target's moderate image is striking. Emmer lauds Arizona's strict approach to illegal immigration and once advocated chemical castration for sex offenders. Target is known in Minnesota for donating to public school programs, food pantries and the annual Twin Cities Gay Pride Festival.

As of July 19, MN Forward had spent \$200,000 on TV ads promoting Emmer as "the fighter Minnesota needs."

He will face the winner of the Aug. 10

Democratic primary and an Independence Party candidate. Pawlenty chose not to seek a third term and is instead exploring a 2012 presidential bid.

Mike Dean, who heads the advocacy group Common Cause Minnesota, urged businesses and unions to refrain from spending on campaigns this year. "Just the reputation damage that this is doing to the corporations that have given should be a compelling case of why these corporations should not give," Dean said at a news conference.

The Supreme Court ruling left in place state prohibitions against companies giving directly to the candidates. The company money can go to independent groups supporting the candidates.

Several shoppers at the SuperTarget in the St. Paul suburb of Roseville — all of them self-identified as Democrats — weren't happy to hear about the chain's political involvement. Viki Karr, 50, said she would like to keep politics out of her shopping and would "definitely" not shop somewhere that supports the GOP.

Pat Mackey, 67, also of Richfield, said she was disappointed in Target.

"I think it is going to drown out the \$25, \$5 contributions of the average American, and we can't let that happen," she said.

Across town at a Target in Edina, even one Republican-leaning voter, 32-year-old administrative assistant Robin Liebl, said she didn't like what she heard about Target's giving.

"If I ever get wind of a company giving money to somebody I did not agree with, I would stop supporting them as much as I can," Liebl said.

NJ Supreme Court rejects gay marriage case

BY ANGELA DELLI SANTI

TRENTON, N.J. (AP)— New Jersey's Supreme Court won't consider whether the state's civil union law provides equal rights to gay couples before the case is heard in a lower court.

The court announced July 26 it cannot consider the merits of the claim by six same-sex couples that New Jersey's civil union law is unconstitutional until there is a trial record.

Gay couples unsuccessfully sued New Jersey four years ago for the right to marry. They claim that by creating civil unions, the state has not fulfilled a court order to treat them the same as heterosexual couples seeking to marry.

The justices were split 3-3, one vote shy of the four needed for a motion to be granted.

Chief Justice Stuart Rabner is among those who voted to deny the motion.

Justice Virginia Long, one of the justices who dissented, agreed there is an insufficient record for debating the merits of the claim, but she said hearing oral arguments would have helped guide the justices on how best to go about creating a judicial record.

Steven Goldstein, who leads the state's largest gay rights group, Garden State Equality, said the decision perpetuates the unequal legal status of same-sex couples and their children.

"Same-sex couples will continue to be



denied the consistent right to visit one another in the hospital, to make medical decisions for one another, and to receive equal health benefits from employers, all because of the deprivation of the equality and dignity that uniquely comes with the word marriage," he said in a statement.

Len Deo, president of the New Jersey Family Policy Council, which supports the traditional view of marriage as between one man and one

New Jersey is now the only state with civil unions. Gay marriage is legal in Connecticut, Iowa, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont and Washington, D.C.

woman, saw the court ruling as a partial victory for gay rights advocates.

"We were hoping the Supreme Court would just reject the application outright," he said. However, "we believe they have a higher threshold of proof now."

Hayley Gorenberg, the couples' Lambda Legal lawyer, said abundant proof exists that civil unions aren't equal to marriage. She said more than 100 people testified before the state's Civil Review Commission about having experienced discrimination under the civil union law.

Opponents dismissed the group and its 2008 report as having a built-in bias in favor of expanding gay rights.

Sen. Ray Lesniak, who sponsored New Jersey's same-sex marriage law, said he is confident that a full vetting of the issue would strengthen the position for marriage equality, but he expressed concern over the delay Monday's

decision will cause.

"Many people have waited a long time to enjoy their civil right to marry," Lesniak said. "While careful deliberation is warranted, so is an expedited proceedings."

For the better part of the past decade, New Jersey has been one of the states at the center of the fight over expanding recognition of gay relationships. It's one of a handful of states where social conservatives have not been able to amend the state constitution to ban gay marriage.

In 2006, the state Supreme Court ruled unanimously that gay couples deserved equal treatment. But the court ruled by a 4-3 vote that the state did not have to recognize them as married. Instead, the court left the details of their legal status up to the legislature, which responded by making the state the third to offer civil unions.

More than 4,400 couples have registered.

New Jersey is now the only state with civil unions. Gay marriage is legal in Connecticut, Iowa, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont and Washington, D.C.

Gay rights groups tried to get New Jersey lawmakers to reconsider and recognize gay marriage, but the bill died after the state Senate voted it down in January. Supporters say they had the momentum until November, when Republican Chris Christie, who opposes gay marriage, was elected governor.

Gay weddings begin in Argentina

Same-sex couples began marrying in Argentina on July 30, nine days after President Cristina Fernández de Kirchner signed the bill legalizing same-sex marriage. It passed the Senate on July 15 by a vote of 33 to 27.

A gay couple in the northern province of Santiago del Estero – José Luis Navarro and Miguel Ángel Calefato – were the first to marry, quickly followed by several other couples around the country.

Navarro and Calefato said they will accept the Mexico City government's all-expenses-paid honeymoon offer for the first married Argentine gay couple. Mexico City is the only other place in Latin America where same-sex marriage is legal.

Gay and lesbian couples also can marry in Belgium, Canada, Iceland, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Connecticut, Iowa, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont and Washington, D.C.

The New York Times reported July 27 that more than 3,000 same-sex couples have married in South Africa since it became legal in 2006. The paper said that in half of the marriages, one or both partners were foreigners.

First pride parade planned in Nepal

Kathmandu, Nepal, will see its first LGBT pride parade Aug. 25, says Sunil Pant, an openly gay member of Parliament. The procession will include elephants, a band and street performers, he said. There also will be a festival in Basantapur Durbar Square.

Aug. 25 also is a Hindu and Buddhist festival day, "Gai Jatra," on which some men dress in drag and wear masks. Although the day is "for remembering those who have died in the past year," Pant said, "there is a great deal of merrymaking connected with it."

"Many of the participants wear outlandish costumes," he said. "Traditionally, a good number of the young Newar men in the procession dress in women's clothing. Given this history, Gai Jatra seemed to be a ready-made occasion for the Blue Diamond Society, the Nepalese sexual and gender minority association, to stage Nepal's inaugural pride march."

The parade will start at 2 p.m. on Durbar Marg in front of the former Royal Palace.

Russian marriage case headed to Euro Court

A Russian lesbian couple sued in the European Court of Human Rights on July 21 over Russia's refusal to register their Canadian marriage.

Irina Fedotova and Irina Shipitko claim the denial violates the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental



Irina Fedotova, right, and Irina Shipitko sued in the European Court of Human Rights on July 21 over Russia's refusal to register their Canadian marriage. GayRussia.ru photo

Freedoms.

"When the European Court gives its decision, it will have a revolutionary impact on Russia's marriage laws," said leading Moscow activist Nikolai Alekseev. "I have no doubt that the Russian authorities will have to pass a law that would recognize same-sex unions, even if they are named differently than marriage. It is inevitable."

Euro Court dings Austria over insurance discrimination

The European Court of Human Rights ruled against Austria on July 22 for failure to recognize a same-sex partnership as "family," as required by the European Convention on Human Rights.

In the case P.B. and J.S. v. Austria, the court ruled 5-2 that Austria violated the convention by excluding gays' partners from health and accident insurance coverage. The exclusion violated the convention's Article 14, which prohibits discrimination, and Article 8, which extends a right to respect for private and family life, the court said.

Austria ended such discrimination in 2007 but the case dated from before that time.

"The relationship of the applicants, a cohabiting same-sex couple living in a stable de facto

partnership, falls within the notion of 'family life,' just as the relationship of a different-sex couple in the same situation would," the court said.

Gays march in Jerusalem

Jerusalem's eighth LGBT pride parade attracted thousands of marchers July 29 along with anti-gay protesters. The counterdemonstrators carried banners calling gay people sick.

The parade traveled from Independence Park downtown to the Wohl Rose Park in front of the Knesset, the Israeli parliament. Thousands of police officers protected the procession and arrested a few people who tried to disrupt the festivities.

Organizers said the march marked "the end of a year of mourning and the beginning of a year of activism in pursuit of LGBT rights and the eradication of discrimination and hate."

Last Sept. 1, a masked man entered a youth-group meeting in the basement of Bar Noar, an LGBT youth organization in Tel Aviv, and shot to death the group's leader, Nir Katz, and 16-year-old Liz Trobishi. Eleven others were injured, including two teens who were left permanently disabled. The gunman remains at large.

This year's march had a long list of demands, including coverage for gender-modification surgery under basic health insurance, approval for men who have sex with men to

donate blood, modification of surrogacy laws, recognition of the parental status of non-biological parents, recognition of foreign same-sex marriages, extension to same-sex couples of the rights given couples in common-law unions, and reform of local policies that prevent official funding of LGBT organizations.

Montenegro passes gay protections

Montenegro passed a law banning anti-LGBT discrimination July 28, fulfilling a requirement for European Union membership.

The vote was 67-6 with 4 abstentions.

Passage came despite opposition from the nation's minister for human and minority rights, Ferhat Dinosh, who said the protections run afoul of the "moral code of society."

"We congratulate Montenegro with this important legislation and are happy to see that all countries in the Western Balkans but ... Macedonia (have) introduced comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation providing protection from discrimination on all six grounds, including sexual orientation, required by the EU," said Lilit Poghosyan, policy and programs officer for ILGA-Europe, the European Region of the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association.

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Queen of the Night



Photo: Rankin

'Milkshake' singer Kelis opens up about her new dance disc, being a born-again Christian and gay dudes on the downlow

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Kelis doesn't take crap from anyone. Not from closet cases. Not from PETA, which she chewed out recently after they got on her case for wearing fur.

That so much about her — two Grammy nominations, the divorce, the arrest — is at our fingertips makes the recording chameleon feel less like a stranger and more like a friend. And, when it comes to the gay community, you could call her that. She's performed on the Pride circuit, and her new album — the thumping electro-dance disc "Flesh Tone," which dropped last month — is quite possibly the gayest thing she's done since her breakout hit "Milkshake."

Kelis spoke with us about the inspiration behind her latest CD, believing in "live and let live" when it comes to her gay fans, and why she thinks people shouldn't lie about which way they swing.

For this album, you wanted to make something that reflected the music you were into at the time. What specifically were you listening to?

I wasn't really listening to a lot of electro and dance; it was more so the fact that I travel a lot and everywhere I went I just felt like — it wasn't even so much the music as it was the essence behind it that resonated for me. And so that is what propelled me in the direction I ended up going in.

