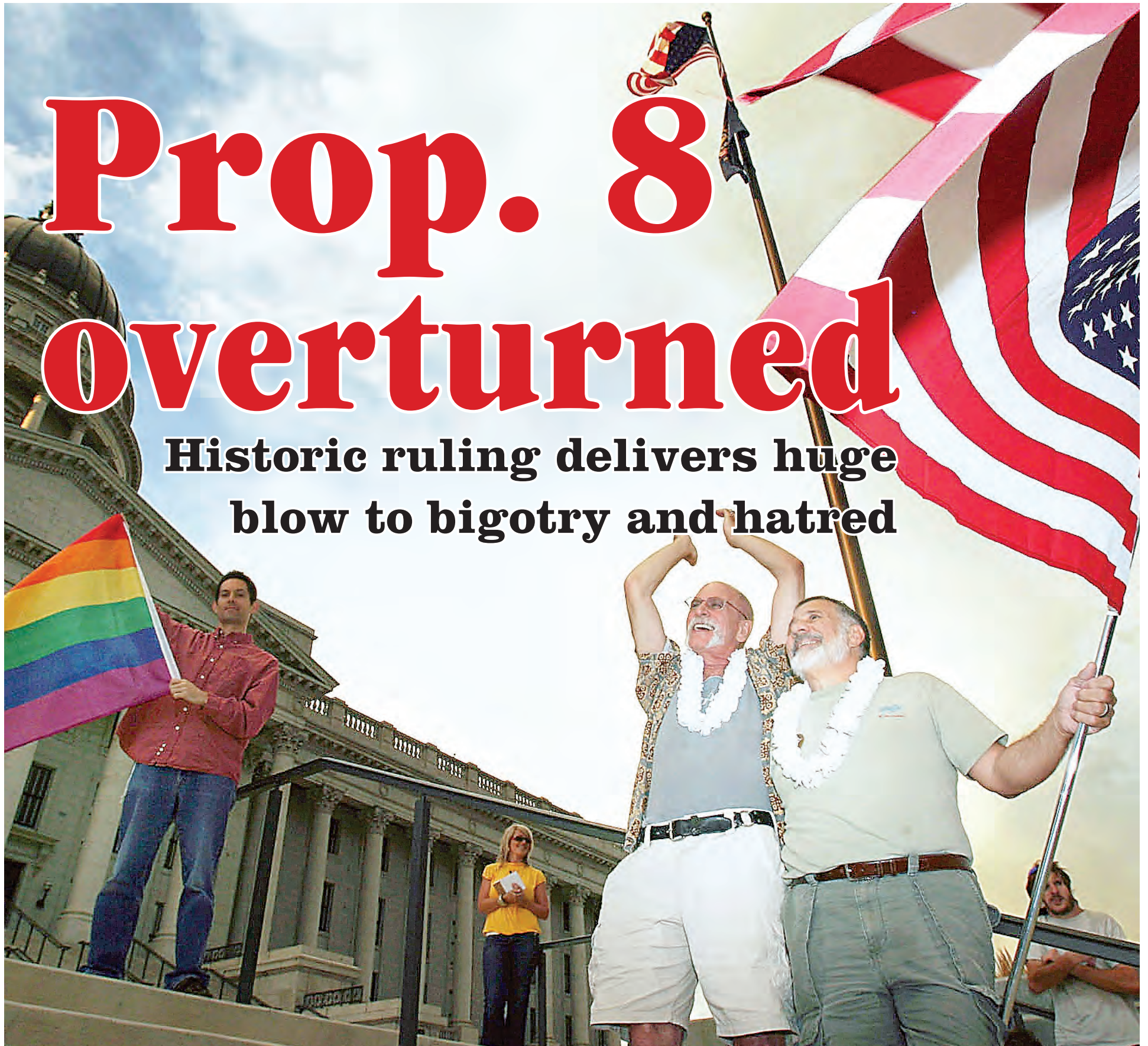


Between THE Lines



Prop. 8 overturned

**Historic ruling delivers huge
blow to bigotry and hatred**

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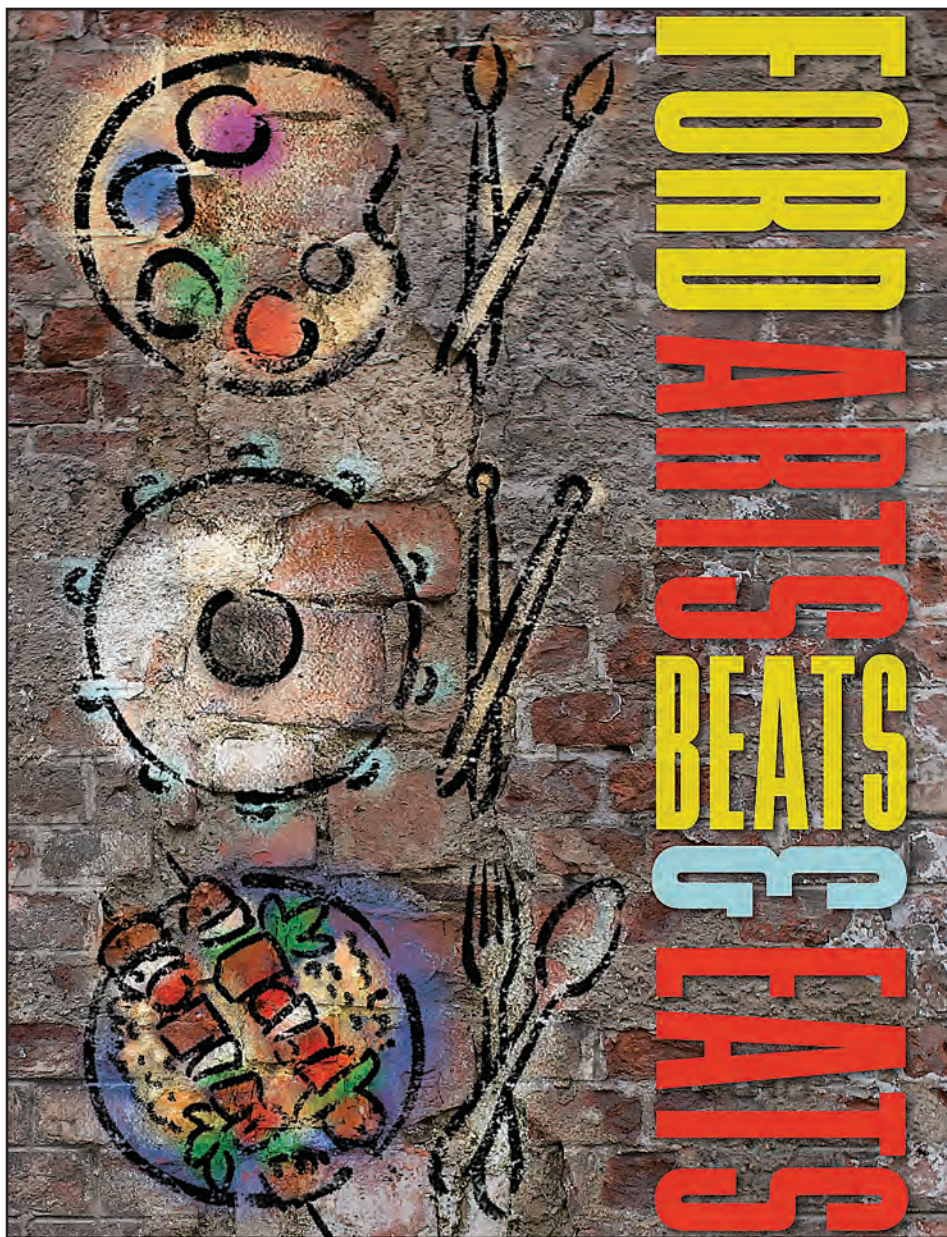
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MONTH OF FIRSTS

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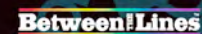
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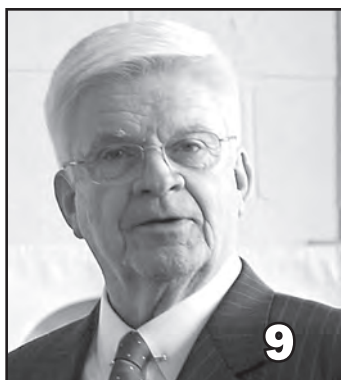
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Gale Crooks, who lives just outside of Columbiaville, Mich., is a founding member and current co-chair of the Lapeer County Equal Rights Alliance, which hosts LGBT educational events and works toward equal rights in the county and beyond.

1 How did you get involved with the Lapeer County Equal Rights Alliance?

A group of Lapeer County residents started LCERA in 2003 with the politically motivated attack on gay marriage. I was one of them.

We started LCERA to promote diversity in Lapeer County through education and community outreach and support. We became a 501(c)4 in 2004 – able to exist as a nonprofit, but also promote the advancement of equality and diversity in the county politically. Early on, we realized that no group stands alone, and by standing together to support civil rights and equality in general, we can support and encourage diversity in a homogeneous community.



I don't look at the work I do with the Lapeer County Equal Rights Alliance as harder because of the conservative area I'm in, I look at it as more important to try and make the GLBT community visible in a conservative area.

3. Being visible and present in the community. We do this by continuing our annual educational activities, providing support to local charities as we are able and keeping LCERA's name out and about in Lapeer County.

4 Do you find it harder to advance your causes in a more conservative area of Michigan?

I don't look at the work I do as harder because of the conservative area I'm in, I look at it as more important to try and make the GLBT community visible in a conservative area.

By being respectful of our community's strong conservative and religious background, we have been able to make some valuable connections

2 Why are you passionate about working for LGBT rights in your area?

I have very personal reasons to fight for the rights of LGBT and other minorities. As an adult going through youth and early adulthood being bullied, physically threatened and discriminated against, I feel a strong need to stand up to hate and discrimination to validate myself. Supporting others in these struggles provides me with the platform to stand strong and say "No!"

3 What are LCERA's current top priorities?

LCERA today focuses its attention on:
1. Being a leader in establishing a Community Response System to hate and bias. We are in the early stages of this, and thanks to the help from the Michigan Department of Civil Rights, we have support in establishing this system.

2. Focusing our attention on the persistent issue of bullying in our community as we are able.

within the community, which makes my work easier – the road is slow, however. We are committed to just "show up and challenge" by presenting community educational programs and provide public support venues when discriminatory issues arise or we see them as high priority.

5 How is LCERA working to gain membership and clout in the local community?

We are committed to being visible and present in the county. Several of us are on significant community organization boards. We try and respond to issues in our local paper's editorial page, and we publicize widely when we have a specific service program. Just being visible with a platform and purpose is important.

To get involved, visit www.lapeerequality.org.

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

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A month of firsts

Transgender Michigan celebrates new events, new home

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

The increasing recognition and acceptance of transpeople has never been more evident in southeast Michigan than in this month, which is full of trans-friendly activities and groundbreaking news of statewide trans advocacy organization Transgender Michigan opening up their first office in Ferndale.

The celebrations kicked off with a potluck dinner hosted by Affirmations community center's Gender Non-Conformists Group on Aug. 5. Next is the annual Transgender Pride in the Park, held at Geary Park in Ferndale on Aug. 14 from noon to 6 p.m.

And from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Aug. 28, Affirmations will play host to Michigan's first-ever Transgender Health Fair. There will be free and low-cost health screenings available, along with information from organizations that provide services to transgender individuals.

"We are so happy this month," says Transgender Michigan founder Rachel Crandall. "Everything is coming together all at once and there is so much support here for transgender people."

Crandall started Transgender Michigan with her partner Susan Crocker as a way to unite transpeople from all over the state in an "online clearinghouse for transgender information and events in Michigan," according to their website.

And, starting this month, they'll have an

office – the first site for transgender resources in the state – which will provide literature and assistance for the trans community.

The office will be staffed four days a week with a worker provided by AmeriCorps through the Michigan AIDS Coalition, which is renting out the office to Transgender Michigan in the Community Pride Building on Livernois.

The worker will be paid through grant money, but will receive another rarer type of compensation: being able to transition in a positive work environment, where being transgender is not only tolerated, but is also a respected asset. "Just being able to see Alex (the AmeriCorps employee) transition in this kind of work environment is a good reward," Crandall says. "He'll be able to share his experience with other people and help them first-hand."

Transgender Michigan provides a network of support to hundreds of transpeople throughout the state, with doctor referrals, mentoring, events, lobbying and education. Now, they'll be able to do that from a permanent home.

"Transgender Michigan has done a lot for me," says Michelle Fox-Phillips, who was on the first Board of Directors for the group and is also the founder of Transgender Detroit. "During my transition I have had numerous jobs. Once they realized I was trans, they would find some excuse to fire me. As late as 2002, (my late partner) Jamie and I would have to go in stealth mode to



Transgender Michigan founders Rachel Crandall (right) and Susan Crocker (left) hand out information with a volunteer at Motor City Pride. BTL photo by Crystal Proxmire

find a place to live. It was an awful experience."

Like Fox-Phillips, Charlie Ford Jr. faced workplace discrimination because he was transitioning from female to male. "I had been severely harassed in the bathroom I was forced to use at my internship," he recalls. "I talked to my supervisor about it, and she basically said that I brought all of this on myself because I'm trans and keep telling people to call me Charlie or Charles and dressing the way I did – as a guy."