The gay community was all over you before, and now you've gone and done an all-dance record. Were you considering your gay following while making this album?

The one thing that's pretty consistent is the fact that I've always had a really great gay community following. It's never faltered or wavered. I've had a really great support system. I don't really have to cater to anybody. I just sort of do me — and everyone, at least people who already love me, continues to love on.

Allegedly you have a lot of gay friends

from what I've read. More than Lady Gaga?

(Laughs) I don't know anything about her, sorry. I have no idea.

You grew up singing in church choirs. If your church knew you were talking to a gay publication right now what would they think?

I don't know if that's really a clear question.

Some churches obviously aren't very accepting of gay people, so I'm wondering if that was a conflict for you.

My honest answer: I'm a born-again Christian, so for me my personal beliefs are my beliefs. You have to live and let live.

So you're cool with gay people then, because some born-again Christians aren't?

I hate them! (Laughs) No, I mean, honestly, at the end of the day I have no heaven or hell for anyone. And my personal beliefs are my personal beliefs. I share them with my friends and the people that are close to me, so I generally believe

in live and let live. And that goes for pretty much everything; it's not just about sexual orientation, but about everything else. I live my life a certain way and my friends may not agree with the way I live, but they're my friends. I don't ever lie or sugarcoat who I am and they don't either, so we get along fine.

Last year, you went on a Twitter tirade about gay guys on the downlow. What inspired that rant?

For me, I have no issues with what people are in general; I'm just like, Be clear about it so that I know what and who I'm dealing with, because the kind of person that I am, you know exactly who I am when you meet me. I'm not a big fan of the secret undercover type (laughs). I think it's bad; I don't like it. It's terrible, actually. I think if you don't know what your sexual orientation is then you need to take time out and figure it out, but I don't think you should trick people. That's an issue for me.

See Kelis, page 21



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Famous female impersonator does gay icons during Windsor show



Frank Marino brings his famous female impersonations, including Britney Spears, Madonna and Bette Midler, to Canada at 9 p.m. Aug. 7 in the Colosseum at Caesars Windsor during his 75-minute show. Marino, in his role as the "Divas Las Vegas" show's emcee and star, changes between every act, bringing an international whirlwind of couture to the stage with each spectacular entrance.

Marino always knew he would become a star, even as a small child growing up in New York. What he didn't realize was that he'd have to be dressed up in glittering Bob Mackie gowns, and strapped into towering Manolo Blahnik stilettos. And that's before he gets into his makeup, wigs and jewelry!

Divas Las Vegas Starring Frank Marino

9 p.m. Aug. 7, Colosseum at Caesars Windsor, \$15 and up
www.caesarswindsor.com

"The ladder of success was even harder to climb wearing high heels!" Marino said in a press release.

After 25 years as the star of "An Evening at La Cage," Marino is an accomplished author, newscaster, columnist and spokesperson, writing a bestseller, "His

Majesty, the Queen," and starring alongside Sandra Bullock in "Miss Congeniality 2."

In 2005, Las Vegas Mayor Oscar Goodman proclaimed Feb. 1 as "Frank Marino Day." Marino also received a Key to the City, has a street named after him, Frank Marino Drive, and is forever immortalized in the sidewalks of the neon jungle with a star that bears his name on the Las Vegas Walk of Fame.

In 2009, Marino was named Las Vegas' "Entertainer of the Century," and after performing to over 10 million people, he is Guinness Book worthy of having the most performances on any Las Vegas stage.

For more information, visit www.frankmarino.com.

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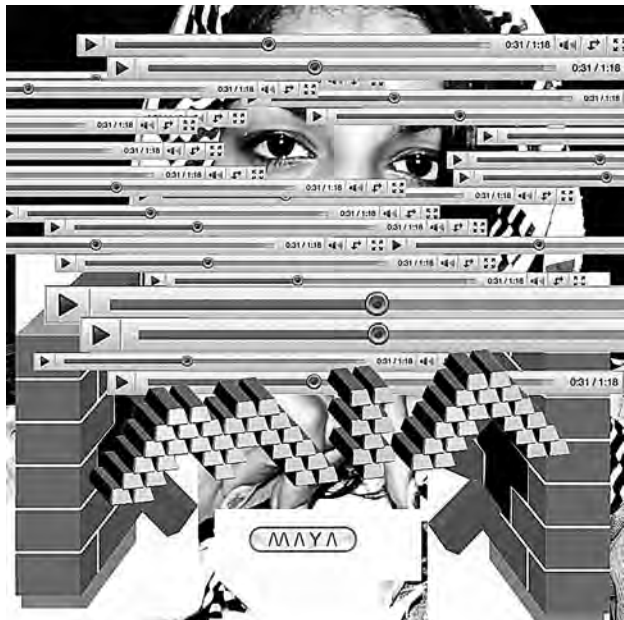
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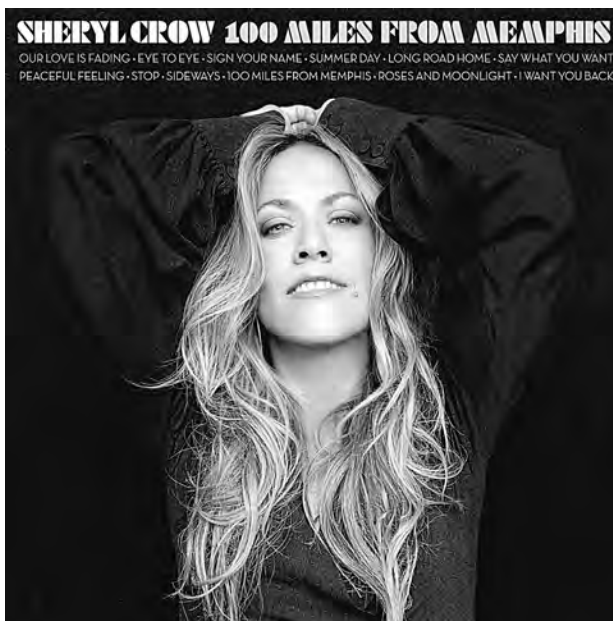
CAESARS
WINDSOR

M.I.A.'s latest misses the mark. Plus: Sheryl Crow's soulful 'Memphis'



M.I.A., 'MAYA'

M.I.A. knows what it's like to be different. Three albums in and the native Sri Lanka digi-punk provocateur's as trippy and surging as she was when 2008's "Paper Planes" shot her into superstardom – literally. That smash was fresh, and hip, and every bit deserving of high praise. Now she's beating innovation into the very ground she once built: more weapons, more power tools – a chainsaw, for instance, that launches the first full track, "Steppin Up," an oddly muffled mix of ominous synths and kiddie sing-along lyrics. On "XXXO," a slick pop song, she pulls herself out of the funk muck to play up her block-party appeal, ditching the futuristic clickity-clacks that suffocate so much of the superfluous album. Not a girl, not yet a woman is M.I.A.'s other big flaw – she's somewhere in between, pushing self-conscious politics between nonsensical "rub-a-dub-dub" noises that contradict all she's attempting to stand for. Too, songs like "Teqkilla" and "Internet Connection" are ear-tiring repetitious and nails-on-chalkboard grating. She's cocksure, and that's fine, but that confidence needs backbone – blind noise, like that of "Born Free," is as much a punishment for her as it is for us. She finds some grace, thankfully, on refreshingly cleaner cuts, the dreamy "It Iz What It Iz" and the island-swayed "It Takes a Muscle," but new ideas halt when "Tell Me Why" hits, remolding "Paper Planes" into a chanty stomper. Provocative shouldn't sound so desperate. *Grade: C*



Sheryl Crow, '100 Miles from Memphis'

After beating cancer and heartbreak, Sheryl Crow's seriously ready to soak up some sun. And wouldn't you know it with these 12 tunes, almost all cut from carefree elation and distilled through sweet rhythmic grooves that shadow her debut, "Tuesday Night Music Club." Already on the verge of a pop-rock breakup with the experimental, aptly titled "Detours," released two and a half years before her frothy latest, Crow's not just dipping her toes in different water now – she's diving in headfirst. Justin Timberlake joins her on the sexy "Sign Your Name," one of three covers that comfortably sit among her Southern retro-soul originals, throwbacks to such trailblazers as Al Green, Dusty Springfield and Stevie Wonder. Such newcomers include the rollicking opener, "Our Love is Fading," the sunny "Peaceful Feeling" and the freeing "Long Road Home," a down-by-the-river clapper. When she changes pace with the slowie "Stop," the moving ballad finds Crow gloriously reaching into her strained upper register. "Eye to Eye" is vaguely political, reggae-fueled filler that never finds its footing, but her major misstep is a kinda-karaoke homage to Michael Jackson with the closing cover "I Want You Back." So much of her seventh album is light and lovable, though, that it doesn't even really matter. *Grade: B+*

Also Out



'Jersey Shore Soundtrack'

If nothing else, this can be said for the trashy TV docu-series' soundtrack: It does more pounding than its shows' housemates. And if sex and cocktail chugging came with a music mix, this charged dance-club caboodle represents with 16 tracks, featuring Paul Oakenfold's "Pump it Up" and two Lil Jon jams. When the electro hipsters of LMFAO demand on "Get Crazy" that you flash your ta-tas, at least you feel like you're in the right ridiculous place.



Arcade Fire, 'The Suburbs'

"Neon Bible," the indie fave's last album, was bleak and brooding. Continuing to draw on the drama and romanticism of past projects, their latest is remarkably inside out. Sounding looser, hopeful and liberating, songs still play like novellettes with the band's trademark theatricality intact (some even elect club beats). It's another opus, ruminating on change, uncertainty and aging with the epic sound that made Arcade Fire so cool in the first place.

Reach Chris Azzopardi at chris@pridesource.com.



► Kelis

Continued from p. 17

You weren't dating a closeted gay guy, were you?

I hope not! (Laughs) But I will say I've had girlfriends before where I've been like, "Umm, yeah, he's totally gay!" I know a gay man when I see one.

Because your gay-dar is so good?

Honestly, they gravitate toward me. I really don't have to do anything. I'm 5-feet-10, I'm black, I wear mini skirts and great shoes; it's not brain surgery.

In fact, you've been called a drag queen.

All the time. Constantly. They wish! (Laughs)

'I've had girlfriends before where I've been like, 'Umm, yeah, he's totally gay!' I know a gay man when I see one.'

Other interviews have mentioned that younger artists like Rihanna emulate you.

I've never brought that up. People ask me and so my answer is that I've been doing this for over 10 years now and the reality is that if someone came into the music business within the last 10 years, and they're probably a decade younger than me, it's pretty obvious that there's going to be some influence there. The reason people ask me is because they obviously see something. I never, ever out of my own volition bring it up, because I don't even care enough to bring it up.

Whom were you emulating then when you first launched your career?