"I called Transgender Michigan and Rachel calmed me down and let me know my options. I was able to complete my internship."

The grand opening ceremony for the Transgender Michigan office will be at the end of

August, with the date still to be announced. But Crandall and her team are already overcome with excitement. "Very few states have transgender organizations and very few of those have offices," Crandall says. "This is an incredible event."

Fox-Phillips agrees. "The trans community, in the last few years, is finally getting the respect that has been overdue," she says. "There is still a lot of work that needs to be done."

And hopefully, with a new home and staff person, Transgender Michigan will have many more success stories to tell in the future.

For more information, visit www.transgendermichigan.org.

Bernero takes the primaries in landslide vote

Pro-gay Lansing mayor to face GOP's Rick 'The Nerd' Snyder in Nov. 2 election

BY JESSICA CARRERAS

LANSING – Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero, who was most gay groups' top pick for the Democratic candidate for governor of Michigan, soared to a win in the Aug. 3 primaries, garnering 59 percent of the vote to opponent Andy Dillon's 41 percent.

The Republican win went to Ann Arbor businessman and former Gateway President Rick Snyder. The self-described "tough nerd" secured 37 percent of the his party's vote; U.S. Rep. Pete Hoekstra had 27 percent and Attorney General Mike Cox had 23 percent.

Republican voters outnumbered Democrats 2-1.

Bernero received endorsements from Between The Lines, Equality Michigan, the Lansing Association for Human Rights, the Kalamazoo Alliance for Equality and the Michigan Democratic Party LGBT Caucus. He is a known supporter of the spectrum of LGBT rights, including same-sex marriage, hate crimes protections, employment and housing non-discrimination, gay-inclusive anti-bullying legislation and second-parent adoption.

In a July interview with BTL, Bernero named relationship recognition and equality as his top LGBT rights priority in the state.

"I'm interested in engaging more with the community to set our legislative agenda, but I think relationship equality and the issue of health care benefits – are most important as health benefits become harder to get," Bernero said. "How we advance that whole thing is going to be important, both for human rights, for the quality of life issues of individuals, and also for the economy of the state. I really believe, as Michigan struggles and we work to come out of this economy, that relationship equality could be a way that we could turn around the job loss and population loss – to become a more welcoming state and become more LGBT friendly."

Bernero held his victory party at the Antheum Hotel in downtown Detroit Tuesday night, surrounded by his family and 300 supporters.

Primary a winner for Michigan LGBT voters

LGBT-endorsed candidates made a strong showing in the Aug. 3 primary election in Michigan, with 80.5 percent of them winning their races. Several out, LGBT candidates won in county and city elections as well.

The most prominent win was in the Democratic primary for governor where Virg Bernero, who was strongly endorsed by BTL and all the



LGBT PACSs, beat out Andy Dillon for the nomination. Bernero will face Republican Rick Snyder in November who beat out Peter Hoekstra and Mike Cox in a five-way, hotly contested primary. Both Hoekstra and Cox have long anti-LGBT resumes and were favored by groups opposed to a woman's right to choose.

Openly gay candidate Craig Covey won his bid to become the Democratic nominee in the race for Oakland County Commissioner in the 25th District, and will face Republican Richard Parisi in November for this open seat. Sandy

Smith won her reelection bid as an open lesbian on the Ann Arbor City Council, as she will be unopposed in November. Openly gay Republican Ken Rosen won his race for the nomination for the Michigan State House seat in Royal Oak, and will face the Democratic nominee Jim Townsend in the general election.

Democrat David Coulter lost his bid to become the first openly gay candidate for the Michigan Senate, coming in a close second to Vincent Gregory in a four-way race. Gregory will face off with Republican Michael Peters in the November general election.

A contest of special interest to the LGBT community was the Republican primary in the Michigan Senate 7th District, in which Debbie Whyman lost to Patrick Colbeck. Whyman gained notoriety in the 1990s when, as a state representative, she welcomed the Michigan Militia to the state capitol, introduced Michigan's state law banning same-sex marriage, verbally attacked the Triangle Foundation and ultimately lost a lawsuit brought by Triangle against her for libel. The LGBT community breathed a collective sigh of relief that she lost her race and will not be in the state legislature again any time soon.

You can find a detailed list of the primary winners endorsed by LGBT PACS online at www.pridesource.com

Prop. 8 overturned!

What's next for marriage ban battle, and when can the weddings begin?

BY REX WOCKNER

California's Proposition 8, the voter-passed constitutional amendment that re-banned same-sex marriage, is severely unconstitutional, U.S. District Judge Vaughn Walker ruled Aug. 4 in a blistering decision that excoriated every argument advanced by pro-Prop. 8 forces during the campaign and in court.

Prop. 8 violates the equal protection and due process guarantees of the U.S. Constitution, Walker found.

There is no "rational basis" for Prop. 8's existence, he determined. It was inserted into the state constitution solely to express "moral disapproval" of gay people, which is not an allowable governmental action, he said. Pro-Prop. 8 campaigners fueled such disapproval by airing nasty TV ads and distributing material that "relied heavily on negative stereotypes about gays and lesbians and focused on protecting children from inchoate threats vaguely associated with gays and lesbians," Walker wrote.

Prop. 8 has no legitimate reason for having seen the light of day, and California officials should stop enforcing it immediately, he said. He could issue an order to that effect within days.

The 136-page ruling – which National Center for Lesbian Rights Legal Director Shannon Minter called "a tour de force, a grand slam" – is gripping reading. Here is a lengthy sampling of Walker's stunning conclusions:

"Plaintiffs challenge Proposition 8 under the Due Process and Equal Protection Clauses of the Fourteenth Amendment. Each challenge is independently meritorious, as Proposition 8 both unconstitutionally burdens the exercise of the fundamental right to marry and creates an irrational classification on the basis of sexual orientation."

"The record reflects that marriage is a culturally superior status compared to a domestic partnership. California does not meet its due process obligation to allow plaintiffs to marry by offering them a substitute and inferior institution that denies marriage to same-sex couples."

"That the majority of California voters supported Proposition 8 is irrelevant, as 'fundamental rights may not be submitted to (a) vote; they depend on the outcome of no elections.'"

"(T)he Equal Protection Clause renders Proposition 8 unconstitutional under any standard of review. ... The trial record shows that strict scrutiny is the appropriate standard of review to apply to legislative classifications based on sexual orientation. All classifications based on sexual orientation appear suspect, as the evidence shows that California would rarely, if ever, have a reason to categorize individuals based on their sexual orientation. Here, however, strict scrutiny is unnecessary. Proposition 8 fails to survive even rational basis review."

"Proposition 8 cannot withstand any level of scrutiny under the Equal Protection Clause, as excluding same-sex couples from marriage is simply not rationally related to a legitimate state interest."



Prop-8-ruling march in San Diego Aug. 4 where over 2,000-3,000 people showed up to celebrate. Photo: David Poller

"Proponents' argument that tradition prefers opposite-sex couples to same-sex couples equates to the notion that opposite-sex relationships are simply better than same-sex relationships. Tradition alone cannot legitimate this purported interest. Plaintiffs presented evidence showing conclusively that the state has no interest in preferring opposite-sex couples to same-sex couples or in preferring heterosexuality to homosexuality. Moreover, the state cannot have an interest in disadvantaging an unpopular minority group simply because the group is unpopular. The evidence shows that the state advances nothing when it adheres to the tradition of excluding same-sex couples from marriage. Proponents' asserted state interests in tradition are nothing more than tautologies and do not amount to rational bases for Proposition 8."

"(T)he evidence shows beyond debate that allowing same-sex couples to marry has at least a neutral, if not a positive, effect on the institution of marriage and that same-sex couples' marriages would benefit the state. Moreover, the evidence shows that the rights of those opposed to homosexuality or same-sex couples will remain unaffected if the state ceases to enforce Proposition 8. The contrary evidence proponents presented is not credible. Indeed, proponents presented no reliable evidence that allowing same-sex couples to marry will have any negative effects on society or on the institution of marriage."

"Because the evidence shows same-sex marriage has and will have no adverse effects on society or the institution of marriage, California has no interest in waiting and no practical need to wait to grant marriage licenses to same-sex

couples. Proposition 8 is thus not rationally related to proponents' purported interests in proceeding with caution when implementing social change."

"The evidence does not support a finding that California has an interest in preferring opposite-sex parents over same-sex parents. Indeed, the evidence shows beyond any doubt that parents' genders are irrelevant to children's developmental outcomes. Moreover, Proposition 8 has nothing to do with children, as Proposition 8 simply prevents same-sex couples from marrying."

"The evidence shows conclusively that moral and religious views form the only basis for a belief that same-sex couples are different from opposite-sex couples. The evidence fatally undermines any purported state interest in treating couples differently; thus, these interests do not provide a rational basis supporting Proposition 8."

"Many of the purported interests identified by proponents are nothing more than a fear or unarticulated dislike of same-sex couples. ... The evidence shows that, by every available metric, opposite-sex couples are not better than their same-sex counterparts; instead, as partners, parents and citizens, opposite-sex couples and same-sex couples are equal. Proposition 8 violates the Equal Protection Clause because it does not treat them equally."

"In the absence of a rational basis, what remains of proponents' case is an inference, amply supported by evidence in the record, that Proposition 8 was premised on the belief that same-sex couples simply are not as good

"Proponents presented no reliable evidence that allowing same-sex couples to marry will have any negative effects on society or on the institution of marriage."

– Judge Vaughn Walker in his 136-page decision overturning Proposition 8

as opposite-sex couples. Whether that belief is based on moral disapproval of homosexuality, animus towards gays and lesbians or simply a belief that a relationship between a man and a woman is inherently better than a relationship between two men or two women, this belief is not a proper basis on which to legislate."

"The evidence at trial regarding the campaign to pass Proposition 8 uncloaks the most likely explanation for its passage: a desire to advance the belief that opposite-sex couples are morally superior to same-sex couples. The campaign relied heavily on negative stereotypes about gays and lesbians and focused on protecting children from inchoate threats vaguely associated with gays and lesbians."

"Plaintiffs have demonstrated by overwhelming evidence that Proposition 8 violates their due process and equal protection rights and that they will continue to suffer these constitutional violations until state officials cease enforcement of Proposition 8. California is able to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples, as it has already issued 18,000 marriage licenses to same-sex couples and has not suffered any demonstrated harm as a result; moreover, California officials have chosen not to defend Proposition 8 in these proceedings. Because Proposition 8 is unconstitutional under both the Due Process and Equal Protection Clauses, the court orders entry of judgment permanently enjoining its enforcement; prohibiting the official defendants from applying or enforcing Proposition 8 and directing the official defendants that all persons under their control or supervision shall not apply or enforce Proposition 8."

What happens next?

Walker is considering whether to put his ruling into immediate effect, which California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and Attorney General

See Prop. 8, page 12

EMU defends counseling student's dismissal

American Counseling Association: School did the right thing

BY LUCY HOUGH

Eastern Michigan University is known for being accepting of LGBT students and staff alike. It has a vibrant and prominent gay student population, sweeping non-discrimination policies and an LGBT Resource Center. Recently, higher education watchdog group Campus Pride awarded EMU 4.5 out of 5 stars on its LGBT-friendly Campus Climate Index, noting it as a "premier campus" for gay students to attend.

But in the case of graduate counseling student Julea Ward, who was dismissed from her program for refusing to counsel a gay student, the debate has risen as to whether the school has taken their pro-gay policies too far, or if their actions were justified.

Last year, Ward sued Eastern Michigan University for dismissing her after she referred a homosexual client to another counselor during practicum because, due to her Christian beliefs, she could not affirm that client's relationship.

However, a federal judge ruled July 26 that EMU did nothing wrong by dismissing Ward, who the school said did not meet the program's expectations.

Julea Ward's story

In January 2009, Ward referred a client seeking help for depression to another counselor before ever meeting with him, because she saw within the client's file that he had previously come in for help with a relationship he had with another male. Due to her actions, Ward's supervisor arranged an informal review, during which Ward was given three options: complete a remediation program, voluntarily leave the counseling program, or request a formal hearing. Ward requested a formal hearing.

A remediation program was a way for Ward to be trained on how to work with clients with different viewpoints and values.

Ward's counsel, the Alliance Defense Fund, which represents religious cases throughout the country, refused Between The Lines' request for

"Learning to counsel clients who have different values than you do is very difficult, it's a learned skill and it takes practice. So when a student has difficulty with that, as with any of the other skills in counseling ... you work out a remediation plan."

- David Kaplan, chief professional officer for the American Counseling Association

an interview. However, in a press release they stated their belief that, "(The remediation plan's) purpose was to help her 'see the error of her ways' and change her 'belief system' as it relates to counseling about homosexual relationships."

David Kaplan, chief professional officer for the American Counseling Association – the organization that provides the Code of Ethics to which Eastern's program follows – disagreed that Eastern had any intention to change Ward's beliefs, but instead handled the situation appropriately by allowing her an opportunity to be trained.

"Learning to counsel clients who have different values than you do is very difficult, it's a learned skill and it takes practice," Kaplan said. "So when a student has difficulty with that, as with any of the other skills in counseling ... you work out a remediation plan."