From my youngest years, my mom was such a lady, so for me now, that's how I maintain myself. As far as artists go, I was a sponge, and I grew up with just jazz and gospel around me all the time. Then, as I got a little bit older, I started listening to anything from En Vogue to Nirvana.

What's the most random fact about you that no one else knows?

Everything about me, everyone around me knows it (laughs).

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Market hosts two-day shows once a month from April to October. The shows are at the Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, spread out over seven buildings and numerous tent canopies.

"We pride ourselves on being a Michigan-based business and in the extremely high quality of our antiques and collectibles," said event organizer Lynn Supinger, adding that the exhibitors come from all over the U.S., Canada and the U.K.

The next show will be 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Aug. 14 and 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Aug. 15 at the Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor Saline Road. Admission is free. For more information, visit www.annarborantiquesmarket.com.

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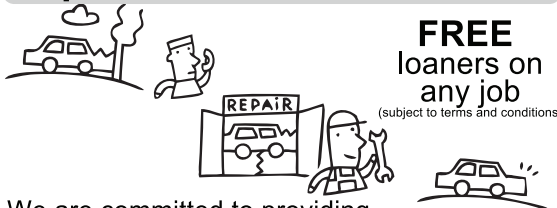
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Hope's 'Ballyhoo' does Uhry proud

BY BRIDGETTE M. REDMAN

Alfred Uhry is a popular man in Michigan this summer.

The playwright who created a trilogy of shows about Jews in Atlanta, Georgia has had all three works staged by professional theaters in the state this summer. First, Farmers Alley Theater in Kalamazoo performed "Parade," a musical exploring the arrest and lynching of a Northern Jewish man after the rape and murder of a young girl in an Atlanta pencil factory where he was supervisor. Then last weekend, Hope Summer Rep and the Michigan Shakespeare Festival opened with the other two legs of the trilogy: "The Last Night of Ballyhoo" and "Driving Miss Daisy."

"The Last Night of Ballyhoo" takes place nearly 40 years after the musical, on the eve of the "Gone with the Wind" premiere in 1939. Uhry presents seven Jewish characters, most of whom are obviously suffering from an identity crisis.

REVIEW

'The Last Night of Ballyhoo'

Hope Summer Repertory Theatre,
DeWitt Theatre, 141 E. 12th St., Holland.
Plays in repertory through Aug. 13. \$8-\$19.
616-395-7890.
www.hope.edu/hsrt

Kathleen Mary Mulligan and Hayley Galbraith are the two widows, Boo and Reba, who both worry over their young adult daughters Sunny and Lala (played respectively by Abbe Tannenbaum and Cat Stephani) while being supported by Boo's brother, Adolph (Chip Duford).

This play is a favorite of community theaters, given its limited set requirements and straightforward story. However, in the hands of a professional company such as Hope Summer Repertory Theatre, the many subtleties and challenges of "Bal-



Michael Haller and Abbe Tannenbaum in "The Last Night of Ballyhoo." Photo: HSRT

lyhoo" are revealed. This is a domestic comedy with a serious undertone. It is a show that demands spot-on accents, a demand handled quite ably by this cast.

To read the complete review, log on to ...
<http://EncoreMichigan.com> or PrideSource.com

A squirrely comedy at Planet Ant Theatre

BY DONALD V. CALAMIA

Twice a year improv troupes from all over Southeast Michigan come together at Planet Ant Theatre for "Colony Fest," an almost week-long battle to determine which group earns the privilege of writing and starring in a late night original comedy under the watchful eye of an industry veteran. After slamming down its rivals, Pillow Fight won the 2010 Winter Improv Festival and teamed with Second City alumnus Shawn Handlon to create "Herstory Repeats Herself: A trilogy in 3-D" that officially opened July 30. And the result is a squirrely, time-spanning comedy that asks the questions: If you could go back in time and change one very specific moment in your life, would you? And if you did, would the result be any better than what life has already dealt you?

Girl band Beautiful Triangle does just that - not once, but twice. As band

REVIEW

'Herstory Repeats Herself: A trilogy in 3-D'

Planet Ant Theatre, 2357 Caniff Ave.,
Hamtramck. A Late Night show. 9 p.m.
Friday-Saturday through Aug. 14. \$10.
313-365-4948.
www.planetant.com

members Dana (Jess McCartney), Crystal (Maria Monkaba) and Kris (Carrie Hall) are about to go on stage for what could be their career-defining concert, Dana encourages the group to shoot heroin just before the concert is to begin. "Don't you want to know what beauty smells like?" she devilishly says to influence her hesitant friends. The decision they make reverberates for years to come. And when



Jessica McCartney, Maria Monkaba and Carrie Lynn Hall in "Herstory Repeats Herself: A trilogy in 3-D" at Planet Ant Theatre. Photo: Shawn Handlon

their lives are at their bleakest, a wish returns them to that fateful moment when a different decision takes their lives down a totally divergent path.

Be careful what you wish for!

To read the complete review, log on to ...
<http://EncoreMichigan.com> or PrideSource.com

Radio show tickles ears, delights eyes

BY BRIDGETTE M. REDMAN

The Capital TheatreWorks proved that a radio show can be as pleasing to the eyes as it is to the ears.

The "1940s Radio Variety Show" combines four radio show classics with period commercials, singing and a delightful soap opera-style story between the radio show actors that makes the evening far more of a traditional play than the variety show title might lead one to believe.

Vaguely reminiscent of Joseph Zettelmaier's "It Came From Mars," the play begins on a hot summer night in "downtown Midtown, USA" at the WHUU studios right before a weekly variety show starts. The torch singer, played by Capital Theatre-

REVIEW

'1940s Radio Variety Show'

Capital TheaterWorks at The Ledges
Playhouse, 133 Fitzgerald Park Dr., Grand
Ledge. Friday-Sunday through Aug. 8. Free;
donations suggested. 517-944-0221.
www.capitaltheaterworks.org

Works' co-founder Tanya Burnham, hasn't returned to the studio since the rehearsal and Lenny Merkin (Michael J. Mahoney) and Lillian White (Katie Denyes) set up the plot for the off-air drama in which three of the radio staff actresses are all vying for the

romantic lead, Skip Montgomery.

The four classic shows are "My Friend Irma," a comedy by Cy Howard; "The Bickersons," another comedy by Phillip Rapp; "The Mother in Law," a creepy Twilight Show flavored piece by Arch Oboler, and "Dick Kent, Private Eye," a noir detective story by Rich Davis. "My Friend Irma" was from a series that ran on CBS radio from 1947 to 1954 and later spawned two films and a television series. "The Bickersons" was a series that ran from 1946 to 1951 starring Don Ameche and Frances Langford as the constantly feuding John and Blanche Bickerson.

To read the complete review, log on to ...
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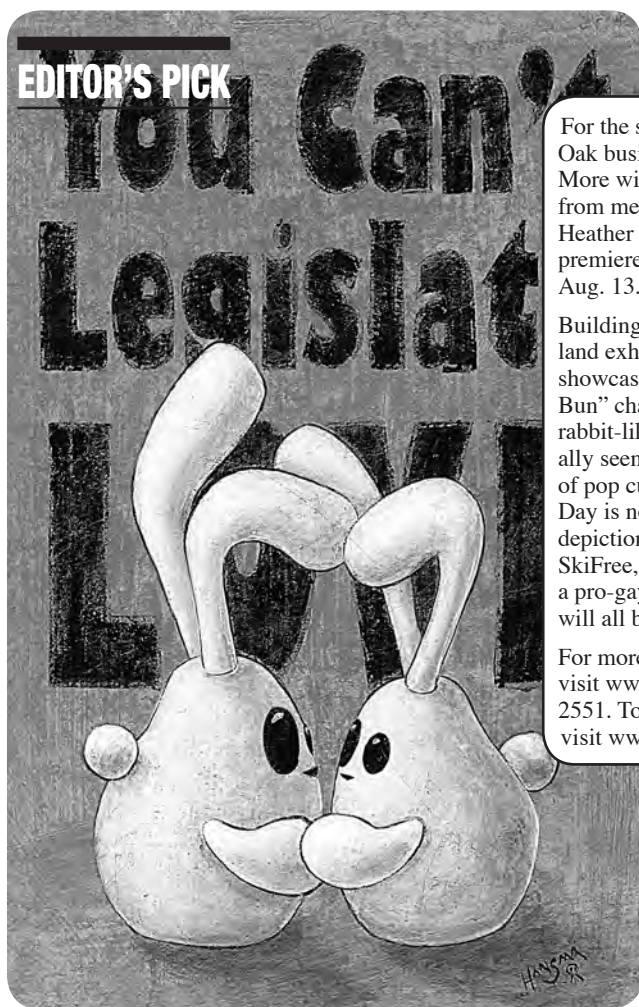
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EDITOR'S PICK

For the second year in a row, Royal Oak business Five15 Media, Mojo and More will be hosting a solo exhibition from metro Detroit low-brow artist Heather Hansma. A Bun a Day will premiere with a reception at 7-10 p.m. Aug. 13.

Building off of last October's Bunderland exhibition, A Bun a Day will also showcase pieces from Hansma's "Puff Bun" characters series – an egg-shaped rabbit-like creature. Puff Buns are usually seen participating in some form of pop culture parody, and A Bun a Day is no different. Painted, bundastic depictions of old-school computer game SkiFree, Detroit's Paczki Day and even a pro-gay marriage Puff Bun painting will all be part of the show.

For more information on the exhibition, visit www.five15.net, or call 248-515-2551. To see more of Hansma's work, visit www.hansmaillustration.com.