Instead, the formal hearing took place on March 10, 2009. A board of professors and a student representative heard Ward's perspective on the situation and asked her about other case scenarios, including how she would handle a student considering abortion or a student who is a different religion. There is some discussion that the questions asked were too intrusive, but the judge ruled that though it may have been "indelicate," the board "never demonstrated a purpose to change her religious beliefs."

On March 12, a letter was sent to Ward informing her that the board decided to dismiss

her from the counseling program. The letter stated, "It was the unanimous opinion of the committee that clear and convincing evidence was presented that, by your behavior, you have violated the ACA Code of Ethics."

Ward filed her complaint to the courts on April 2 of last year. In it, the ADF maintains that by dismissing her, the school implied that she needs to change her religious beliefs, engaged in "viewpoint discrimination" and also participated in illegal "speech codes" which are rules or regulations that limit speech in some way.

Acting as gatekeepers

After Judge George Caram Steeh issued his ruling on July 26 of this year, the ADF retorted in a press release that they will appeal as high as the case needs to go.

EMU and the ACA maintain that the university made the most responsible decision in dismissing Ward.

"(The ruling) is recognition that she was dismissed from the program for failing to meet curriculum requirements – nothing more and nothing less," said Walter Kraft, vice president of communications at EMU. "This case has never been about religious values or sexual orientation; this case is about what's in the best interest of the client."

"One of the things that we talk about ... is that training programs act as gatekeepers. And

the gate-keeping function is a very difficult function to do, but (it) is making an assessment as to whether this person will maintain the standards of the profession and do a good job," Kaplan said. "And if, for whatever reason, a student is not able or willing to uphold the standards and learn the skills to the requisite level, the program has an obligation to gate-keep them out of the profession because it's in the best interest of the client."

Kaplan said that one of the ACA's tenants is that the client is more important than the counselor. He acknowledged that those in training to be counselors are important, but ultimately it is the client that both the counselor and the greater professional body are working for. With this in mind, he insisted that it's incredibly important that counselors set aside their personal beliefs to provide a better environment for the client.

"Your personal beliefs are set aside to help your clients," Kaplan said. "In other words, ... you don't have to believe that homosexuality is appropriate, you just have to be able to work with a homosexual client."

Both the ACA and EMU hope that when the case is appealed, a future judge will rule similarly because of what it inevitably applies for both of their educational standards.

"What many of us are hoping is that this court case affirms the ACA's Code of Ethics, it affirms the non-discrimination clause of the Code of Ethics," Kaplan said. "It affirms that programs can support multiculturalism and diversity so it supports everything we're doing and it prevents people from wanting to discriminate against clients with certain characteristics."

For Perry Francis, a professor of counseling at Eastern in charge of counseling in the clinic and a member of the formal review board, he hates to see something like this happen but understands its importance.

"I feel as if it is a tough situation for everyone. I'm sorry that Julea Ward finds herself in this situation," Francis said. "It has distracted a lot of people, but at the same time, it is a very important principle."

Full Truth welcomes new pastor

DETROIT – Full Truth Fellowship of Christ Church, an LGBT-affirming congregation located in Detroit, is settling in as Rev. Ronchele Andres takes the reigns as the church's newest pastor.

Andres joined the Full Truth family in November of 2002, when, as she puts it, she "knew Full Truth would be her new church family." She became a deacon candidate in 2005 and attended the Destiny School of ministry, eventually becoming ordained as a minister in May 2008.

Andres served as the associate pastor of Full Truth until Rev. Darlene Franklin, who had been pastor of the church for the past decade, departed for a new church in Chicago this spring.

Now, Rev. Andres has six clergy, two licensed ministers and four ordained deacons serving under her. Currently, she is also trying to rebuild the church's youth ministry, which has 15 new members, and the board of directors. Full Truth also had a large presence at Hotter Than July this year, with members and clergy attending both the Ruth Ellis Pride March and the Palmer Park Festival.

"Everybody has stepped up and out of their comfort zones to serve Christ," Andres said. "I am excited to see what God has in store for each of us individually and collectively as a church family."

To learn more about Full Truth Fellowship of Christ Church, visit www.fulltruth.webs.com.



Rev. Ronchele Andres (bottom left) with Full Truth clergy at this year's Hotter Than July. BTL photo: Jessica Carreras

Battle Creek stabbing possible anti-gay hate crime, FBI informed

Police tipped off by hateful posts on Craigslist

BY TODD A. HEYWOOD

BATTLE CREEK – While attention in Calhoun county has been focused on the massive oil spill in Marshall, on the same day as the leak, July 25, a 45-year-old Battle Creek man was brutally stabbed in Leila Arboretum.

Now Battle Creek police say the attack was likely a hate crime, reports the Battle Creek Enquirer. Investigators have informed the FBI of the case.

The victim met the man – how is still unknown – and says he was forced to drive the man to Leila Arboretum, a park in Battle Creek. Once in the park, the victim was stabbed multiple times in the head and neck.

The victim's screams drew the attention of a witness who was in the park. The witness went to the site of the attack, and the attacker told the witness the situation was a "domestic dispute," reports the Battle Creek Enquirer.

Shortly after this, the attacker fled in the victim's car. The car has not been recovered, but the victim's wallet and checkbook have allegedly turned up in Charlotte, a small town 22 miles north of Battle Creek in Eaton County.

Police believe the attack might be a hate crime because on July 26, the day after the stabbing, an anonymous post appeared on Craigslist. The post, titled "I warned you, you dumb queer," included the following statement, "I e-mailed and said I have something ... but you did not think it was a knife did you. Now you are in the hospital and your car is in the river. I warned you."

Once that information appeared in the Enquirer, a second anonymous post appeared on Craigslist. This time the poster denied responsibility in the assault.

The post was filled with anti-gay slurs and references to AIDS. The writer claims that the previous post was "to keep the fags out of the parks, and I am the one that did it. It is not safe to take children to parks or for a walk in the woods without running into a dick-sucking party."

The post has since been removed from the site.

Police continue to investigate the attack. While Michigan has no hate crimes law, a federal law signed by President Barack Obama in October 2009 could be used to prosecute a suspect if investigators and the FBI believe the evidence shows the assault was a hate crime.

Equality Michigan issues guidelines

Equality Michigan has issued a series of safety guidelines in response to the attack. They include:

- Tell someone where you are going and how long you will be gone.
- Think about an escape route in advance, in case of danger.
- Look for well lit, open and secure areas in which to meet.
- If you get bad vibes, feel uneasy or get butterflies, your gut instinct is telling you something is wrong ... don't go with him!
- Never show that you feel intimidated, frightened or "out of control."

• Never let the pick-up know you are alone. Let them think that you have a friend that knows where you are.

- If you are alone, carry a phone.
- At any sign of trouble:
- Run and scream "Fire!" as loud as you can.

- Carry a whistle or personal alarm.
- If forced to fight, use whatever you can as a weapon – your stilettos, bag, sharp ring, belt buckle or anything that will inflict pain.
- Strike vulnerable areas of the body – eyes, throat, nose, fingers, balls, knee, feet – these hurt the most.

- Create as much noise as possible.
- Be cautious about revealing information that could identify you. For example, if you give someone your listed phone number, they can get your real name and street address.

- For your first meeting, pick a place that's public and neutral. If you're traveling to visit them in their town or neighborhood, you should pick a place you're comfortable with when you arrive.
- Always carry a cell phone. This will allow you to call 911 at any time. If finances are tight, purchase a pre-paid cell phone.

Know that, no matter what, violence is never your fault.

To learn more about how to protect yourself against violence, or to report a hate crime, visit www.equalitymi.org. This article ran in full on MichiganMessenger.com



Openly gay former Ford CFO to head WSU

Allan Gilmour will serve as university's interim president

BY BTL STAFF

The Wayne State University Board of Governors has unanimously elected former Ford Motor Company executive Allan Gilmour as the school's interim president.

Gilmour spent nearly 35 years with Ford, retiring as vice chairman and CFO in 1995. He rejoined Ford in 2002 as CFO before permanently retiring in 2005. Gilmour publicly announced that he is gay in an exclusive *Between The Lines* interview just after he first retired in 1995, making him the highest ranking corporate leader in America to come out publicly. Since then, he has become a leader and major funder of Michigan's LGBT community.

Gilmour was one of the first donors and organizers of the HOPE Fund at the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan, now one of the state's largest funders of LGBT projects. He and his partner Eric Jirgens co-chaired the Affirmations Capital Campaign that raised \$5.3 million for the new center in downtown Ferndale.

Former WSU President Jay Noren announced his resignation July 20, effective Aug. 6, after two years in office. His decision, Noren said, was so that he can be closer to his wife, Sheri, a provost at Illinois State University in Normal, Ill., who was diagnosed with breast cancer earlier this year. Phyllis Vroom, dean of WSU's School of Social Work and acting provost, was appointed acting president until an interim president could be named.

WSU Board Chairman Richard Bernstein called Gilmour the right person "at the right time, in the right place" to lead the university through its transition period.

Gilmour continues to serve as a director on various community and corporate boards, including DTE Energy, the Community Foundation, Henry Ford Health System and Dow Chemical.

Lansing activist, physical therapist Norman Pross dies

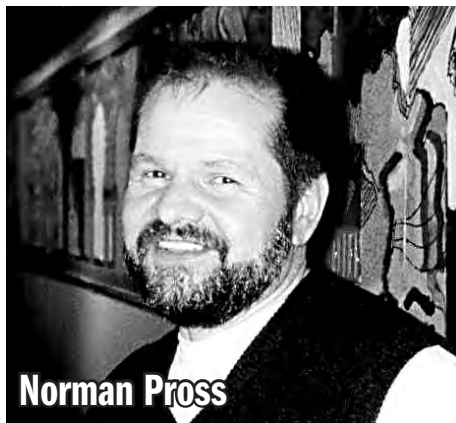
Norman "Bear" Pross passed away peacefully, surrounded by his loved ones, on Tuesday, July 20 at Hospice of Lansing, Stoneleigh Residence. He was 60.

Bear, as he was known to all, was born Aug. 14, 1950 in Bay City to Alfred and Syble (Jones) Pross. He grew up on his family's farm in Standish, where he attended a one-room schoolhouse until fifth grade. He graduated from Standish-Sterling High School in 1969 and from Central Michigan University, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in education and a certificate in special education. He moved to Lansing in 1974, where he lived for the remainder of his life.

Bear was known as a fierce champion of gay rights, as well as people living with disabilities, working toward the passing of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

He worked in physical therapy both at Eaton Intermediate School District and at St. Lawrence Hospital. He was an advocate for people with disabilities, including people with HIV, with Michigan Protection and Advocacy Services.

In his most recent job, as a consultant to the Michigan Department of Community Health HIV/AIDS Prevention and Intervention Section, he was a trainer on HIV-related issues. His intelligence, compassion, and unwavering sense of



justice made him a respected colleague, mentor and leader in his field.

In addition to his professional achievements, Bear had many other interests. He studied at Lansing Community College and became a volunteer interpreter of American Sign Language. He was a masterful baker and cake decorator, a skilled calligrapher, a collector of antiques, a world traveler, a lover of cats and an avid Scrabble player. He had a quick and mischievous wit, and never passed up a good double entendre.

Bear leaves his longtime companion of 32 years, David McSkulin; his sisters, Sandra

Kolevar and her husband David of Saginaw, and Joanne Pross and her husband Ken Jameson of Alaska; his loving nephews and nieces; Scott and Shelly Kolevar and their children, Scotty and Brooke; Jason and Nicole Kolevar and their children, Justin and Madison; Jennifer Kolevar (Jim Edler); and Annalise Jameson.

Bear will be deeply missed by his chosen family – dear friends Marilyn and Bernard Brown and their daughters, Courtney and Ashley; and Ellen Ives and Colleen Johnson and their sons, Aidan and Sam.

Honoring his wishes, cremation has taken place. A memorial service and celebration of Bear's life will be held at 2 p.m. Aug. 14 at Edgewood United Church, 469 N. Hagadorn in East Lansing, with a reception to follow. The service will be ASL interpreted. Arrangements are by the Estes-Leadley Greater Lansing Chapel.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial donations to: Hospice of Lansing for the Stoneleigh Residence (www.hospiceoflansing.org), Equality Michigan (www.equalitymi.org), or the Capital Area Humane Society (www.cahs-lansing.org).

One of his favorite quotes will always be a reminder of the way Bear lived his life: "There are those who give with joy, and that joy is their reward." - Kahlil Gibran



BTL EDITORIAL

Why not Detroit?

Los Angeles. San Francisco. San Diego. Sacramento. Long Beach. New York City. Boston. Denver. Anchorage. Salt Lake City. San Antonio. Dallas. The list goes on – hitting a total of, by some estimates, almost 50 cities in 12 U.S. states.

What do all of these cities have in common? On the evening of Aug. 4, they were all sites of local rallies celebrating Ninth Circuit Court Judge Vaughn Walker's decision to overturn California's anti-gay marriage law, Proposition 8.

But here's the big question: Why isn't Detroit – or, really, any city in Michigan – on that list?

There's no doubt that, although the decision does not affect our LGBT citizens, Michiganders were eagerly awaiting Judge Walker's ruling, and they were in just as celebratory of a mood as other non-affected – but still overwhelmingly happy – LGBT people in other state across the U.S. We all got it: It's a ruling that, in the most basic of understandings, will hopefully mean the return of same-sex marriages to California.