OUTINGS

Thursday, Aug. 5

Michigan Womyn's Music Festival, 9 a.m. A week-long celebration of music, art, film and community for women only. Ticket prices vary. Michfest, Wahalla. www.michfest.com

Pride Bowling Night, 6:30 p.m. A night for the whole family, with prizes, food, drink specials and free bowling. Hosted by Windsor Pride. Rose Bowl Lanes, 2482 Dougall Ave., Windsor. windsorpride.com

Closet, 8 p.m. Shaun and Jay spend find surprising secrets in their deceased friend's closet, but not nearly as many as this couple has been hiding from each other. Tickets: \$5-20, with funds benefiting Windsor Pride. Mackenzie Hall, 3722 Sandwich Street, Windsor. www.windsorpride.com

Friday, Aug. 6

Monthly Meeting, 7 p.m. Bisexual social group. All are welcome. Washtenaw Rainbow Action Project, 319 Braun Court, Ann Arbor. 734-678-2478. BiPrideAnnArbor@gmail.com

Womyn's Film Night, 7 p.m. "Double Dare" Professional stuntwomen Jeannie Epper and Zoe Bell struggle to find roles – and respect – in male-dominated Hollywood. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org

Closet, 8 p.m. Shaun and Jay spend find surprising secrets in their deceased friend's closet, but not nearly as many as this couple has been hiding from each other. Tickets: \$5-20, with funds benefiting Windsor Pride. Mackenzie Hall, 3722 Sandwich Street, Windsor. www.windsorpride.com

Comedy Night Out, 8 p.m. With Richard Ryder, Dana Goldberg and Sabrina Matthews. Tickets start at \$25. Hosted by Windsor Pride. Riverfront Festival Plaza, Windsor. www.windsorpride.com

Saturday, Aug. 7

Essex County Wine Tour, 10:30 a.m. Tour visits three wineries and drops off at the Riverfront Plaza. Tickets: \$35. Hosted by Windsor Pride. Riverfront Festival Plaza, Windsor. www.windsorpride.com

Paint with Pride BBQ, 12 p.m. An event where families can create art about what Pride means to them. Riverfront Festival Plaza, Windsor. www.windsorpride.com

Saturday Summer Sizzle Dance Party, 8 p.m. Featuring world-renowned DJ Jamal and DJ Lynda Carter, Bella and her go-go dancers, and special performances by International Drag Super Star Sofonda Cox. Hosted by Windsor Pride. Riverfront Festival Plaza, Windsor. www.windsorpride.com

Closet, 8 p.m. Shaun and Jay spend find surprising secrets in their deceased friend's closet, but not nearly as many as this couple has been hiding from each other. Tickets: \$5-20, with funds benefiting Windsor Pride. Mackenzie Hall, 3722 Sandwich Street, Windsor. www.windsorpride.com

Sunday, Aug. 8

MCC Church Service, 10 a.m. An outdoor Pride worship celebration of diversity and faith. Hosted by the Metropolitan Community Church of Windsor. Riverfront Festival Plaza, Windsor. www.windsorpride.com

Pride Parade, 12 p.m. The annual diversity parade through downtown Windsor with floats, community leaders and more. Oullette Avenue, Windsor. www.windsorpride.com

Pride Day, 1 p.m. Food, drinks, vendors, youth activities and live entertainment celebrating Pride. Hosted by Windsor Pride. Riverfront Festival Plaza, Windsor. www.windsorpride.com

Tuesday, Aug. 10

Adult Bible Class, 6 p.m. A humorous class on biblical events and how they apply to our own lives. Light meals served. Free. Unity Church of Rochester, 1038 Harding Ave., Rochester Hills. 248-656-0120. unitychurchofrochester.com

Chorus Auditions, 6 p.m. Call for simple voice check. Sing Out Detroit is looking for 15 new members. Must call to make appointment! Sing Out Detroit, Royal Oak. 248-943-2411. linda@singoutdetroit.com. www.singoutdetroit.com

Thursday, Aug. 12

Meet 'n Greet, 7 p.m. The 20 Somethings, welcoming LGBT people and allies ages 18-33. A meeting with light snacks and dinner to follow. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. www.the20somethings.org

Twisted Gay Speed Dating, 7:30 p.m. A new twist on speed dating. Under 35 Aug. 5, over 35 Aug. 12, all ages Aug. 26. Lesbian and straight nights coming in September! Admission: \$12 in advance, \$15 at the door. Five15, 515 S. Washington, Royal Oak. 248-515-2551. www.five15.net

UAW Open Mic Night, 8 p.m. A night of music celebrating AJ's birthday and the Assembly Line Concert. AJ's Music Cafe, 240 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. www.ajsmusiccafe.com

Friday, Aug. 13

Transgender and Ally Symposium, 9 a.m. A two-day symposium with over 70 workshops, plus keynote speaker Bear Bergman. Trans Ohio, Columbus. <http://transohio2010.wordpress.com>

A Bun a Day, 7 p.m. A solo exhibition by illustrator Heather Hansma. Five15, 515 S. Washington, Royal Oak. 248-515-2551. www.five15.net

Womyn's Film Night, 7 p.m. "I Can't Think Straight" While preparing for her wedding, Tala meets Leyla, and Tala must decide whether to stay true to her culture or to her heart. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org

Saturday, Aug. 14

Trans Pride in the Park, 12 p.m. The annual event celebrating Michigan's trans community. Transgender Michigan, Ferndale. www.transgendermichigan.org

Into the Woods, 7 p.m. A summer garden party and fundraiser for Lambda Legal. Tickets: \$125 general admission, \$250 VIP. Lambda Legal, 14758 Log Cabin Road, Three Oaks. www.lambdalegal.org/intothewoods

Summer Drag Queen Bingo, 8 p.m. A summer of bingo with guest hostesses, hilarious antics and more. Reservations welcome. Five15, 515 S. Washington, Royal Oak. 248-515-2551. www.five15.net

MUSIC & MORE

CONCERTS

Caesars Windsor "Clay Aiken" The Timeless Tour, with special guest Ruben Studdard. Tickets starting at \$29. Caesars Windsor Casino, 377 Riverside Drive, Windsor. 9 p.m. Aug. 5. www.caesarswindsor.com

City of Farmington Hills "Farmington Community Chorus" A performance by the choir of over 80 members, performing a mix of pop, jazz and classical vocals. Free. Heritage Park, Farmington Hills. 7 p.m. Aug. 12. 248-473-1848.

City of Farmington Hills "Austin Scott" A performance by the country music artist and Michigan native. Free. Heritage Park, Farmington Hills. 7 p.m. Aug. 5. 248-473-1848.

Kerrytown Concert House "Caleb Curtis Quartet" A concert of acoustic jazz. Tickets: \$5-25. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. 4 p.m. Aug. 8. 734-769-2999. kerrytownconcerthouse.com

Kerrytown Concert House "Gaida" A concert of innovative interpretations of Arabic classic and folk songs. Tickets: \$10-30. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. 7 p.m. Aug. 14, 9 p.m. Aug. 14. 734-769-2999. www.kerrytownconcerthouse.com

Kerrytown Concert House "Jack Wright and Bob Marsh" Performing with the Saturnian Chamber Ensemble. Tickets: \$5-25. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Aug. 13. 734-769-2999. kerrytownconcerthouse.com

Live Nation "Kid Rock" Tickets: \$30.50-52.50. DTE Energy Music Theatre, 7774 Sashabaw Road, Clarkston. 7 p.m. Aug. 13, 7 p.m. Aug. 14, 7 p.m. Aug. 15. www.palacenet.com

Live Nation "The Black Keys" Tickets: \$27.50. The Fillmore, 2115 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. Aug. 14. www.livenation.com

MotorCity Casino "Tears for Fears" A performance by the 1980s performers of hit songs "Shout" and "Everybody Wants to Rule the World." Tickets: \$32-42. Sound Board Theater, 2901 Grand River Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. Aug. 12. www.motorcitycasino.com

Mount Clemens Downtown Development Authority "Sun Messengers" Free. Part of the Bud Light Riversight and Sound Series. Clinton Riverfront Park, Mount Clemens. 7:30 p.m. Aug. 5. 586-469-4168. www.downtownmountclemens.com

"Barenaked Ladies" With special guests Kris Allen and Angel Taylor. Tickets: \$28-48. DTE Energy Music Theatre, 7774 Sashabaw Road, Clarkston. 7 p.m. Aug. 10. www.palacenet.com

Palace Sports and Entertainment "Michael W. Smith and Amy Grant" A concert with the Christian music stars. Tickets: \$10-35. DTE Energy Music Theatre, 7774 Sashabaw Road, Clarkston. 7:30 p.m. Aug. 8. www.palacenet.com

Palace Sports and Entertainment "Rockstar Energy Drink Mayhem Festival" An all-day concert, featuring Korn and Rob Zombie. Tickets: \$25-59.50. DTE Energy Music Theatre, 7774 Sashabaw Road, Clarkston. 2 p.m. Aug. 6. www.palacenet.com

Palace Sports and Entertainment "Shinedown" The Carnival of Madness Tour, with special guests Chevelle, Puddle of Mudd and Sevendust. Tickets: \$20-42.50. DTE Energy Music Theatre, 7774 Sashabaw Road, Clarkston. 5 p.m. Aug. 7. www.palacenet.com

Palace Sports and Entertainment "Maroon 5" With special guests Owl City and V.V. Brown. Tickets: \$25-46.50. DTE Energy Music Theatre, 7774 Sashabaw Road, Clarkston. 7:30 p.m. Aug. 5. www.palacenet.com

Palace Sports and Entertainment "Kenny G" A performance by the Grammy Award-winning saxophonist. Tickets: \$10-48.50. DTE Energy Music Theatre, 7774 Sashabaw Road, Clarkston. 7:30 p.m. Aug. 11. www.palacenet.com

DANCE

MotorCity Casino "Ballroom with a Twist" Starring Gilles Marini and Mario Lopez, with costumes, music and breathtaking performances. Tickets: \$42-75. Sound Board Theater, 2901 Grand River Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. Aug. 14. www.motorcitycasino.com

FESTIVALS

Buy Michigan Now "Buy Michigan Now Festival" Entertainment, goods, fashion show, health fair, sidewalk sales and more – all Michigan-based! Free. Downtown, Northville. 10 a.m. Aug. 6, 10 a.m. Aug. 7, 12 p.m. Aug. 8. buymichigannow.com

MSU Museum "Great Lakes Folk Festival" A three-day celebration of music, arts and more, benefiting the MSU Museum. Downtown, East Lansing. 6 p.m. Aug. 13, 12 p.m. Aug. 14, 12 p.m. Aug. 15. www.greatlakesfolkfestival.net

The Fen "FenFest" A night of peace, poetry and music. Includes performances by Ferron, Bitch, Tret Fure, Nervous but Excited and more. Tickets: \$20 suggested donation with camping/rooms available. The Fen, 53683 Pulver Road, Three Rivers. 12 p.m. Aug. 14. www.ferrononline.com

The Heidelberg Project "Dancin' On The Street Festival" A free festival with music, performances, activities and more. 3600 block of Heidelberg and Elba, Detroit. 12 p.m. Aug. 14. <http://heidelberg.org>

FILM & VIDEO

Friends of the Penn "The Wizard of Oz" Part of the Summer Cinema Matinee series. Tickets: \$3. Penn Theatre, 760 Penniman Ave., Plymouth. 1 p.m. Aug. 5, 7 p.m. Aug. 5. 734-453-0870. www.penntheatre.com

Friends of the Penn "American Tail 2: Fievel Goes West" Part of the Summer Cinema Matinee series. Tickets: \$3. Penn Theatre, 760 Penniman Ave., Plymouth. 1 p.m. Aug. 12, 7 p.m. Aug. 12. 734-453-0870. www.penntheatre.com

Michigan Theater "On the Waterfront" Part of the Summer Classic Movie Series. Tickets: \$9 adults, \$7 students, seniors and veterans. Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor. 1:30 p.m. Aug. 8, 7 p.m. Aug. 10. www.michtheater.org

Michigan Theater "The Wizard of Oz" A sing-along, part of the Summer Classic Movie Series. Tickets: \$9 adults, \$7 students, seniors and veterans. Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor. 1:30 p.m. Aug. 15, 7 p.m. Aug. 17. michtheater.org

EDITOR'S PICK



MotorCity Casino will bring celebs of the dance world to its Sound Board Theater at 8 p.m. Aug. 14 for the first time ever in Detroit with Ballroom with a Twist.