But it also means a lot more, in that it is the most sweeping, comprehensive shut-down of every point same-sex marriage opponents have ever tried to make. We're still unsure what legal consequences it could mean for the other states within the Ninth District, or for states like Michigan where our community needs to overturn a same-sex marriage ban. But no matter what effect this will have on us, it is the largest affirmation of our right to marry whomever we choose ever issued by that high of a court. It is a wonderful thing to hear.

So why weren't we out in the streets? Why weren't we at the Capitol Building in Lansing? Detroit City Hall? Ferndale? Anywhere?

Equality Michigan Executive Director Alicia Skillman summed it up nicely in her letter to members, celebrating the decision: "When I heard the results," she wrote, "I actually did a happy dance in my office – I'm sure many of

So why weren't we out in the streets? Why weren't we at the Capitol Building in Lansing? Detroit City Hall? Ferndale? Anywhere?

you did, as well."

We weren't in the streets. We were in our offices, our homes, our libraries, in our cars, connecting only via Facebook or text message. We celebrated a community triumph – alone. How sad.

This is not to say that one particular group – and certainly not one person – is to blame. Indeed, a look at rallies in various cities will show that they were organized by groups that were a myriad of sizes, abilities and budgets. New York's rally was organized by Queer Rising, a small political activism group. Colorado's came to be by their local chapter of Marriage Equality USA. San Diego's was a collective effort, brought about by collaboration by LGBT and allied groups that included their local community center, Planned Parenthood Office, labor council and several Democratic groups.

But in Michigan, no one stepped up to the plate. No one made a Facebook event or called friends who called friends, etc. No signage in the streets of Detroit. No cheers on the Capitol steps. Was it the primaries that wiped us out? Are we too unorganized? Did we just not care enough about another state's victory, while ours are too few?

All we at Between The Lines want is for each of us asks ourselves why, during this moment of decidedly great celebration, we did not celebrate together. And next time – be it a Michigan victory or simply one for our brothers and sisters elsewhere – let's get it right.

VIEWPOINT



Bullseye

Human Rights Campaign is perfect target, not the best buy

BY MIKEY ROX

Somebody call Tom Cruise. The Human Rights Campaign is on a Mission: Impossible.

Its goal? To convince two of the world's largest corporations, Target and Best Buy, to donate a combined quarter-million dollars to pro-equality candidates in Minnesota after the retail behemoths contributed an equal amount to MN Forward, a right-wing political action committee that backs anti-equality Minnesota gubernatorial candidate Tom Emmer.

In the past two weeks, pressure has mounted against the consumer juggernauts as the HRC continues to lead a charge intended to shame both outlets into giving funds to politicians who work on behalf of equal rights. As if that's supposed to "right" the "wrong."

Of course, I'm not surprised that the HRC would suggest a dollar-for-dollar approach to call off the queer uprising. Especially since the HRC's own agenda is fueled by greed and crispy greenbacks. Yep, you read it right. HRC president Joe Solmonese and his holier-than-thou "activists" are as shady as those at whom they shake their fingers. And they should be ashamed of themselves.

While HRC proper is a 501(c)4 group – a distinction that allows it to lobby on Capitol Hill but keep the identities of its donors private – the HRC Foundation, the "charitable" arm of the HRC isn't exactly a model of efficiency or full disclosure.

Consider, for instance, that the Foundation spends nearly 30 percent of its net income on administrative and fundraising expenses combined, according to Charity Navigator, the most-utilized and trusted evaluator of charities. What does that mean? For starters, it means that \$1.3 million dollars is spent to pay inflated salaries, while another \$1.3 million is spent on the junk mail that carries your "free" sticker.

What's even more suspect is that there's no reported compensation for Betsy Pursell, HRC vice president of public education and outreach, on CharityNavigator.com, whereas likeminded equal-rights organizations, such as the Gay & Lesbian Leadership Institute and the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, dutifully disclose how much they pay their head honchos.

Where the HRC gets off scolding Best Buy and Target is beyond me. As a business, the HRC makes business decisions too, like choosing not to compensate its hardworking volunteers –

men and women who canvass the streets in extreme heat and cold to spread the pro-equality message. I dare anyone to ask how much Solmonese gets paid to sit in his cushy office while his underpaid and, in some cases, unpaid minions do the grunt work. In fact, I double dare you. And I want to be there when you fall out of your chair in disbelief.

It goes without saying that I'm siding with Best Buy and Target on this one. But not just because I think the HRC is a crock.

I'm Team Target because the numbers don't lie. Target is one of the most philanthropic companies in the nation, and it gives more than \$3 million each week – each week! – to the communities in which it operates. And I'm Team Best Buy because the consumer electronics retailer donates up to 1.5 percent of pretax earnings to support national organizations like the United Way and American Red Cross, as well as funding scholarship and other community initiatives throughout the country.

Let us not overlook either that both companies were featured in the HRC's Best Places to Work 2010, listed among the "top businesses

Where the HRC gets off scolding Best Buy and Target is beyond me. As a business, the HRC makes business decisions too, like choosing not to compensate its hardworking volunteers – the men and women who canvass the streets in extreme heat and cold to spread the pro-equality message.

that support equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender employees." None of that matters to the HRC, though.

Still, despite the HRC's smear campaign, Target and Best Buy are sticking to their positions of support for MN Forward and Emmer, because at the end of the day both corporations have to protect their bottom

lines – two of which include providing top-quality merchandise to Americans at affordable prices and providing jobs. Lots of jobs. Target defended itself best in response to a letter from an outraged customer – both of which were posted on Queerty.com – when it said, "Our support of causes and candidates is based strictly on issues that affect our retail and business objectives" and "MN Forward's objective is to elect candidates from both parties who will make job creation and economic growth a top priority."

Right on. Jeremy Bentham would agree.

He's the dead English philosopher who advocated and made popular an idea called utilitarianism – that is, choosing an action based on the greatest good for the greatest number of people. I believe that's what's happening here.

Target and Best Buy aren't stupid; they don't take their political decisions lightly. One must assume that they knew what they were get-

See Bullseye, page 11

PRIDESOURCE dot com

S/he said

Being queer, Jerusalem Pride, Judy Shepard

COMPILED BY HOWARD ISRAEL

“Homosexuals can have their parade wherever they want, as long as it is not in Jerusalem. Leave Jerusalem to her pilgrims and faithful. This city has suffered enough wounds and humiliation.”

- Latin Patriarch Fouad Twal, the Catholic Church's highest official in the Holy Land, in a statement denouncing Jerusalem's Eighth Annual Gay Pride Parade, <http://blog.beliefnet.com>, July 30. The parade attracted 3,000 people.



Hank Millbourne

AIDS fight,” www.freep.com, Aug. 8.

“When it comes to GLBTQ issues, political activism and the reading of literature are ... powerfully intertwined. How are we to understand literature's relationship to GLBTQ issues? How can literature serve as a means of advocacy for gender and sexual minorities, and of realizing an inclusive vision of culture? How can literature validate queer experiences and identities? These are just some of the questions that we should consider when thinking about the relationship between GLBTQ literature and social justice work.”

- Margaret Sönsner Breen, Associate Professor of English and Women's Studies at the University of Connecticut, in her column titled “Narratives of Queer Desire,” Aug. 1.



Judy Shepard

the federal judge's decision to overturn the California anti-same-sex marriage law, www.huffingtonpost.com, Aug. 4.

“I want to normalize the conversation around HIV and AIDS, particularly in the African-American community. HIV is prevalent in our community because we weren't having those conversations. I also want people to see you can have this disease and live, but you have to take care of yourself. I'm a witness to that.”

- Hank Millbourne, associate executive director of AIDS Partnership Michigan, in an interview titled “Leaders can't stay silent in



“As a young woman who had never, ever fit in, I had always felt left-of-center, off-kilter, weird. It took the early part of my 20s to not only come to grips with that weirdness but to begin to embrace it as a positive and see the wonder in uniqueness. So when I was provided with the option of 'queer,' it just sounded right. It felt new, but it felt good. Surely I am certainly queer as queer means just not regular. My queerness has more to do with who I think I am than it has to do with whom I choose to get down. I am queer in a big room all by myself.”

- Dylan Ryan, 29-year-old porn performer and graduate student, a proud member of the queer porn revolution, in her column titled “Queer,” <http://carnalnation.com>, Aug. 2.

ton of cash. Because Solmonese doesn't get paid in rainbows and unicorns. If you think that statement's false, take a good long look at the bold blue “Donate Today” button on the bottom of your HRC e-mails.

Why is it there? Because money – not idealism – makes the world go 'round.

At least Target and Best Buy admit it.

Mikey Rox is an award-winning writer and journalist and the founder of Paper Rox Scissors, a copywriting and creative consulting company in New York City. He can be reached at mikey@paperroxcissors.com.



Parting Glances Then & Now

BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

Kraft nicht bei who?

Within months of Adolf Hitler's appointment as Germany's Chancellor in 1933, Nazi S.S. thugs in Berlin stood menacingly in front of Jewish owned businesses.

They held up signs in their grubby, beat-opponents-to-a-pulp hands that read, “Kraft nicht bei juden!”

“Don't buy from Jews!”

Germany has had a history of Jew-baiting going back to the 15th century. (Christianity's contribution can be traced to the Gospel of John, wherein Jews are blamed for Jesus' death.)

Here's a seven-point tract called, “On the Jews and Their Lies.” It circulated widely in 1543. Excerpts will suffice to indicate its malicious intent.

“First, to set fire to their synagogues or schools and to bury and cover with dirt whatever will not burn, so that no man will ever see a stone or cinder of them. This is to be done in honor of our Lord and of Christendom, so that God might see that we are Christians, and do not condone or knowingly tolerate such public lying, blaspheming of his Son and of his Christians.”

Its author is Martin Luther, founder of the Protestant movement. It is, one can say without fear of contradiction, an embarrassment to the many protestant denominations evolved since Luther's time (1483-1586).

In 1935, Nazi Germany decreed the notorious Nuremberg Laws. Jews were made non-status residents with no rights. They were excluded from practicing any medicine, law, or teaching of Aryan citizens (non-Jews).

In 1938, Jewish homes, businesses, synagogues were vandalized, burned, destroyed during the November weekend that lives in lasting infamy as “Kristalnacht.” Night of shattered glass. Soon Jews were required to wear yellow stars. Failure to do so meant death. Soon Jewish property was confiscated. Jews were deported to lice-ridden ghettos.

German city after city was declared, “Judenfrei.” Free of Jews. It was hard not to know what was going on. But most Germans looked the other way. Most minded their own business. Shoah, the Holocaust, was underway. “Kraft nicht bei Juden” it visibly began. It ended with six million deaths.

Hitler's rise to totalitarian power was made possible by a worldwide economic depression that affected Germany especially hard. There was exceptional unemployment, discontent, failure of political parties to bring about governing stability, especially that of the post-World War I, democratic Weimar Republic. (Any of this sound just a little familiar here?)

It may be by a stretch of imagination by those who have lived as a bridge between the recent past – say, 60 or more years – to the present day, to perceive cautions, hints, similarities between times then and now. Trends to take note of. Warnings to watch out for. Count me in. I hope I'm wrong.

Having said as much, having reflected on another time and place in our beleaguered 20th century history, it is noted with acute interest that the American Family Association has demanded of its members another boycott: Home Depot.

The AFA is calling Home Depot on the threadbare Christian hate carpet because of its support of many gay Pride events. (AFA in the past has called for boycotting of Ford Motor Co. and Disney World for their generous commitments to the LGBT community.)

For the most part, the AFA boycotts have not been effective. Ford Motor Company has not gone under nor, unlike its competitors, gone into bankruptcy. Disney World still has popular gay days. And, safe to say, Home Depot will not be affected in the least. (Lesbian shoppers will see to that.)

What's disturbing is that it's all too easy to picture an AFA Bible bully carrying a sign, “Don't Buy From Gays or Gay Supporters.” And looking the other way when a gay bashing happens or a basic civil right gets taken away – all in God's name. “Kraft nicht bei gospel.”

Charles@pridesource.com. Facebook, too.

► Bullseye

Continued from p. 10

ting into. One must also trust that theirs was a strategic decision that in the long run will benefit more people than it will put off.

By now, however, you've probably made up your mind to boycott both establishments because the venerable HRC told you to. But I hope you'll permit these three words: Beware the propaganda.

The HRC has an agenda, too – and as much as you think it's advocating for equal rights, it's equally intent on raising a

Gary Cass

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

With Prop. 8 being overturned in California, some folks are a little pissed. And the fact that Vaughn R. Walker, the judge who ruled that it's



Gary Cass

not cool to deny gay and lesbian folks the right to marry, is, in fact, a homo himself hasn't been lost on the anti-gay right.

In an Aug. 5 diatribe on the Christian Anti-Defamation Commission website, Gary Cass explains that the only reason the Prop. 8 case went in favor of homos

of law and that one of the lawyers arguing the case against Prop. 8 was Ted Olson, George W. Bush's Solicitor General for goodness sake. Oh, and that homo Walker? Also a Bush appointee.

Of course, logic and reason go out the window when you believe that same-sex couples getting married is a harbinger of complete and total godless sexual mayhem.

"Scripture and history tells what's next," Cass writes. "Sexual anarchists have already announced what's next; polygamy, group marriage, incest and intergenerational sex (or statutory rape as we now define it). They won't rest until, like in Sodom, they can surround your house and demand you offer up your children to be abused."

Wait, what?! Gays are supposed to form mobs, roaming neighborhoods and nabbing children to have sex with? Um, I'd like to speak to the

Um, I'd like to speak to the head of the Gay Agenda Committee because when I look at my summer to-do list I see, "Power wash deck, clean out garage, organize basement." I don't have time for any Sodom and Gomorrah shit.

is because Walker is a big ol' fag.

"Let's not be shocked that Judge Walker cannot comprehend the self-evident rational basis for prohibiting homosexual marriage, after all, he is a practicing homosexual," writes Cass. "The Bible plainly tells us that once a person has seared his conscience to such an extent that he can exchange his natural sexual relationship with the opposite sex for homosexuality, his ability to reason becomes utterly compromised."

So because Walker is gay, his mind is essentially diseased. He's a mental cripple, if you will. Not to mention a total perv-o with no conscience. In fact, I wouldn't be surprised if the reason he couldn't "comprehend the self-evident rational basis" against "homosexual marriage" was because he was watching Barbra Streisand movies on his iPhone throughout the trial.

To Cass, Walker is the ultimate example of an "activist judge."

"Openly rebellious sinners who live in hostility to the laws of nature and nature's God will attempt to impose their tyrannical, arbitrary standards on us," Cass writes.

Got that? If you are in favor of letting same-sex couples get married then you're a "rebellious sinner" with "tyrannical, arbitrary standards." Never mind that Walker's decision is based firmly in the rule

head of the Gay Agenda Committee because when I look at my summer to-do list I see, "Power wash deck, clean out garage, organize basement." I don't have time for any Sodom and Gomorrah shit.

Of course, there is no Gay Agenda Committee because the Gay Agenda, as folks like Cass know it, doesn't really exist. What does exist is "The Homosexual Manifesto," published in a gay newsletter in 1987 as satire, albeit poorly written, that is now held up as a blueprint for the gay and lesbian rights movement by those opposed to equality. It begins, "We shall sodomize your sons, emblems of your feeble masculinity..." Oh, please.

But to Cass, "The Homosexual Manifesto" is practically gospel, since it upholds everything he hates about homos.

"This example of the twisted mind of a homosexual activist will break your heart," Cass writes. "Though written satirically, it reveals the dark soul of a person whose conscience is corrupted by a voracious hatred and consumed with an insatiable lust."

Call me crazy, but claiming that the overturning of Prop. 8 will lead to the forced homosexual gang-banging of children – that sounds like the work of a "conscience ... corrupted by a voracious hatred and consumed with an insatiable lust."

Kagan makes it through Supreme Court confirmation

Moderate candidate becomes third woman to sit on current bench

BY JULIE HIRSCHFELD DAVIS

WASHINGTON (AP) – Elena Kagan survived her own confirmation mess.

The lawyer and academic who once famously blasted the Supreme Court confirmation process as a charade emerged from it intact on Aug. 5, confirmed by the Senate as the 112th justice and the fourth woman in the court's history.

President Barack Obama's nominee didn't tell senators much more than the justices she criticized in her 1995 law review article entitled "Confirmation Messes, Old and New" – but it was enough for majority Democrats and a handful of moderate Republicans to back her.

The vote was 63-37 for Kagan, who was sworn in Aug. 7 afternoon at the Supreme Court as the successor to retired Justice John Paul Stevens.

Five Republicans joined all but one Democrat and the Senate's two independents to support Kagan. In a rarely practiced ritual reserved for the most historic votes, senators sat at their desks and stood to cast their votes with "ayes" and "nays."

Kagan watched on TV in the conference room at the solicitor general's office, with her Justice Department colleagues looking on.

Obama, traveling in Chicago, said her confirmation was an affirmation of her character and judicial temperament, and called the addition of another woman to the court a sign of progress for the country.

The Senate, he said, "got a pretty good look at Elena Kagan ... her

formidable intelligence, her rich understanding of our Constitution, her commitment to the rule of law, and her excellent – and occasionally irreverent – sense of humor."

The president invited Kagan to the White House Friday for a ceremony to celebrate her confirmation.

Kagan isn't expected to alter the ideological balance of the court, where Stevens was considered a leader of the liberal wing. But the two parties clashed over her nomination and the court itself. Republicans argued that Kagan was a politically motivated activist who would be unable to put aside her opinions and rule impartially. Democrats defended her as a highly qualified trailblazer for women who could bring a note of moderation and real-world experience to a polarized court they said was dominated by just the kind of activists the GOP denounced.

Kagan is the first Supreme Court nominee in nearly 40 years with no experience as a judge, and her swearing-in will mark the first time in history that three women will serve on the nine-member court together.

Her lack of judicial experience was the stated reason for one fence-sitting Republican, Sen. Scott Brown of Massachusetts, to announce his opposition to Kagan's confirmation Thursday, just hours before the vote.

Though calling her "brilliant," Brown – who had been seen as a potential GOP supporter – said she was

missing the necessary background to serve as a justice.

"The best umpires, to use the popular analogy, must not only call balls and strikes, but also have spent enough time on the playing field to know the strike zone," Brown said.

Democrats said they hoped Kagan would act as a counterweight to the conservative majority that's dominated the Supreme Court in recent years.



Elena Kagan

"I believe she understands that judges and justices must realize how the law affects Americans each and every day. That understanding is fundamental," said Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., the Judiciary Committee chairman. With her confirmation, he said, "the Supreme Court will better reflect the diversity that made our country great."

Most Republicans portrayed Kagan as a partisan who will use her post to push the Democratic agenda from the bench.

Kagan "is truly a person of the political left – now they call themselves progressives – one who has a history of working to advance the values of the left wing of the Democratic Party, and whose philosophy of judging allows a judge to utilize the power of their office to advance their vision for what America should be," said Sen. Jeff Sessions of Alabama, the top Republican on the Judiciary Committee.

Just one Democrat – centrist Sen. Ben Nelson of Nebraska – crossed

See Kagan, page 14

► Prop. 8

Continued from p. 7

Jerry Brown have formally asked him to do, or whether to "stay" it for some amount of time while anti-gay forces attempt an appeal to the Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

However, it is unclear if the supporters of Prop. 8 have "standing" to appeal, since they were not the ones actually sued. None of the governmental entities that were sued, which included Brown and Schwarzenegger, agreed to defend Prop. 8, so the people who sponsored Prop. 8 were allowed to become "defendant-intervenors" to defend it. But that may not fly at the appeals level, which would leave the case finished – and same-sex marriage



would again be legal in California.

In reality, many possible scenarios could play out over the next few days. Walker could issue a brief stay, or a longer one. He could refuse to issue a stay, but the Ninth Circuit could issue one. It could be determined that the defendant-intervenors do have standing to appeal. As of press time, it simply is not known what will happen.

Celebration across the U.S.

Gay leaders, activists and ordinary folks were downright ecstatic over Walker's ruling. There were virally organized marches and rallies in more than 45 cities in 12 states the evening of Aug. 4.

"For the first time, a federal court has conducted a trial and found that

A child is dead



Gwendolyn Ann Smith

BY
GWENDOLYN
ANN SMITH

Seventeen-month-old Roy A. Jones is dead. His killer, Pedro Jones, is in custody. The child's mother and her family are distraught, angry and full of deep, heart-wrenching sorrow.

Pedro Jones, Roy Jones' babysitter, is a 20-year-old who was Roy Jones' mother's boyfriend – but is of no relation to either. While the infant and his family were part of the Shinnecock Indian Reservation, Pedro Jones was not.

Roy A. Jones died of cardiac arrest, but this was caused by Pedro Jones – according to New York State Police – hitting the child “several times throughout the body with closed fists.” Jones has pled not guilty to first-degree manslaughter charges, arguing that he “never struck that kid that hard before.”

What would cause Pedro Jones to pummel a 17-month-old child, the son of his girlfriend, an infant entrusted to his care? “I was trying to make him act like a boy instead of a little girl,” he said.

This isn't a case of a transgender person being killed, but for all we know Roy A. Jones could have been. This wasn't a gay youth who was murdered, but again Roy A. Jones might have one day identified as such. This was nothing more than a 17-month-old infant who was beaten because a man who he was put in the care of decided this child's actions were not manly enough for him.

An average 12- to 24-month-old toddler knows how to crawl, and can even stand a bit. At the upper end, they can begin to walk. They're starting to feed themselves, thought not without help. They might enjoy picture books, and can even help turn pages. They can't

speak much, possibly stringing together a word or two in some very simple phrases, and they may have a vocabulary of five to 50 words to choose from. They're curious about others, and less wary of strangers, and will often attempt to imitate adults.

In light of the above, I wonder how a 17-month-old “acts” in one gender or another. Do they even have an idea of gender so fully formed that they know how to present themselves in a gender? Sure, we spend an awful lot of time gendering children in this country, from the ever-increasing spew of action figures and pink dolls to toy segregation in the kids' meals at our fast food joints, and camouflage onesies and princess dresses for the youngest tot.

But I find myself baffled that somehow a 17-month-old is going to have even the most rudimentary working knowledge of all the “boys do this and girls do that” that our culture is obsessed with. I certainly don't see much that tells me that they're going to even understand much in the way of gender differences.

This is an issue larger than that of Pedro Jones. No, while the crime would be no more or less heinous if it was an isolated case, there have been quite a number before this: infants younger than Roy who were force fed glass and thrown at walls because they were born with ambiguous genitalia, as well as older children beaten and killed by family members and neighbors because they were transcending gender norms.

I said it above: This is not a transgender child. The issue is not in and of itself a “transgender issue.” We all – transgender, homosexual, and even those who view themselves as neither – can face hatred, discrimination, violence and even murder because someone else feels we're crossing gender boundaries.

It frustrates me when I hear my gay and lesbian siblings tell me that transgender issues are not their issues, because I know that they've been discriminated against on the basis of their gender expression, too. Any stereotyped caricature of the “limp-wristed pansy” or “swag-

there is absolutely no reason to deny same-sex couples the fairness and dignity of marriage,” said James Esseks, director of the ACLU Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Project.

“For our entire lives, our government and the law have treated us as unequal,” said plaintiff Kristin Perry. “This decision to ensure that our constitutional rights are as protected as everyone else's makes us incredibly proud of our country.”

“Judge Walker ruled that there truly is no substance to the arguments of those who would deny equality to same-sex couples,” said Kate Kendell, executive director of the National Center for Lesbian Rights. “Using the Prop. 8 proponents' own outrageous and inflammatory words, ads and e-mails, the plaintiffs powerfully demonstrated that Prop. 8 was a direct product of hostility, fear-mongering and demonization of lesbians and gay men.”

“Judge Walker's ruling is a landmark vic-

tory in America's centuries-long war against discrimination, and the result of months of extraordinary work by the American Foundation for Equal Rights, attorneys David Boies and Ted Olson, and courageous plaintiffs Kris Perry, Sandy Stier, Paul Katami and Jeff Zarrillo,” said Courage Campaign Chairman Rick Jacobs.

“The meticulous assessment of the Prop. 8 defenders' case today makes clear: there's no there, there,” said Jennifer C. Pizer, National Marriage Project Director at Lambda Legal. “The testimony of leading experts on everything from child development to adult psychology to the public costs of anti-gay discrimination laid bare the misinformation and outright lies that anti-gay groups have been pushing on the public.”

“Judge Walker has preserved our democracy by ruling that a majority cannot deny a minority group of fundamental freedoms,”

What would cause Pedro Jones to pummel a 17-month-old child, the son of his girlfriend, an infant entrusted to his care? “I was trying to make him act like a boy instead of a little girl,” he said.

gering bull dyke” used against gay and lesbian individuals is an exercise in gender bashing as much as gay bashing.

It frustrates me, too, when some in the transgender movement want to push gays, lesbians and even other transgender folks away. As we all face this sort of behavior, we all need to stand together to combat it. If a toddler with little notion of gender can find himself beaten until his tiny heart gives out, then we all should be able to see that the issue of violence against people for not falling within some other person's views of gender transcends all the issues and drama of identity politics.

Things in this country are becoming more and more polarized, with all sorts of people coming out of the woodwork to spew hatred at all of us, and they're not making any attempt to hair split over our identities. We shouldn't either. Not with stakes this high.

Roy A. Jones should not have died in vain. Let his death remind all of us that anyone, even the most innocent amongst us, can be a victim – and let us all, united, fight for a world where an injustice like this would be unthinkable, where children can live their lives without fear that those they and their families trust, and where parents don't see their children murdered for not being “man” or “woman” enough.

Gwen Smith acted a bit like a little girl as a child. You can find her on the web at www.gwensmith.com.

said Equality California Executive Director Geoff Kors. “This is as much a victory for the soul of our nation as it is for the thousands of same-sex couples and their families who will be directly impacted.”

Freedom to Marry's Evan Wolfson said Walker's ruling “reflects the growing consensus in courtrooms and legislatures across the country, and around the world, that there is simply no good reason to exclude same-sex couples from marriage.”

“This is without a doubt a game-changing ruling,” said Minter, who argued the case before the California Supreme Court that led to the legalization of same-sex marriage in California in 2008. “Today's decision is the most comprehensive, detailed decision addressing the constitutional rights of same-sex couples to affirmative recognition and support ever to be issued by a federal court.”