The evening will be hosted by Mario Lopez of "Dancing with the Stars" fame and starring DWTS's Gilles Marini (also of "Sex and the City" fame) and Louis Van Amstel, director and choreographer of Ballroom with a Twist and a DWTS choreographer and performer. To top it off, Ballroom with a Twist will also include guest appearances by performers from "So You Think You Can Dance," "American Idol" and "High School Musical."

Looking to get involved as more than an audience member? There will be a special opportunity for VIP ticketholders to dance with the cast, and a competition for local dancers.

Tickets range from \$42-75 for the event. To learn more, visit www.motorcitycasino.com.

OTHER

Charles H. Wright Museum "Hustle for History" Hustle lessons, taught by local instructors. Free for members, \$7 for non-members. Charles H. Wright Museum, 315 E. Warren Ave., Detroit. Aug. 1 - Aug. 29. 313-494-5800. www.charleshwrightmuseum.org

MotorCity Casino "Cars and Coffee Detroit" A gathering for auto enthusiasts with hotrods, concept cars, motorcycles and more. Free. MotorCity Casino parking garage, 2901 Grand River Ave., Detroit. 8 a.m. June 12, 8 a.m. July 10, 8 a.m. Aug. 14. www.candcdetroit.com

Teacher's Pet "Kamp K9" Dogs and kids learning together, a summer camp for kids in grades 6-9 with animal-related activities. Registration: \$99. Bloomer State Park, Rochester Hills. Aug. 9 - Aug. 13. 248-930-2909.

SHOWS

Palace Sports and Entertainment "The Daily Show and Friends" Featuring Rory Albanese, Rob Riggle, Adam Lowitt and Wyatt Cenac from the popular Comedy Central television show. Tickets: \$19.50-29.50. Meadow Brook Music Festival, 3554 E. Walton Blvd., Rochester Hills. 8 p.m. Aug. 13. www.palacenet.com

THEATER

PROFESSIONAL

101 Years of Broadway \$22.50 reserved, \$15 general. Meadow Brook Music Festival, 3554 Walton Blvd., Rochester Hills. 8 p.m. Aug. 14. 1-800-745-3000. www.meadowbrookmusic.com

1940's Radio Variety Show Free! Capital TheaterWorks, The Ledges Playhouse, 133 Fitzgerald Park Dr., Grand Ledge. Through Aug. 8. 517-944-0221. www.capitaltheaterworks.org

A Cougar Named Florence Show only \$15. Van Buren Street Theatre, 701 N. Van Buren St., Bay City. Through Aug. 14. 989-893-9399. www.vanburenstreettheatre.com

A Year With Frog and Toad A family-friendly special event; plays in repertory. \$20-\$26 adult; \$10 ages 18 and under. Hope Summer Repertory Theatre, Knickerbocker Theatre, 86 E. 8th St., Holland. Aug. 2-13. 616-395-7890. www.hope.edu/hsrt

An Italian Straw Hat Performed in rotating repertory. \$17-\$19. Hope Summer Repertory Theatre, DeWitt Theatre, 141 E. 12th St., Holland. Through Aug. 14. 616-395-7890. www.hope.edu/hsrt

Boeing-Boeing \$25-\$38. The Purple Rose Theatre Company, 137 Park St., Chelsea. Through Sep. 11. 734-433-7673. www.purplerosetheatre.org

BoxFest Detroit 2010 \$10 per day or \$30 festival pass. BoxFest Detroit, The Furniture Factory, 4126 3rd St., Detroit. Aug. 5-21. www.boxfestdetroit.com

Busytown the Musical Performs in repertory. \$10. Hope Summer Repertory Theatre, DeWitt Center Studio Theatre, 141 E. 12th St., Holland. Through Aug. 13. 616-395-7890. www.hope.edu/hsrt

Comedy Mondays \$5 for an all-night pass. Dog Story Theater, 1115 Taylor Ave. NW, Grand Rapids. Aug. 2-30. www.dogstorytheater.com

Don't We Boys \$10. Dog Story Theater, 1115 Taylor Ave. NW, Grand Rapids. Aug. 6-7. www.dogstorytheater.com

Driving Miss Daisy Sundays only. \$15-\$35. Michigan Shakespeare Festival, Michael Baughman Theatre on the campus of Jackson Community College, 2111 Emmons Rd., Jackson. Through Aug. 8. 517-998-3673. www.michiganshakespearefestival.com

Five Course Love \$18-\$24. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam Rd., Williamston. Through Aug. 15. 517-655-7469. www.williamstontheatre.org

Fridays and Saturdays at Go Comedy! \$15 per show; "Dark Matter" is free. Go Comedy! Improv Theater, 261 E. Nine Mile Rd., Ferndale. 248-327-0575. www.gocomedy.net

Henry V \$12. Pigeon Creek Shakespeare Company, Dog Story Theater, 1115 Taylor Ave. NW, Grand Rapids. Aug. 12-15. www.dogstorytheater.com

Herstory Repeats Herself: A Trilogy in 3-D A Late Night show. \$10. Planet Ant Theatre, 2357 Caniff Ave., Hamtramck. Through Aug. 14. 313-365-4948. www.planetant.com

I Do! I Do! Plays in rotating repertory. \$10-\$26. Hope Summer Repertory Theatre, Knickerbocker Theatre, 86 E. 8th St., Holland. Through Aug. 10. 616-395-7890. www.hope.edu/hsrt

Opera at The Acorn \$25. The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Dr., Three Oaks. 8 p.m. Aug. 7. 269-756-3879. www.acorntheater.com

Phantom \$17. 8th Wonder Theatre, The Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Rd., Canton. Aug. 6-15. 734-394-5460. www.8thwondertheatre.com

Rock & Roll Meets Grand Illusion \$10-\$50. Mirage Hall, 16980 18 Mile Rd., Clinton Township. Aug. 13. 586-752-2119. aaronbalcomillusion.eventbrite.com

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

Sundays at Go Comedy! \$10 for the evening. Go Comedy! Improv Theater, 261 E. Nine Mile Rd., Ferndale. 248-327-0575. www.gocomedy.net

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee \$20-\$26. Tibbits Summer Theatre, 14 S. Hanchett St., Coldwater. Aug. 5-14. 517-278-6029. www.tibbits.org

The Comedy of Errors Plays in repertory. \$15-\$35. Michigan Shakespeare Festival, Michael Baughman Theatre on the campus of Jackson Community College, 2111 Emmons Rd., Jackson. Through Aug. 7. 517-998-3673. www.michiganshakespearefestival.com

The Great American Trailer Park Musical \$25. Farmers Alley Theatre, 221 Farmers Alley, Kalamazoo. Through Aug. 8. 269-343-2727. www.farmersalleytheatre.com

The Last Night of Ballyhoo \$8-\$19. Hope Summer Repertory Theatre, DeWitt Theatre, 141 E. 12th St., Holland. Through Aug. 13. 616-395-7890. www.hope.edu/hsrt

The Little Dog Laughed \$10-\$20. Who Wants Cake, The Ringwald, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Aug. 7-30 (except no performance Aug. 21). 248-545-5545. www.whowantscaketheatre.com

The Marvelous Wonderettes \$26-\$36.50. Mason Street Warehouse, 400 Culver St., Saugatuck. Aug. 6 - Aug. 22. 269-857-4898. www.masonstreetwarehouse.org

The Social Security Murders \$16. Broadway Onstage Live Theatre, 21517 Kelly Rd., Eastpointe. Through Aug. 21. 586-771-6333. broadwayonstage.com

The Sound of Music Previews Aug. 5. \$28. The Encore Musical Theatre, 3126 Broad St., Dexter. Aug. 5-29. 734-268-6200. <http://theencoretheatre.org>

Two Gentlemen of Verona \$18. Water Works Theatre Company, Starr Jaycee Park, 1101 W. 13 Mile Rd., Royal Oak. Through Aug. 8. waterworkstheatre.com

Wednesdays at Go Comedy! : \$5 for the evening. Go Comedy! Improv Theater, 261 E. Nine Mile Rd., Ferndale. 248-327-0575. www.gocomedy.net

Woman Before a Glass Previews Aug. 5-8 & 12 (\$10-\$32). \$25-\$41. Performance Network Theatre, 120 E. Huron St., Ann Arbor. Aug. 5 - Sep. 5. 734-663-0681. www.performancenetwork.org



THEATER FOR YOUNG AUDIENCES

Abacadabra Magic Show \$7. Tibbits Summer Theatre, 14 S. Hanchett St., Coldwater. Through Aug. 7. 517-278-6029. www.tibbits.org

Kids Day on Broadway \$17.50 reserved, \$10 general. Meadow Brook Music Festival, 3554 Walton Blvd., Rochester Hills. 2 p.m. Aug. 14. 1-800-745-3000. www.meadowbrookmusic.com

A Midsummer Night's Dream \$8; \$15 per family. Motor City Youth Theatre, Grantland Street Playhouse, 27555 Grantland, Livonia. Aug. 6-8. 313-535-8962. www.mcyt.org

Peter Pan \$7 adult, \$5 17 and under. All-of-us Express Children's Theatre, Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Rd., East Lansing. Through Aug. 7. 517-333-2580, ext. 0. www.cityofeastlansing.com/allofus

Sleeping Beauty \$10 adult, \$5 children; puppet-making workshop \$8. PuppetART, 25 Grand River Ave., Detroit. Saturdays through Aug. 14. 313-961-7777. www.puppetart.org

The Brand New Kid Plays in repertory. \$10. Hope Summer Repertory Theatre, DeWitt Center Studio Theatre, 141 E. 12th St., Holland. Through Aug. 13. 616-395-7890. www.hope.edu/hsrt

The Commedia Tales of King Arthur \$6. Water Works Theatre Company, Starr Jaycee Park, 1101 W. 13 Mile Rd., Royal Oak. Through Aug. 8. www.waterworkstheatre.com

The Neverending Story \$14-\$16 adult, \$12-\$14 children. Flint Youth Theatre, 1220 E. Kearsley St., Flint. Through Aug. 7. 810-237-1530. www.flintyouththeatre.org

AUDITIONS

ANN ARBOR CIVIC THEATRE - auditions for its Studio Series production of "A Night in the theatre," Aug. 14-15, 734-971-2228.