Lady Gaga denounces Arizona immigrants law

Polls show that many more LGBT people than straight oppose law

BY REX WOCKNER

Lady Gaga forcefully denounced Arizona's anti-immigrant law during a July 31 concert in Phoenix.

Gaga said she had been asked to boycott Arizona “and I said, ‘You really think that us dumb fucking pop stars are gonna collapse the economy of Arizona?’”

“(We need to) actively protest prejudice and injustice and the bullshit that is put on our society,” she said. “I will not cancel my show. I will yell and I will scream louder and I will hold you and we will hold each other and we will peacably protest this state.”

“Do not be afraid because if it wasn't for all of you immigrants, this country wouldn't have shit,” the pop diva told concertgoers.

The law, known as S.B. 1070, requires police to check an individual's immigration status if an officer suspects the individual may be in the U.S. illegally.

LGBT direct-action group GetEQUAL had asked Gaga to take a stand against the law, saying it makes it “a crime to be brown.”

Gay people are much more likely than straight people to oppose the law, a Harris Interactive poll found. Sixty-three percent of LGBT Americans oppose the law and 45 percent of LGBT Americans strongly oppose it. However, 60 percent of straight people support the law and 41 percent support it strongly.

The poll also found that, because of the law, 43 percent of LGBT respondents are less likely to vacation in Arizona and 36 percent are less likely to attend a convention there.

► **Kagan**

Continued from p. 12

party lines to oppose Kagan.

A handful of mostly moderate Republicans broke with their party to back her: Maine Sens. Susan Collins and Olympia Snowe, South Carolina's Sen. Lindsey Graham, retiring Sen. Judd Gregg of New Hampshire, and Indiana Sen. Richard Lugar.

They argued that partisanship should play no role in debates over the Supreme Court and have called Obama's nominee qualified.

Still, it was clear that unlike in past decades – when high court nominees enjoyed the support of large majorities on both sides – party politics was driving the debate and vote on Kagan, much as it did last year when the Senate considered Obama's first pick, Justice Sonia Sotomayor, and former President George W. Bush's two nominees, Chief Justice John Roberts and Justice Samuel Alito.

GOP senators have criticized Kagan for her decision as dean to bar military recruiters from the Harvard Law School career services office because of the prohibition against openly gay soldiers. Republicans spent the last hours of debate accusing her of being hostile to gun rights, and they have also spent considerable time criticizing her stance in favor of abortion rights.

Kagan revealed little about what kind of justice she would be in weeks of private one-on-one meetings with senators and several days of testimony before the Judiciary panel, despite having famously penned a law review article blasting Supreme Court nominees for obfuscating before the Senate. She dodged questions about her personal beliefs on a host of hot-button issues and declined repeatedly to "grade" Supreme Court rulings.

But her public appearances and documents unearthed from her time serving as a Clinton administration lawyer and domestic policy aide painted a portrait of the kind of personality she'll bring to the bench. She came across as a sharp intellect who enjoys the thrust and parry of legal debate, someone who's willing to throw elbows to make her opinions heard but nonetheless eager to facilitate consensus. She also showed flashes of a playful, dry wit senators said would serve her well in sometimes tense court deliberations.

Kagan will be no stranger to the eight justices she is to join on the Supreme Court, having served as the government's top lawyer arguing cases before them in a post often referred to as the "10th justice." She's already friendly with a number of them, not least Antonin Scalia, the conservative justice who is her ideological opposite.

Kagan's nomination to a seat on the nation's highest court drew relatively little notice this summer, with the public and elected officials preoccupied by bad economic news and the Gulf oil spill, and many lawmakers nervously eyeing the November midterm congressional elections.

But senators used the debate to press their dueling visions of the Supreme Court.

Kagan joins two other women on the court, Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Sotomayor, who was Obama's first nominee. Sandra Day O'Connor was the first woman appointed to the court, by President Ronald Reagan. She served from September 1981 to January 2006.

Not since 1972 has the Senate confirmed a Supreme Court nominee without experience as a judge. That year, both William Rehnquist and Lewis Powell Jr. joined the court.



Mexico City gay marriage law upheld

Mexico City's 5-month-old gay marriage law was upheld by the nation's Supreme Court on Aug. 5. The vote was 8-2.

The justices said marriage is a matter of equal rights and states' rights – and federal district rights. Mexico City is a federal district like Washington, D.C. "Those of us who are in favor of this are in favor of diversity and tolerance," said Justice Arturo Zaldívar.

Justice Fernando Franco added: "Procreation is not an essential element of marriage and neither does (same-sex marriage) interfere with the protection that the Constitution grants to the family and to procreation, because those who want to conceive are fully able to do so."

The court next will take up the question of whether the city's approval of gay adoption also is constitutional, and examine whether gay couples married in Mexico City are married elsewhere in the country.

The conservative national government had challenged the law, claiming it violated a vague clause in the Constitution that says, "Men and women are equal before the law. This protects the organization and development of the family."

The court determined that the clause does not amount to a definition of "family."

According to the NotieSe news agency, 173 male couples and 147 female couples have gotten married. In 27 of the marriages, one partner was a foreigner – from Austria, Canada, Colombia, England, France, Germany, Guatemala, Italy, Panama, Romania, Spain, the United States or Venezuela.

Marriage: Next stop, Chile

A bill to legalize same-sex marriage was introduced in Chile's Congress Aug. 3.

Sen. Fulvio Rossi, president of the Socialist Party, said the bill would rewrite the Civil Code to remove the heterosexual definition of marriage along with language that says the objective of matrimony is procreation. The bill would not

explicitly legalize gay adoption.

Santiago Roman Catholic Cardinal Francisco Javier Errázuriz was annoyed by the news. "Maybe ... two men or two women want to live together and share life but to call this marriage is an aberration into which some countries have fallen," Errázuriz said. "I lament that Argentina has fallen into this."

The move is considered by some to be a long shot in Chile, which is not as liberal as neighboring Argentina, where same-sex marriage became legal in July.

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

High-school girls arrested in Zimbabwe

African media outlets reported that some 15 high school-aged girls in Zimbabwe's second-largest city, Bulawayo, were arrested for alleged homosexual activities July 30.

The students, reportedly all soccer players, attend the girls-only Eveline High School.

Police reportedly took the girls into custody at school and held them for a day before releasing them to their parents. The authorities are said to be considering the possibility that a feud among pupils could have led to false allegations of lesbian sex.

Sudan flogs cross-dressers

Nineteen young men in Sudan were lashed 30 times each Aug. 3 immediately after being convicted of wearing women's clothes and makeup, local media reported.

They had been arrested in a police raid of a private party in Khartoum and charged under Shariah law.

Tewksbury heads Canadian 2012 Olympics team

Openly gay former Olympic swimmer Mark Tewksbury will lead Canada's team to the 2012 Games in London. The Canadian Olympic Committee selected the three-time medalist as the nation's "chef de mission."

Tewksbury won a silver medal swimming the backstroke in the medley relay in 1988 in Seoul, a gold in the 100-meter backstroke in Barcelona in 1992 and a bronze in the relays in Barcelona.

In a 2001 interview with this reporter in Montreal, Tewksbury talked about his coming out.

"They were grooming me to become the next IOC (International Olympic Committee) member for Canada (but) I just felt I couldn't be myself in that environment," he said in the interview. "I left the country in 1994 and moved to Sydney, Australia, to come out, essentially – to explore my own sexuality. Finished my degree in political science and studied gender politics as well. I was studying the theory and living the practice in Sydney. It was a great time."

"I came back to Canada in 1996 because of the IOC," he said. "You have to live in the country you represent. By 1998, I just couldn't stand it – some people knew, some didn't – it wasn't spoken about. And I just thought, I can't keep pretending not to live my life anymore. So I came out Dec. 15, 1998. I did a one-man show. That's how I chose to do it. A good friend of mine worked for the Globe and Mail, which is our national newspaper, and just kept hounding me to let him do the story. The morning of the opening of the show it appeared on the front page of the Globe and Mail. I had 96 calls from the national media by 9:30 in the morning."

Australia blocks gay couples from marrying overseas

There will be no change in Australia's policy of attempting to block its gay citizens from getting married in other countries, the government said in late July. Australia will continue to withhold the "Certificates of Non-Impediment to Marriage" that sometimes are needed before foreigners are allowed to marry in other nations.

In an Aug. 2 media release, the group Australian Marriage Equality called the policy "mean-spirited" and said AME is contemplating a challenge before the Administrative Appeals Tribunal.

"As if it's not bad enough that the government's ban on same-sex marriages forces hundreds of Australians to marry overseas every year, often at great expense and without their families and friends present, the government still wants to reach around the world in an effort to stop these Australians marrying," said AME convener Alex Greenwich.

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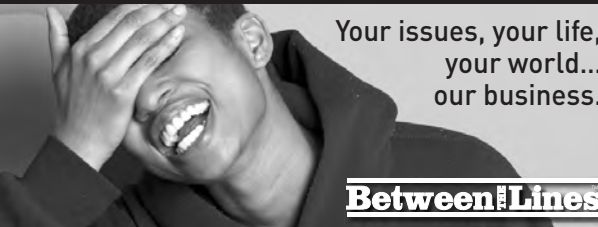
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From Stork to Finish



Julia Roberts stars in "Eat Pray Love," out Aug. 13. Photo: Columbia Pictures

EAT GAY LOVE

Ryan Murphy talks about his new Julia Roberts film, pushing the gay on 'Glee' and doing the 'Wicked' movie

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Glee is all Ryan Murphy must be feeling these days. Already on fire from his gay-worshipped TV megahit, the 44-year-old director's second feature, "Eat Pray Love," adapted from the wildly popular memoir and out Aug. 13, is soul-searching summer movie bait relishing in delicious dishes (not just James Franco), picturesque landscapes and Julia Roberts. The actress plays the book's author, Elizabeth Gilbert, as she leaves her frazzled life behind for a globetrotting jaunt, some solitude and a good plate of pasta.

Go figure, then, that Murphy — who made his film debut in 2006 with "Running with Scissors" while cutting through TV, before he created "Glee," with "Nip/Tuck" — is nibbling on some strawberries from somewhere just as exotic: the Bardessono hotel tucked away in the quaint Napa Valley, Calif. There, during our one-on-one chat, he dishes on his connection to "Eat Pray Love," how other queer people might relate to the movie and his plans for gaying up Season 2 of "Glee," regardless of what the world thinks.

There's a running theme of self-discovery in all your projects, from "Running

with Scissors" to "Glee" and now with "Eat Pray Love." Why do you gravitate toward that subject?

I always figure that out when I'm coming out with something. I don't know why. I think honestly because I'm from Indiana and I grew up with big dreams, and in my work I do reinvent myself all the time and I try to figure out my life with my work.

With "Eat Pray Love," the book covers a lot more history, spirituality and characters than the film. What did you feel was most important to take from the book and adapt for the movie?

We did focus groups with women who loved the book — many, many women. In a book that's become a classic and a bible to so many women, you have an obligation to them, so I had a list of like 10 parts of the book that had to go in. And then Liz Gilbert (thought) the scene where Julia cries on the bathroom floor was the most important scene for her in the movie, because she felt that in her travels that's the scene that women came up to her the most to discuss.

You've left your gay mark on this movie, too, by including references to Cher and Liza and a nice, gratuitous visual: a man's hot ass.

Look, I love a good Liza joke. The Cher thing

is in the book. The ass shot: What can I say?

How do you think gay people can relate to Elizabeth's self-searching journey?

Gay men typically (go on) a lot of searches — coming out of the closet and then getting a partner. I never really had those issues for myself because I always just was what I was and dealt with it when I was 15. I do think gay men by and large are probably more tuned into their emotional feelings, and the book really moved me because I went through a horrible, horrible breakup. The worst one I've ever had.

That idea for gay men of finding balance is very, very important — and hard, because there's no template for it. None of us have any role models, really. When you're a heterosexual, you have your parents, you have society. When you're gay, you don't. And so you have to figure it out as you go along. That's what the book is about: Who do I want to become? And that's what she learns. I really related to that.

Do you always have a personal connection to your projects?

I have to or I can't do them. I really had a personal connection with "Running with Scissors" that I later found out was my mother — the wrong reason to do a movie, by the way. I had a really



Ryan Murphy at Comic-Con in July. Photo: Fox

See Murphy, page 19

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Pride: a win in Windsor



A week full of events enveloped the city of Windsor, Ontario in LGBT pride Aug. 3-8, featuring family and trans-specific events, a wine tour and bowling, plus the annual parade and festival at Riverfront Plaza.

Attendees of the Aug. 8 slew of events celebrated along the Detroit River, looking out across the international border to the Detroit skyline. They took in cross-country performances by such artists as Michigan drag queen Sabin and Toronto artists Hunter Valentine, Shawnee and Devine Darlin (pictured).

Representatives came from local and across-the-border groups, including Equality Michigan, Windsor Pride group 50+ Proud and many more.

This was also the first Windsor Pride festival since the opening of the organization's Community Education & Resource Centre in November 2009.

All photos by Emily Locklear.



Julia Roberts Somebody to 'Love'

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Julia Roberts could never be a carb-conscious gay man. While filming "Eat Pray Love," she ate starch like she was making a fashion statement. Take after take of pizza-shoveling and pasta-sucking left the lovable A-list actress almost 10 pounds heavier, and rightfully burned out on Italian food.

"The deliciousness of something wears a tiny bit after piece seven," says Roberts, 42, who plays the memoir's author, Elizabeth Gilbert. "I sort of relished just wolfing it down because I just felt like she was so excited to be there. She was so excited to be eating this pizza, and I would eat an entire slice in a take. I don't know why I thought that was a great idea!"

No worries, though: "I loved every pound," she says proudly from a press conference in Napa Valley, Calif., where she's deliciously charming as she unleashes her bellowing laugh and luminous smile like only Roberts can.

Food appropriately brought Roberts and director Ryan Murphy, the creator of "Glee," together before they shot on-location in Italy, India and Indonesia. The two met for lunch, but the legendary actress, who hasn't truly anchored a film since "Erin Brockovich" and "Runaway Bride" a decade ago, wasn't sure if being a mommy would allow her time for Murphy's project. She deliberated for weeks, and finally agreed to take on the film.

That's when their "love affair," as Roberts coins it, began: "I put a lot of eggs in his basket and he never, for one second of five months of traveling, let me down, never wasn't there to hold my hand, coax me into another bowl of pasta or just give me that



extra piece of encouragement that I needed."

Roberts was already familiar with Murphy's work, like "Nip/Tuck," which she watched when her hands weren't guarding her eyes from the gory surgeries. But working with the director for "Eat Pray Love" really left a lasting impression on her (so much so that the two are teaming for another Sony Pictures feature, a romantic comedy) – especially when temps were scorching and they were, believe it or not, starving.

"He'd extract some prepositional phrase (from the book), and it would make all the difference," Roberts recalls. "It would just bloom; the whole idea of what we were trying to accomplish over and over again would just take flight at his helm. It's his second movie. How?! I don't even know how it happened, but then we leave as in love as we were the first day, and that says a lot ... because we went through a lot. We actually really are interested in each other – still."

That loving feeling was mutual, as Murphy says: "One of the things that made me love Julia so much (was) she thought one of the reasons why the book was so successful (was) because it gave women permission to eat. Julia was so right when she said that, and we tried to bring that spirit to the movie."

Despite all the gluttonous chowing down she did in "Eat Pray Love" – the six bowls of pasta, the eight slices of pizza – Roberts is still giving herself that permission. Just how much?

"Tons," she says, without hesitation. "It can't slow me down."

► Murphy

Continued from p. 17

deep connection with "Nip/Tuck"; I just loved the themes of it – the themes of self-loathing and physicality. And I really have a deep connection to "Glee." I've sung my whole life, I acted, all that. That's the optimistic side of my personality. The best part of me is that show. And I really had a connection to this book. I loved it before I even got the job offer.

Have you been offered the film adaptation of "Wicked," as it's been said?

No, no, no. They're in no rush to make that movie.

You're in the prospective directors pool, though, right?

So I'm told. I find it very flattering. I just read that, but I haven't been contacted yet. I love "Wicked" and I've done songs from the show on "Glee." I love what it's about. It's about female empowerment, and my work is about empowerment. I'd be thrilled if I was offered it. I would not expect it.

Speaking of "Glee," it's been said that Kurt's boyfriend

has been pushed back. Is he still getting one in Season 2?

He is – probably toward the end. I can only speak from experience, but he's in that mode of wanting a boyfriend and when people do that, it never happens. Only when you let go does it come. He's so desperate for it that the more he pushes for it the more the universe will deprive him of that – and that's what happens when you're 16 years old. I want him to struggle with it and finally give up. When he gives up is when it's going to happen. That's always been the way it is for me.

And the Brittany/Santana kiss that's been all the talk – will it involve tongue?

Oh yeah. Listen, I know on a show like "Modern Family" that seems to be a big debate, which I think is ridiculous. I don't even understand why that's even, in this day and age, a discussion. I remember we were writing about that 15 years ago when "Roseanne" was on the air. Have we not progressed? It's not a big deal anymore! Why do you need a Facebook campaign about two men kissing? That's hideous. I might just have them kiss in every episode just to show people that the earth didn't stop moving. Maybe because I'm gay it's my job to be the person who does that.

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"Insignificant Others," by Stephen McCauley. Simon & Schuster, 320 pages, \$25 hardcover.

On the surface, Conrad and Richard are everybody's ideal of a comfortable queer couple. Together for eight years, they've settled into a regulated domesticity, accepting ongoing infidelities with "insignificant others" but for the most part drifting along in a sort of jaded compatibility. Meanwhile, Conrad's flings while traveling as an art consultant are getting more serious, and Richard's involvement with a deeply closeted married man is becoming more complicated. That said, McCauley's spirited sixth novel, narrated by 50-something Richard with droll insight, is about much more than sex, fidelity and unusual quasi-marital arrangements. Richard is trying to mask his insecurities with obsessive gym workouts, all while juggling the demands of a resentful sister, a married friend's reluctance to confront his own health problems, and travails at work involving both a young coworker's emotional brinkmanship and a hostile supervisor's discriminatory behavior: the stuff of life. McCauley's writing, as always, is suffused with wry observations about that "stuff" – wit writ small that builds, page by page, into both complex social satire and a surprisingly sentimental story.

"The Side Door," by Jan Donley. Spinsters Ink, 234 pages, \$14.95 paper.

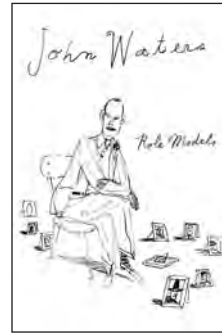
Though it's set in 1988 – when teens still scribbled phone numbers on napkins rather than synching their smart phones – the parallel

Featured Excerpt

Her footsteps on the stairs made my body tremble. I could feel the anger vibrating around her and resonating soundly in every inch of the house. It settled deep in the pit of my stomach, stirring up a primordial fear in me that I didn't know existed until that day. Instead of making a stand, instead of raising my voice, I covered on the floor. My home was lost the moment her flesh connected with mine. The home that I knew was filled with a dysfunctional, verbally abusive but loving family in their own strange way. For fourteen years, I had lived with my aunt and uncle. Now, I was being beaten.

– "Why?" by L. Wolf, from "Kicked Out," edited by Sassafras Lowrey

themes in Donley's debut of queer self-discovery and the destructive power of secrets pack a contemporary punch. Melrose Bird – she really, really prefers to be called Mel – and her artistic pal Frank are 15-year-old outsiders coming to terms with the truth that she's a dyke and he's a fag. Their realization coalesces around the hushed-up suicide five years earlier of a boy named Alex, whose heartbroken mother's sad vigil in the park across from their high school leads Mel to dig into his death. What she discovers – a closeted football jock who rebuffed him and a closeted school counselor who ignored him – galvanizes her own coming out. Donley's young adult novel touches all the relevant bases: parents whose emotions evolve from anger to understanding and fellow students whose attitudes range from intolerance to acceptance – in a story that nicely balances humor and emotion.



"Role Models," by John Waters. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 320 pages, \$25 hardcover.

It's hardly surprising that boundary-shattering filmmaker Waters claims an eclectic roster of role models – the women and men he says have molded him as a healthily

neurotic man. Some are obvious: the flamboyance of singer Little Richard and the perversity of "outsider" porn "auteurs" David Hurles (of Old Reliable wrestler video fame) and Bobby Garcia (who over three decades filmed himself having sex with hunky Marines). Some are less so: British writers Denton Welch and Ivy Compton-Burnett, whose mannered prose is the antithesis of flamboyant. And some spring from his younger days, including conflicted portraits of 1960s lesbian stripper Lady Zorro and "iron-fisted" Native American bar owner Esther Martin, both of Baltimore. Johnny Mathis is a role model for how he crafted an enduring, self-effacing career under the queer radar; Tennessee Williams is included because a 12-year-old Waters read a stolen copy of the short story collection "One Arm" and knew he was, like Williams, at least sexually ambiguous. For a man whose shtick is to shock, what's most shocking about these essays is how sentimental, un-ironic and humane they are.



"Kicked Out," edited by Sassafras Lowrey. Homofactus Press, 222 pages, \$19.95 paper.

This collection of essays about queer homelessness in America is a book with two voices. The most searing sections are written by women and men, girls and

boys, from their own experience of life on the streets – wrenching accounts of being tossed aside for coming out as lesbian, gay, trans, other. These are the voices of pain, passion and survival, poignant but often triumphant. Buttressing them are several less subjective but no less passionate essays reporting on the work of youth centers, contextualizing the reality that a disproportionate number of homeless youths are queer – as tolerance for gay unions, gay adoption and even gays in the military is on the rise, and gay imagery suffuses popular culture – and noting that the LGBT community, let alone society at large, is often blind to the epidemic of castoff queer kids. Part appeal to conscience and part cries from the heart, Lowrey's landmark anthology is a must-read for both social workers and – if they can somehow find a copy – youngsters searching for their true sexual selves.

Richard Labonte has been reading, editing, selling, and writing about queer literature since the mid-'70s. He can be reached in care of this publication or at BookMarks@qsyndicate.com.

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Laughs come out loud at the Ringwald

BY JENN MCKEE

In Douglas Carter Beane's "The Little Dog Laughed," now being staged by Who Wants Cake? at Ferndale's Ringwald Theatre, a closeted movie actor named Mitchell (Vince Kelley) scoffs at the chest-thumping notion that "in America, you can be whatever you want to be."

"Because the unspeakable truth of it is, no. The only ones who can be whatever they want are white, upper middle class, straight, conservative, Protestant men. ... So if you grew up, as I did, with the whole above checklist intact, you know the world is waiting for you."

For this reason, Mitchell plays a role off-screen as well as on — that of a talented, up-and-coming young heterosexual heartthrob. But while in New York City for an award ceremony, Mitchell hires a rent boy, Alex (Matthew Turner Shelton), to come to his hotel room. And a funny thing happens as Mitchell protests that he's not really gay, and Alex confesses he's straight, with a girlfriend: The two develop a level of closeness and intimacy that surprises them both.

Yet because Mitchell and his force-of-nature agent Diane (Suzan M. Jacokes) are in delicate negotiations for a film adaptation of a play about a gay relationship, and because Alex's girlfriend-of-convenience Ellen (Crystal Rhoney) is in crisis, the three are pulled between who they actually are and who they need to be.

Though I'd seen a production of "Little Dog"

REVIEW

'The Little Dog Laughed'

Who Wants Cake? at the Ringwald, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Saturday-Monday through Aug. 30; no performance Aug. 21. \$10-\$20. 248-545-5545.

www.whowantstheatre.com

before, director Joe Bailey's slick staging provided me with a greater appreciation for the ways in which Beane's script playfully and smartly dissects itself while also telling an intriguing story.

For example, at the play's start, we hear Diane wax rhapsodic about the loveliness of "Breakfast at Tiffany's" opening scene; and indeed, Ellen — who just lost the monetary support of an elderly British man who liked her platonic company — is a kind of darker, low-rent Holly Golightly.

In addition, later in "Little Dog," we hear Diane grapple with the gay playwright while she dismantles his play, piece by piece, in order to make the film adaptation multiplex-friendly; similarly, she does this on a personal level when she repeatedly warns Mitchell away from Alex, insisting that Mitchell remain closeted.

And while some pretty serious questions are explored, "Little Dog" is ultimately a showcase for Beane's sly, biting wit, and Bailey's ensemble



Diane (Suzan M. Jacokes) censors her closeted client, Mitchell (Vince Kelley), in the Who Wants Cake? production of "The Little Dog Laughed." Photo: Colleen Scribner.

Shelton, meanwhile, has the broadest emotional landscape to cover, and somehow, he makes it look effortless. Perhaps just as impressively, Rhoney made me have far more sympathy for Ellen than I've previously felt. During a scene in which Ellen talks about returning to her childhood home, she broke my heart and won me over for what remained of the show.

As the movie star, Kelley is polished and funny, but I wondered if his version of Mitchell would really be able to "pass" as straight in the mainstream. The stakes for Mitchell's potential coming out are high precisely because he's supposed to be one of Hollywood's all-American, boy-next-door types, and Kelley's Mitchell seems more sexually ambiguous than that, even when selling himself at a power lunch.

Michael Reeves' set design primarily features Mitchell's hotel room, where most of the action takes place, and Bailey uses smaller pockets of the stage for scenes that happen in other locales — a nightclub, a restaurant, Diane's L.A. office, etc. Kelley costumes the characters well, though Shelton once had difficulty getting his pants off. (Did I mention the brief nudity?) And Bailey and Joe Plambeck's lighting design thoughtfully sets the tone for each scene and balances the play's funny and serious moments.

All these elements combine to ensure that not only will you think about Beane's play long after it ends, but also that the "Little Dog" is only one of many who laughed, and laughed hard.

runs with every comic opportunity they get.

This is particularly true for Jacokes. Diane gets the lion's share of hysterical lines, of course, but Jacokes' priceless delivery, in many instances, makes them even funnier (no small feat). So although she suffered a couple of minor hiccups on opening night, her overall performance was terrific — show-biz embodied in one overwhelming, fearless, loud person.

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San Miguel de Allende, Mexico

Reminiscent in historic ambience, manageable size, mountainous elevation and dynamic arts scene to Santa Fe, New Mexico, the small city of San Miguel de Allende was established in the mid-16th century and has become increasingly popular in recent years as sophisticated, friendly and a distinctive vacation getaway. Although San Miguel has little in the way of gay nightlife, this city of about 60,000 has a strong GLBT following dating back to its popularity with counter-cultural types in the 1960s. Today, visitors will find several gay-owned inns, shops and restaurants.