ART 'N' AROUND

ART & ARCHITECTURE

Alden B. Dow Museum of Science and Art "The Art of the Brick" An exhibition with a range of sculptures created from LEGO blocks. Midland Center for the Arts, 1801 W. St. Andrews, Midland. June 12 - Sep. 2. 989-631-8250. www.mcfa.org

Arab American National Museum "Noble Jewels" North African jewelry and photography from the Xavier Guerrand-Hermes Collection. Museum admission: \$6 adults, \$3 students, seniors and children. Arab American National Museum, 13624 Michigan Ave., Dearborn. May 1 - Aug. 8. 313-582-2266. www.arabamericanmuseum.org

Art & Ideas "Social Realism 2010" An exhibition of photographic work by Thomas McMillen-Oakley, Julia DeClerck and Shaq Kalaj. Opening reception held 6-10 p.m. Aug. 7. Art & Ideas Contemporary Art Gallery & Studio, 15095 Northville, Plymouth. Aug. 7 - Sep. 18. 734-420-0775. www.artandideasgallery.com

Basement 414 "Unfathomable Reins/Animalesque" A solo and group exhibition, featuring works connecting to animals and an installation of hybrid sculpture. Opening reception held 6-9 p.m. Aug. 6. Basement 414, 414 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. Aug. 6 - Sep. 4. <http://b414.org>

Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center "Light Waves" Five new exhibitions, including "Skins," "Give Me Shelter, Give Me Love" and several others. Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center, 1516 S. Cranbrook Road, Birmingham. July 16 - Aug. 13. 248-644-0866. www.bbartcenter.com

Cass Cafe "Detroit and Issues" Works by four Detroit-area artists. Cass Cafe, 4620 Cass Ave., Detroit. July 17 - Sep. 18. 313-831-1400. www.casscafe.com

Community Arts Gallery "Albert Young Studio" An exhibition by the local glass artist and College for Creative Studies teacher. Paramount Bank, 22635 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. July 14 - Aug. 13. www.paramountbank.com

Detroit Institute of Arts "Through African Eyes" The European in African Art, 1500 to present. Museum admission: \$12 adults, \$6 youth. Detroit Institute of Arts, 5200 Woodward Ave., Detroit. April 11 - Aug. 8. 313-833-7900. www.dia.org

Gallery Project "Faux Real" Free. The Gallery Project, 215 S. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. July 28 - Sep. 5. 734-997-7012. www.thegalleryproject.com

Holocaust Memorial Center "Icons of Loss" The artwork of Samuel Bak. Zekelman Family Campus, 28123 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills. May 23 - Aug. 13. 248-553-2400. www.holocaustcenter.org

Kalamazoo Institute of Arts "Flowers in Art" Selections from the KIA collection featuring the beauty of flowers. Free. Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, 314 S. Park, Kalamazoo. May 29 - Sep. 12. 269-349-7775. www.kiarts.org

Kalamazoo Institute of Arts "On Paper - Lincoln Center Art" A collection of works from the New York center, including Andy Warhol, Jacob Lawrence and more. Free. Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, 314 S. Park, Kalamazoo. June 19 - Aug. 14. 269-349-7775. www.kiarts.org

Kalamazoo Institute of Arts "Visiting Artist Workshop" Demonstrations and advice from painter Gary Bukovnik. Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, 314 S. Park, Kalamazoo. 9 a.m. Aug. 6-8. 269-349-7775. www.kiarts.org

Kalamazoo Institute of Arts "Dog Adoption Day" Featuring "Annie Bananie My Forever Home" illustrator Anne Farley Gaines. Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, 314 S. Park, Kalamazoo. 11 a.m. Aug. 7. 269-349-7775. www.kiarts.org

Kerrytown Concert House "Slow Convergence" Digital Montages of Complex Chromatic Textures and Compositions. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. July 1 - Aug. 26. 734-769-2999. www.kerrytownconcerthouse.com

Lawrence Street Gallery "The Sculptors Guild of Michigan" Recent work from select members of the guild, including works from wood, clay, bronze, found objects, glass and more. Opening reception held 6-9 p.m. Aug. 6. Lawrence Street Gallery, 22620 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Aug. 4 - Aug. 28. 248-544-0394. www.lawrencestreetgallery.com

Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum "Regional Biennial Juried Sculpture Exhibition" A showing of 32 works by 24 local artists. Free. Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum,

Seventy-six trombones march into the Warren Community Center beginning Aug. 6 as Meredith Willson's "The Music Man" takes the stage at 5460 Arden in Warren.

"This is a really fun, well-known musical that fits our needs for a cast of infinite size," says Greg Trzaskoma, artistic director of the Warren Civic Theatre, who is coordinating more than 300 actors, singers, dancers, stage hands, musicians and theater artists. "We've never done a show of this size in this theater. It's a real challenge to see how we'll all fit. One thing's for sure: We'll be bringing our summer musical right into the audiences' laps!"

Performances are at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday Aug. 6, 7, 13 and 14 and 2 p.m. Sundays, Aug. 8 and 15. A special \$5 matinee will be held for students and seniors at 10 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 12.

Reserved ticket prices for all other shows range from \$3-\$12. Call 586-268-8400 for ticket reservations.

Saginaw Valley State University, Saginaw. July 3 - Sep. 18. 989-964-7096. www.marshallfredericks.org

MSU Museum "Sticks, Strings and Shadows" A collection of puppets of Asia. Runs through Nov. 7. MSU Museum, Michigan State University, East Lansing. 517-432-1472. <http://museum.msu.edu>

River's Edge Gallery "Balancing Act" A two-person show of paintings by Audrey Poncracz and Ryan G. Hill. River's Edge Gallery, 3024 Biddle, Wyandotte. June 19 - Aug. 13. www.artattheedge.com

Riverside Arts Center "Ypsi Project" Photos of Ypsilanti citizens by Erica Hampton. Opening reception held 5-7 p.m. Aug. 7. Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron, Ypsilanti. Aug. 5 - Aug. 27. 734-480-2787. www.riversidearts.org

Sherry Washington Gallery "Summer Solstice X" An exhibition of paintings, drawings and sculpture by 13 artists. Free. Sherry Washington Gallery, 1274 Library, Detroit. July 17 - Sep. 25. 313-961-4500. www.sherrywashingtongallery.com

The Detroit Artists Market "That DAM Box Show 2" A silent auction show with bidding on unique artworks created from film reel shipping boxes. Detroit Artists Market, 4719 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Aug. 10 - Aug. 20. www.detroitartistsmarket.org

The Henry Ford "Play" An exhibit that explores how people interact with each other. Admission: \$15 adults, \$14 seniors, \$11 youth. The Henry Ford Museum, 20900 Oakwood, Dearborn. June 19 - Sep. 19. 313-982-6001. www.thehenryford.org

University of Michigan Museum of Art "Turning Point" Japanese studio ceramics in the mid-20th century. Free. University of Michigan Museum of Art, 525 S. State, Ann Arbor. May 15 - Aug. 22. 734-763-UMMA. www.umma.umich.edu

University of Michigan Museum of Art "Sister Corita, The Joyous Revolutionary" An exhibition of works by a Catholic nun from the Immaculate Heart College of Los Angeles. Free. University of Michigan Museum of Art, 525 S. State, Ann Arbor. June 19 - Aug. 15. 734-763-UMMA. www.umma.umich.edu

Wayne County Community College "Haiku Middle Passage" A multimedia exhibition commemorating the 200th anniversary of the abolition of the Trans-Atlantic slave trade. Brown and Juanita C. Ford Gallery, 1001 Fort Street, Detroit. July 29 - Sep. 17. www.wccd.edu



Got problems? Send letters to: "Dear Jody," C/O Between The Lines, 11920 Farmington Road, Livonia, MI 48150. E-mail her at DearJodyValley@hotmail.com

Cheating with a vengeance

Q. "Carrie" and I have been together for eight years. We started out monogamous in our relationship – that's what we agreed to. Two years ago, Carrie told me that she wanted to bring others into our relationship; well, actually, not bring in, more like have girlfriends for sex on the side. I didn't like that idea at all, but it came down to accepting this arrangement to keep Carrie or watch her go out the door. I chose to accept it because Carrie said that she still wanted me to be her "primary"; she just wanted some action on the side. She said that having some variety in her life would help her stay in our relationship.

So, that's been our arrangement and it wasn't going that bad, I guess. It seemed like just giving her the permission to do this made her happy, and I didn't lose that much time with her. But emotionally speaking, I feel she's not been there for me, like she used to be. Even though Carrie said that I could do the same thing, I have never been interested in having someone on the side.

So, that's how things have been going since this big decision by Carrie. I didn't tell my friends as I know that they would think me foolish, and Carrie said that she'd be discreet. She promised that she wouldn't get involved with any of my/our friends.

I found out a couple weeks ago that Carrie was involved with "Shawna." Shawna and her partner are friends of ours! This wasn't in the deal! It's been hard enough on me as it is, but now to find out that Carrie has gotten involved with a friend has been so upsetting. I feel so betrayed. Because of my love for Carrie, I stuck by her even though I didn't like her having affairs – and didn't participate myself. But now, it's like she's trying to really humiliate me. (Carrie doesn't know that I know about Shawna.)

I've been stewing about this ever since I found out. I've thought about everything from leaving Carrie to going to find a woman on my own to show Carrie how it feels.

Then, I got to thinking about how horrible it was of Shawna to do this to me – as well as to her

partner. She was supposed to be a friend. Now I feel betrayed by both Carrie and Shawna.

Yesterday, I decided to call "Dee" (Shawna's partner) and invite her to lunch so I could tell her what's going on between Carrie and Shawna. On my way to lunch, I got this idea that it would serve both Carrie and Shawna right if Dee and I had an affair. At lunch with Dee, I ended up not telling her about Shawna and Carrie, but sort of flirted with Dee a bit. When the lunch was over, we made arrangements for lunch at a future date.

I really just want a monogamous relationship in life. My heart is not into having people on the side, but I'm debating just doing it once – with Dee – to wake Carrie up to how it hurts the other person.

Do you think that would work if I had a fling with Dee?

Tit for Tat

A. Here are a few questions for you to consider: How would you feel if Carrie was OK with

you having an affair with Dee? How will you feel about yourself having an affair with Dee? Do you really want to use Dee, in that way, in order to get back at Carrie? And finally, how happy have you been since this new arrangement with Carrie?

Carrie has gotten you to agree to conditions in your relationship that you don't like; and then, she's disrespected you by getting involved with friends. You are paying a big emotional price for something you don't want and wasn't in your original agreement.

You and Carrie obviously have different ideas of what you want in a relationship. I'm thinking it's time to reconsider your devotion to Carrie.

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. Reach Jody at DearJodyValley@hotmail.com. The "Dear Jody" column appears weekly.

THE OUTFIELD

by Dan Woog

GLAD all over sports

Howard Cosell once called sports "the toy department of human life." So why would an LGBT legal organization – one whose mission is challenging barriers in areas like marriage, the military and the workplace – worry about toys like softball, and toy chests like gym class?

Because sports is "a social institution writ large – one from which LGBT people are still largely excluded." That's the view of Ben Klein, and he should know. He's an attorney with Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defender – a Boston-based legal rights organization dedicated to ending discrimination based on sexual orientation, HIV status, and gender identity and expression.

Klein works with litigation assistant Jamal Brown on GLAD's Homophobia in Sports project. Now in its initial, fact-finding phase, the project hopes to use the courts to bring about equal rights for gay people – just as it's done in areas such as AIDS law, immigration and education.

"GLAD works to ensure equal access to a variety of institutions," Klein says. "But with the exception of the National Council for Lesbian Rights, sports has not been given the attention it needs. It's the one area in which it's still largely acceptable to engage in anti-gay epithets and harassment."

For the last 20 years, Klein says, LGBT organizations – his and others – have focused

on "basic rights" like housing and relationships. Sports "didn't rise to the top of the priority list," he admits. "We weren't even thinking about them."

Now they are.

"Athletes are being forced out of sports, or kicked off teams, for being gay," Brown says. "And coaches are being fired, or prevented from being hired, because of their sexuality or gender identity."

Taking a lawyerly approach, GLAD realized it needed to assess the situation before rushing to court. Last fall, the organization developed a survey aimed at athletes, coaches, sports-related employees and casual recreation users. The goal was to understand their experiences – positive and negative – in athletics.

The most common finding, according to Klein, was "the prevalence of homophobic slurs." Whether malicious or merely careless, the comments made in locker rooms and on playing fields make LGBT people uncomfortable, wary of coming out – even causing them to leave teams.

But is an unwelcoming environment actually illegal?

"If there is a clear-cut situation in an educational setting – in a state with an anti-discrimination law that includes sexual orientation – we could bring a case," Klein replies.

In a state without a gay-rights statute, a case could be filed charging sexual harassment – provid-

ed the comments or actions were sexual in nature.

In the case of a coach, charges could be brought under "hostile environment" workplace laws.

Of course, none of this is a slam dunk.

"It's hard to find people who are willing to sue, and have a legitimate case," Klein says. "We can't just snap our fingers and find the right case."

To bring a harassment claim, someone must report it – for example, pervasive slurs or bullying – to someone in a school or workplace. Then, school officials or employers have to ignore it.

Such reporting is rare, Klein says. "People don't feel comfortable talking about it; they don't know who to report it to, or they don't think it will be addressed even if they do say something."

Part of GLAD's mission, Klein says, is to educate LGBT people, school officials and employers that they must create an environment in which anti-gay harassment can be reported – and publicize a process for doing so. Lawsuits are a last resort.

The surveys have not yet reached a broad spectrum of gays and lesbians. "It's hard to find people having the most significant problems," Klein says. "They may be less connected to groups we're targeting, or they feel isolated because of what's happened to them." (Anyone wishing to fill out the survey can find it at www.glad.org/sports.)

Klein calls sports one of homophobia's final frontiers. "In our efforts to address various areas of society, the LGBT rights movement in general has paid scant attention to athletics. Some of that may come from a bit of ambivalence in our country about the world of sports."

Some comes from ignorance. "I came out in 1979," Klein says. "I didn't think gay people were athletes. But we can't address barriers in society without talking about sports."

Despite varying levels of knowledge about – and interest in – sports, GLAD staffers have embraced Klein and Brown's efforts. "People here are really excited," says Klein. "They understand the principles behind this."

Brown brings special cachet to the cause. A track star at Ivy League Dartmouth College, Klein calls him "our resident athlete. He has invaluable insights into the sports world. Me – I'm just an aging recreational athlete."

But one with a law degree – and a passion for equal rights, wherever injustice lurks.

Dan Woog is a journalist, educator, soccer coach, gay activist, and author of the "Jocks" series of books on gay male athletes. Visit his website at www.danwoog.com. He can be reached care of this publication or at OutField@qsyndicate.com.



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Keep it legal, Pisces!

Venus entering Libra will line up with Saturn (think of Margaret Dumont) then aspects Mars, Uranus, Jupiter and Capricorn (enter the Marx Brothers!). You can maintain dignity only by relinquishing control. Your first brilliant idea will need a lot of work.

ARIES (March 20 – April 19): If you must be in charge, challenge yourself at work and forget about control issues at home. Make a special effort to listen to your partner. Allowing each other some space will make it easier to share much more.

TAURUS (April 20 – May 20): Moderate your sugar intake! Too many sweets can be very dangerous now. Focus on health issues and set moderate, realistic goals in exercise. But you need something wild and different, so explore new approaches to staying fit.

GEMINI (May 21- June 20): Your playful invitations may be too intense. Friends who already know you well can help you to get the tone you want. The less you like what they say, the more you should shut up and listen.

CANCER (June 21- July 22): The purpose of work is to have a happier home life, so isn't home ultimately more important? Domestic calm and stability may take some effort, but it is necessary to help you weather big changes that can radically affect your career.

LEO (July 23 – August 22): Efforts to be witty and mildly provocative are likely to explode into huge imbroglios. Focus your mind on being factual, self-critical and open-minded. Relations at your workplace hinge absolutely on staying on that track!

VIRGO (August 23 – September 22): Take control of your finances. A big change in your banking and/or insurance should be to your advantage – if you think way ahead before taking big steps, and watch out for pitfalls. Be smart and attentive and you should come out ahead.

LIBRA (September 23 – October 22): Relationships are especially challenging, but remember the fulcrum for balancing them is in your home. It may be all about compromise, but stay true to yourself and your own principles. Challenge your partner to be at least half as adaptive as you are.

SCORPIO (October 23 – November 21): For the sake of your health you may have to reveal some deep, dark secrets. Professionals should be trusted so they can serve you properly. Friends should be trustworthy, but don't always count on that!

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 – December 20): Your efforts to socialize can get a little heavy-handed. Looking steady, solid and reliable is attractive, but can be overdone. Get deep and serious with people who already know you. Their insight is better for your problems, anyway.

CAPRICORN (December 21 – January 19): Charm will get you ahead, but acting too quickly on spontaneous flashes of "brilliance" could cause your career to go down in flames. With careful consideration those sudden bursts of inspiration might be honed into something truly momentous.

AQUARIUS (January 20 – February 18): For a good mental challenge, start by shutting up and listening. If that's too much, offer questions instead of arguments. Opening your mouth will reveal more than you intend so be very careful with whom you do that around.

PISCES (February 19 – March 19): Love, or a juicy facsimile, can be found in another generation. A decade or two older or younger is fine; just keep it legal! Rude surprises are too likely. The less you like advice from friends, the more you should listen. Following it remains optional.

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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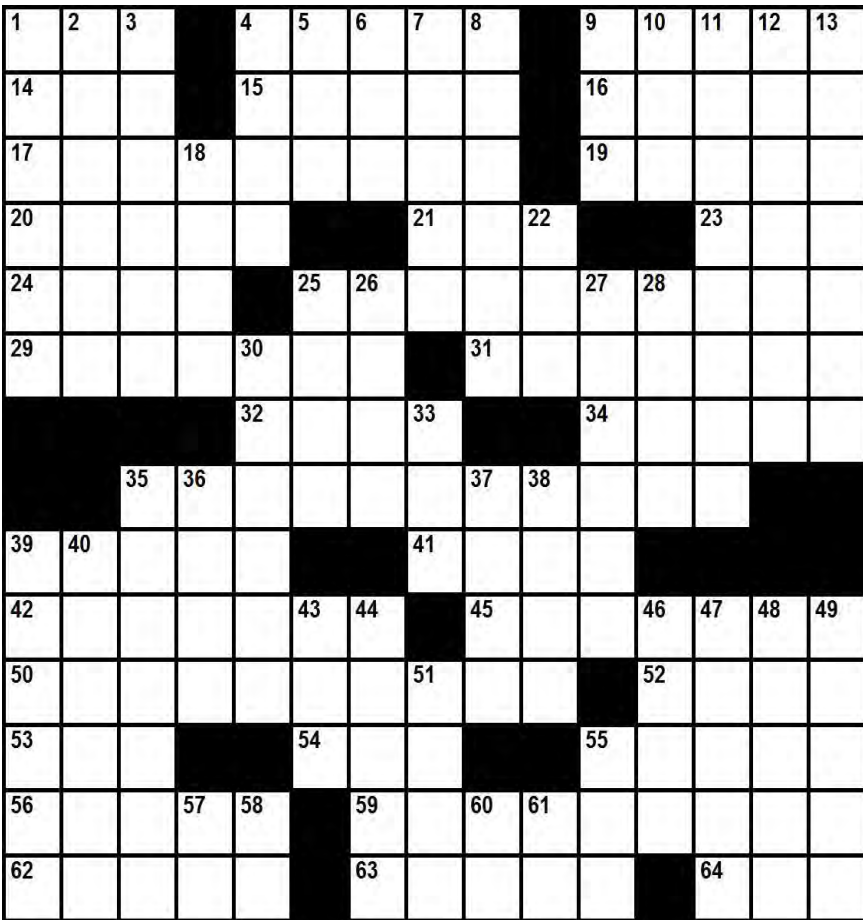
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- 1 Once the largest co. with domestic partner benefits
- 4 "An Early ____"
- 9 Be attracted to
- 14 To God, in "Banana Boat Song"?
- 15 Cukor's "____ and Juliet"
- 16 Taking it lying down
- 17 Wife of 59-Across
- 19 Eva Gabor's "Green ____"
- 20 All thumbs
- 21 Metrosexual
- 23 New Age music pioneer
- 24 One of a 1492 threesome
- 25 2000 mockumentary film of 59-Across
- 29 Painter O'Keeffe
- 31 Film material
- 32 Suffix with prefer
- 34 Lost some of its size
- 35 2003 musical spoof of 59-Across
- 39 Edna and Judi Dench
- 41 Sounds of relief
- 42 Krypton, for one
- 45 Put back on the payroll
- 50 Early role for 59-Across
- 52 Irene of "Fame"

- 53 Sash, to a Samurai
- 54 Kid of a parent's sib
- 55 Hits high fly balls
- 56 Country house, to Nureyev
- 59 Outfest Achievement award recipient
- 62 Surfer's post
- 63 End of a Stein quote
- 64 Summer along the Seine
- 65 Activity of Isadora Duncan
- 66 "A Streetcar ____ Desire"
- 67 Puncture sound

Down

- 1 Running in place
- 2 It tops a freshman
- 3 Rita of "West Side Story"
- 4 Ridge on Melissa's neck
- 5 Letters after CD
- 6 Fed. book balancers
- 7 Workers at the bottom
- 8 Camry maker
- 9 I.O., for one
- 10 Tolkien beast
- 11 Stroke for Mauresmo
- 12 Monotonous
- 13 Scattered seed anew
- 18 On ____ with

- 22 Upload it with your Gay.com profile
- 25 Cherry variety
- 26 Unit price word
- 27 Fairly recent
- 28 Gay-dog owner of "South Park"
- 30 Seuss's real last name
- 33 Sked info
- 35 Idol word?
- 36 Note to Jared Polis' staff
- 37 Male enhancement exaggeration?
- 38 Milk component
- 39 Put in plaintext
- 40 Jim Nabors' home state
- 43 Network of "The Ellen DeGeneres Show"
- 44 Condom used at Southern Cal?
- 46 Revolting
- 47 Ella of old films
- 48 Becomes hard
- 49 Sprints at the Gay Games
- 51 Sculptor Nancy
- 55 Aspen vehicle
- 57 Popular fruit drink
- 58 Pub offering
- 60 Marseilles moniker
- 61 Nationality ending

See solution on page 25

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A Yankee Sazerac

"This is like 'Jezebel,'" I snarled as I leafed through the cocktail books. Some were mine, but most came with the house, which was built by the guy who owned Showers – a bar in Chelsea that features guys in Speedos drenching, self-lovingly soaping and rinsing themselves onstage. The old gang showers at the Columbia gym were hotter.

Anyway, I was researching the Sazerac, a cocktail from the Big Easy. *Easy?* That's a laugh! The recipes were so stuffy that they reminded me of Bette Davis's 'Jezebel,' in which Bette ruins her life by wearing the wrong gown to a cotillion. As a direct result, she loses her fiance (Henry Fonda) to a dreadfully cheerful Yankee but gets carted triumphantly away with Fonda to Leper Island in the happy ending.

The Sazerac recipes were as impossibly stiff as Bette's ruinous cotillion. "The South should have seceded," I muttered. "These recipes are inane."

"Then don't make them," Dan sighed. "I'm sorry I brought it up. I had one at that conference in Satan's humid maw (New Orleans), and I thought you'd like it. I should have my head examined."

"For what? Lice?"

Poor Dan. "Listen to this," I said. "Pack a 3.5-ounce glass with ice. ('Not a 4-ounce glass, not a 3-ounce glass, but a precious little 3.5-ounce glass.') In another 3.5-ounce glass, moisten a sugar cube with water, then crush it. ('Oh sweet Mary!') Blend with rye and bitters. Add cubes of ice and stir. Dump out the ice and pour in the absinthe. Coat the inside of the glass and pour out the excess. ('No, asshole – drink it!') Strain the rye into the absinthe-coated glass. Twist a lemon peel over the glass so that the lemon oil cascades into the drink. ('Cascades! That's Bette's psycho asylum in 'Now, Voyager!')

Then rub the peel over the rim of the glass."

Then came the most idiotic sentence ever written in a cocktail recipe: "As Wilfred Frisby St. Bernard says, 'Do not commit the sacrilege of dropping the peel into the drink.'"

"Ohhhh," I intoned. "It's a sacrilege. Remind me to plop a whole lemon in."

Dan was getting sick of it. "I wish I – no, you – had never been born. Why don't you drink Absolut and I'll have Pernod and we'll give the absinthe away to a needy child."

"No!" I shouted a bit too loud. (I'd been sneaking hits of absinthe all afternoon.) "I'll make the damn Sazeracs. Only I'm going to do it my way. Let New friggin' Orleans declare war on me."

By the third round of Sazeracs, which are quite powerful, we'd done 180s: I was extolling the virtues of antebellum gentility, while Dan was strategizing the next Civil War.

The Sazerac: a Dan and Ed Co-Production

1/4-cup of rye

1-tsp "Really Simple Syrup" – put equal parts sugar and water into a jar, tighten the lid and shake until the sugar is dissolved

4 dashes of bitters (Snotty N'Awlanders demand Peychaud's, but use Angostura on principle)

Absinthe or Pernod – 1/2-tsp in the original, but pour as much as you want

Dump all ingredients sloppily into any size glass except a 3.5 ounce. Disregard the lemon. Stir with your finger, lick the finger in front of your guests, and serve.

Sushi spot opens in downtown Detroit

DETROIT - The colorful, cool and comfortable ambiance hits you instantly upon entering Wah-hoo, making the new Chinese/Asian style restaurant in Detroit's downtown already feel like a hot spot. There's a solid wood, wrap-around cocktail bar and a busy sushi bar, touches of art deco in the sconces and ceiling fans that remind you you're in the city that made the fabulous cars of yesteryear.

Wah-hoo is the latest restaurant venture of Nico Gatzaros of Fishbone's fame. The stylish restaurant features an extensive sushi menu, as well as a full complement of familiar Chinese dishes (Chef Feng, who rules the kitchen, had been the sushi chef at Fishbone's).

Wah-hoo does a brisk lunch business – and even after work, professionals congregate to dine, chat and, of course, drink. On weeknights, most of the accountants and bankers from the nearby financial district give way to whatever event-based crowd is in town that night, and on Fridays and Saturdays Wah-hoo remains open until 1 a.m.

The menu is extensive, with appetizers including pork-stuffed potstickers, chicken skewers, fried won-tons and several shrimp choices.



You won't go hungry with the generous dinner servings, and there's something for everyone in the large menu divided into themes: Garden, Sky, Ocean and Land. Many of the dishes are the classic Chinese fare, with some features spicy enough to require a quick sip of sake.

Wah-hoo is located at 536 Shelby St., right across from Cobo Hall – just a quick walk from the People Mover. For more information, call 313-324-8700 or visit the restaurant's Facebook page.

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Amy Adams

Amy Adams is the new Janis Joplin. Yes, really.

Years ago, as the search for an actor to play Janis Joplin heated up, the late Brittany Murphy saw her apparently very impressive audition tape float around Hollywood and the smart money was on her. (People tend to forget that Murphy was a good singer.) Then they talked about Melissa Etheridge. And just recently Pink was on track to step into the role. But now it seems that after years and years of teasing casting announcements, setbacks and development deals

crumbling into dust, it looks like a big-screen Joplin has been found in... Amy Adams? Sweet, delicate "Enchanted" princess Amy Adams? That Amy Adams? Yes. Wonder aloud, if you will, but that's why they call it acting. And if she pulls off a role that's as troubled and drugged and bisexual as Adams's normal persona is adorable, light and into guys like "Leap Year"'s Matthew Goode, then you'll know what that earlier Oscar nomination for "Junebug" was about. It's just nice to hear that it's not going to any of the young women from "High School Musical" or "Glee." At least for now.

Mickey Rourke as a gay rugby player?

If you were asked to pick which extremely macho cast member of the upcoming action picture "The Expendables" would lobby to play a gay athlete, which man would you select? If you said Jason Statham then you're wrong – but who can blame you for dreaming, really? – and not thinking about the other idiosyncratic role choices that have characterized the career of Mickey Rourke. The star of "The Wrestler" has set his sights on playing British rugby star Gareth Thomas, the first-ever professional rugby player to come out as gay. Thomas is on board for the actor to play him in a story of his life and Rourke has expressed his desire to get the project moving. One small problem: Thomas is 35 and Rourke is 57. So that could be a plausibility issue. If it all falls through for that reason, then someone might want to give cool up-and-coming character actor Tom Hardy ("Inception," "Bronson") a call.

Katherine Moennig riding with the 'Lincoln Lawyer'


Is Katherine Moennig a lesbian or is she just very happy to play one every chance she gets? It's impossible to know until the "L Word" alum speaks up and says one way or the other, but her recent inclusion in an art show for lesbian photographer Catherine Opie and her participation in the recent hilarious Funny or Die online video about a "real lesbian" chatline (featuring Sandra Bernhard

and "Sarah Silverman Program"'s Tig Notaro and a lot of hilarious kvetching) would suggest that she doesn't care if you assume she is. And her fan base of ladies – and some gentlemen – will be happy to know that she's shooting a new film. It's called "The Lincoln Lawyer." No, it's not a Civil War drama. It's about a lawyer who conducts business out of his car and it co-stars Marisa Tomei, Matthew McConaughey, Ryan Phillippe and William H. Macy. Moennig's role isn't known at this time: a bailiff? Court reporter? Lindsay Lohan's future cellmate? The possibilities are endless.

Beavis and Butthead: Reunited, and it feels so good

Keep Ernie and Bert. They were always too ambiguous about their affections. If you want a male pair to put on a pedestal, you can never go wrong with MTV's 1990's power-couple Beavis and Butthead. On sabbatical from pop culture for almost a decade after "doing" America in their feature film, the inseparable and idiotic teens are coming back to the small screen for new episodes where they'll sit on a couch and do what they do best: talk about weird music videos and make stupid comments. That the press coverage of this return to business as usual tends to focus on the boys watching Lady Gaga videos, it begs the question of what heterosexual young men care enough. Okay, sure, Romeo is reading between the lines. But not that much. Creator Mike Judge is working hard on the new episodes right now.

Romeo San Vicente has done a lot of America too. He can be reached care of this publication or at DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com



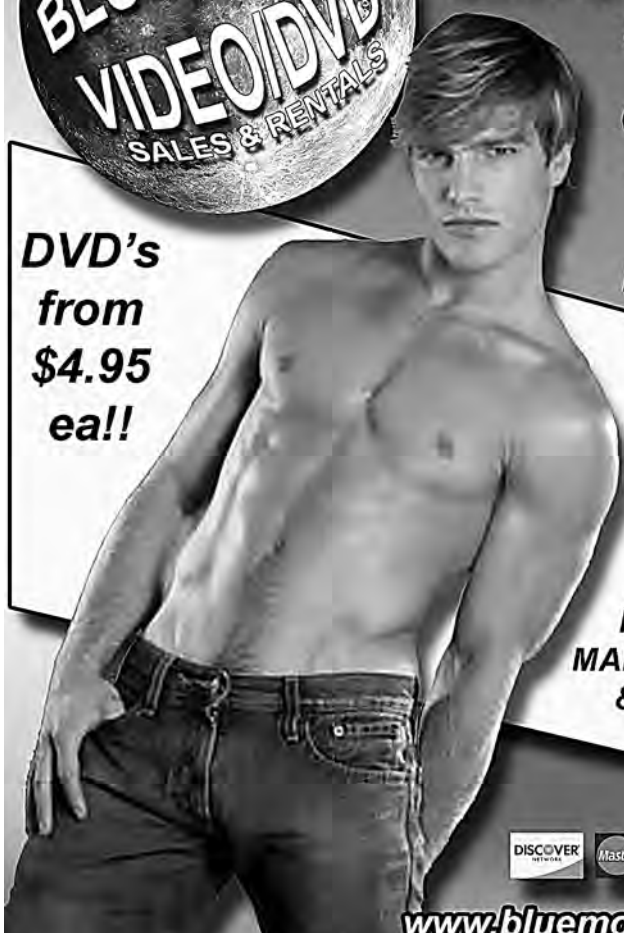
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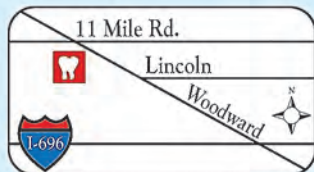
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