The popular travel memoir "On Mexico Time," written in 2000 by Tony Cohan and based on his time living in this magical city, helped boost San Miguel's already considerable following with expats from the U.S. and Canada. These days, charming San Miguel represents one of the better travel bargains in the Western Hemisphere. With Mexico enduring unfortunate (and largely unfair) negative stereotypes related to the drug violence plaguing its borders, and U.S. and Canadian currency strong against the Mexican peso, the cost of visiting here is extremely reasonable.

The city is well known both for Spanish-language immersion schools and culinary classes, but it's also a lovely place to simply relax and explore for a few days – or even weeks (many long-term vacation rentals inside historic casitas and houses are available).

San Miguel is a 3.5-hour bus ride from bustling Mexico City, and many visitors here fly in and out of the capital. There's also a small, relatively new airport 40 miles away in Queretero (with limited direct flights from Houston and Detroit), and an airport 110 miles away between the cities of Leon and Guanajuato, which has direct flights from Chicago, Dallas and Houston. Keep in mind that flights to Mexico City are far more affordable than to these regional airports.

Additionally, inexpensive buses provide service from Mexico City and its airport. Regional buses in Mexico are operated by private lines and have climate control, TVs, comfortable seats and clean bathrooms. Reliable companies serving San Miguel de Allende include Primera Plus (<http://www.primeraplus.com.mx>) and ETN (<http://etn.com.mx>). Within the city itself, it's very easy to get around and explore sites on foot. Taxis are also cheap, safe and plentiful.

San Miguel is the central part of the country, which is known for its beautifully preserved colonial silver-mining cities – other prominent ones include Guanajuato, Queretero, San Luis Potosi and Zacatecas. It's hundreds of miles from any of the drug or political violence alluded to earlier and is situated at an elevation of 6,500 feet, which translates to cool temperatures, clear air and sunny skies. Throughout the year, high temperatures hover around 70 to 80 degrees, and with lows dipping into the 50s and – in winter – even the lower 40s. Rainfall is highest in summer, as afternoon thunderstorms are a regular occurrence from mid-June through mid-September.

Part of the fun of experiencing San Miguel is simply wandering about on foot, without a plan. The city's narrow, hilly cobblestone

streets are lined with brightly painted stucco houses with carved wood trim, flower pots, and wrought-iron balconies and sconces. UNESCO designated the city a World Heritage Site in 2008.

The most distinctive site in the city center is soaring La Parroquia, whose beautiful if florid façade recalls the ornate Gothic churches of Europe (on which its design was based). The church lies on the east side of San Miguel's main plaza, El Jardin, which is shaded with neatly trimmed trees, lined with benches and within steps of cafes and hotels in all directions. Just off the plaza you'll find the interesting Museo Casa de Allende, a history museum that documents the city's rich history.

A couple of blocks away, be sure to visit the Bellas Artes, a prestigious school of fine arts set within a cloistered former convent that dates to the 1750s. Walk through the two-story galleried courtyard and admire the murals on the inner walls by Mexican master painter David Alfaro Siqueiros, and note the fanciful sculptures throughout the gardens.

Dozens of art and traditional crafts galleries line the streets in the city center, but the definitive arts destination in town is Fabrica La Aurora, an ancient textile factory that's been converted into galleries. This beautiful building with its high ceilings and tile floors is a marvel to walk through, its galleries filled with statuary, carved wooden furniture, religious artifacts, modern art, and beautiful books. There are also a few dining spots at La Aurora, including Food Factory restaurant, elegant D'Vino wine and tapas bar, and open-air Cafe La Aurora for light sandwiches and salads.

In addition to galleries, San Miguel has a number of shops selling antiques and decorative arts. There's also an excellent bookstore, Garrison & Garrison, set in a vintage brick building and carrying many English titles, new and used. For a quiet walk on a pretty day, stroll through Parque Benito Juarez, a 10-minute walk from El Jardin.

San Miguel's urbane dining scene is a major draw. Fans of food – and cooking – should be sure to check out El Petit Four, a charming bakery run by openly gay chef Paco Cardenas. Here you can sample beautiful cakes, brownies, and bonbons (he can also custom design some very racy erotic cakes on request). The charismatic Cardenas also leads highly informative cooking classes – e-mail him at papopos3@yahoo.com for details.

With a contemporary, lounge-y vibe and something of a gay following, Planta Baja (<http://www.plantabajasanmiguel.com>) specializes in creative world-beat cuisine that's heavily influenced by Asian, Mediterranean and Latin American ingredients. Pueblo Viejo (<http://www.puebloviejosanmiguel.com>) is one of the classics in town for first-rate Mexican fare – it's run by the same team behind Planta Baja.

Behind a bright-red exterior, Bugambilia serves outstanding traditional regional Mexican food. The nicest tables are in the peaceful, landscaped courtyard, but if it's a cool evening, grab a table inside near the fireplace the art-filled dining room. El Correo, steps from El Jardin's plaza, is filled with colorful paintings and also excels when it comes to local Mexican



specialties, including chiles en nogada and chicken with a rich mole sauce.

A wonderful spot for breakfast, with a pretty courtyard anchored by a gurgling fountain, El Ten Ten Pie serves fresh fruit juices and hearty egg dishes that make a great start to the day. Cheery El Tomate is one of the few vegetarian restaurants in the area and a great choice for light and healthy lunch and dinner fare. Grab an organic espresso or latte at La Ventana, one of the more inviting coffeehouses in town. And if you're truly missing that ubiquitous chain java joint from home, yes, there is a Starbucks in San Miguel, just a block from El Jardin.

For delicious snacking, keep your eye out for vendors selling hand-churned ice cream from metal containers – you'll always find interesting flavors, such as avocado or chocolate-chile. Another must for snacking is churros (fried doughnuts) dipped in hot chocolate, which you can best enjoy at a Chocolates y Churros San Agustin, an elegant little cafe also known for tapas, omelets, and fondue.

Chocolate Lounge is San Miguel's most gay-popular nightclub – this intimate, sexy spot is adjacent to El Petit Four bakery. Set fairly close to the Plaza on Calle Hidalgo, the city's El Ring disco is a fun late-night spot for dancing – it's generally more hetero than not, but it's very welcoming and has great music. Mama Mia (<http://www.mamamia.com.mx>) is another of the convivial if touristy nightspots in town, also drawing a mixed crowd.

San Miguel abounds with B&Bs and historic boutique hotels. The most luxurious lodging in the city is the centrally located Casa de Sierra Nevada (<http://www.casadesierranevada.com>), which occupies several historic buildings with rooms ranging from simple and cozy standards to remarkably posh and expansive suites with fireplaces, patios with private outdoor soaking tubs, and bathrooms with deep tubs, standing showers, and ornate tile work. Rooms open onto secluded courtyards (one has a large pool), and the hotel's amenities include a first-rate spa, cooking school, and

the acclaimed Andanza restaurant (all of these are open to the public by reservation), which serves such rarefied contemporary cuisine as ravioli filled with suckling pig carnitas, and fillet of pompano with truffle-potato puree and a reduction of Jerez sherry and cuitlacoche (a Mexican delicacy derived from an edible corn fungus – it tastes far better than it sounds).

Gay-owned Las Terrazas San Miguel (<http://www.terrazassanmiguel.com>) is a lovely old-world compound comprising four large casitas with private patio, well-stocked kitchens. From Casita Colibri, the least expensive but smallest, you've got a wonderful view of the city. The property sits on a hilltop an easy walk from restaurants and shopping. Breakfast is included, and one unit has two bedrooms. Another beautiful gay-owned spot is Susurro (<http://susurro.com.mx>), whose spacious rooms with beamed ceilings and landscaped terraces are stunningly furnished with antiques and folk art from around the world.

Reasonably priced and gay-friendly Casa Crayola (<http://www.gomexart.com/aurora48.htm>) is a small compound of seven lovely casitas that's just steps from La Aurora. It's an excellent option for longer stays, with the colorfully decorated casitas with kitchenettes and separate living areas renting for \$500 per week and \$1,800 per month.

Other commendable and gay-friendly accommodations in San Miguel include Dona Urraca Hotel & Spa (<http://www.donaurraca.com.mx>), El Meson Hotel (<http://www.hotelesmeson.com>), Posada Corazon (<http://www.posadacorazon.com.mx>), and Hotel Casa Linda (<http://www.hotelcasalinda.com>). The latter is also notable for its restaurant,

Andrew Collins covers gay travel for the New York Times-owned website About.com and is the author of Fodor's Gay Guide to the USA. He can be reached care of this publication or at OutofTown@qsyndicate.com.

'Phantom' is fitting summer fare

BY JOHN QUINN

Let's start with the basics. Yes, it's a musical. Yes, it's called "Phantom." No, it's not by Andrew Lloyd Webber.

Maury Yeston and Arthur Kopit, fresh from their successful collaboration, "Nine," chose next to adapt Gaston Leroux's classic horror story for the musical stage. The announcement by Webber that he was at work on the same theme drove off investors. "Phantom" never made it to Broadway; it debuted in Houston in 1991.

The Village Theater at Cherry Hill is host for 8th Wonder Theatre's rendition of "Phantom," and it's mercifully free of the bombast in Sir Andrew's opus. This is an old-style American musical with pleasant tunes, a thoughtful book and deeper characters than the better known work. Stripped of its gee-whiz effects we find there's more to this story than we first suspected.

We know about Eric, the mad musical genius, hideously deformed but tak-

R E V I E W

'Phantom'

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



Jeffrey Willets plays the title role in "Phantom." Photo: 8th Wonder Theatre

ing comfort in the beauty of music. We know of his home deep in the endless catacombs beneath the Paris Opera House. We know about his passion for the young singer Christine Daae and his obsession to develop her vocal talent to perfection. We remember the murderous methods to which he'd resort to achieve that goal.

"Phantom" is a decent enough work of musical theater and has its strong points. The book is entertaining, mixing a little humor in the macabre plot. It's different from its better-known rival because more careful attention has been paid to character

and situation. Motivation, cause and effect – the meat and potatoes of good storytelling are here.

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

It's women's time to shine at BoxFest - Part 1

BY DONALD V. CALAMIA

Each summer, women directors from throughout Southeast Michigan come together to showcase their talents in an annual festival called BoxFest Detroit. The event has morphed over the years from a one-weekend and six-play affair in Ann Arbor called "Pandora's Box Fest" to this year's three-weekend extravaganza at The Furniture Factory on the fringe of Wayne State University's campus in Detroit that features 18 plays by Michigan playwrights. But one thing hasn't changed despite its various permutations: The participating women work hard at creating their best work - and for some, their efforts pay off as they move from relative obscurity to paid directorial gigs at one (or more) of the area's professional theaters. (A few have even gotten into grad school based in part on their work with BoxFest.)

This year's festival, under the leader-

R E V I E W

'BoxFest Detroit 2010'

At The Furniture Factory, 4126 3rd St.,
Detroit. Friday-Saturday through Aug. 21.
\$10 per day or \$30 festival pass.
www.boxfestdetroit.com



"BoxFest Detroit 2010" continues through Aug. 21 at The Furniture Factory in Detroit. Photo: Steve Perez

ship of Artistic Director Molly McMahon and Executive Director Kelly Rossi (and their team of producers, designers and jacks of all trades), is the most ambitious yet. Spread out over a single weekend, theatergoers can check out a dozen-and-a-half short plays, the topics of which cover the spectrum of ideas and styles. (The plays are grouped into six "boxes" that rotate throughout each weekend.) As you would expect, some are slick and expertly produced, while others are rough around

the edges - but that's what makes BoxFest such an exciting event to attend each year: That over time, we get the privilege of watching these talented women mature as directors.

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

Dexter is alive with 'Sound of Music'

BY DONALD V. CALAMIA

For The Encore Musical Theatre's current production of "The Sound of Music," the question isn't so much "How Do You Solve A Problem Like Maria" as it is "How do you pack an abbey full of singing nuns, armed Nazi soldiers in search of a missing Navy captain, a formal dinner party entertained by seven cute kids, a villa, a concert hall and a mountain onto a stage that's barely larger than my traditional 1950's ranch-style living room?"

The answer, I discovered during the production's opening night performance, was quite clever and generally well executed - although not perfect. But it certainly proved that creative minds and skilled

R E V I E W

'The Sound of Music'

The Encore Musical Theatre, 3126 Broad St.,
Dexter. Thursday-Sunday through Aug. 29.
\$28. 734-268-6200.
http://theencoretheatre.org

hands can certainly produce a large cast, big-budget Rodgers and Hammerstein musical in a tight space and with an even tighter budget!

And earn a standing ovation for their efforts as well!

The story, set in Austria in 1938,

opens as a troublesome young postulant, Maria Rainer (Leslie Henstock), is sent by her Mother Abbess (Jody Doktor) to become temporary governess of the seven children of widower and naval hero Captain Georg von Trapp (Paul Kerr). Maria turns the strict household upside down - and in the process falls in love with the captain. The two marry, but upon their return from the honeymoon, the two learn some distressing news: The Nazis want - demand, actually - the immediate return of Captain von Trapp to active duty. Maria and Georg, anti-Nazi through and through, have other plans, however.

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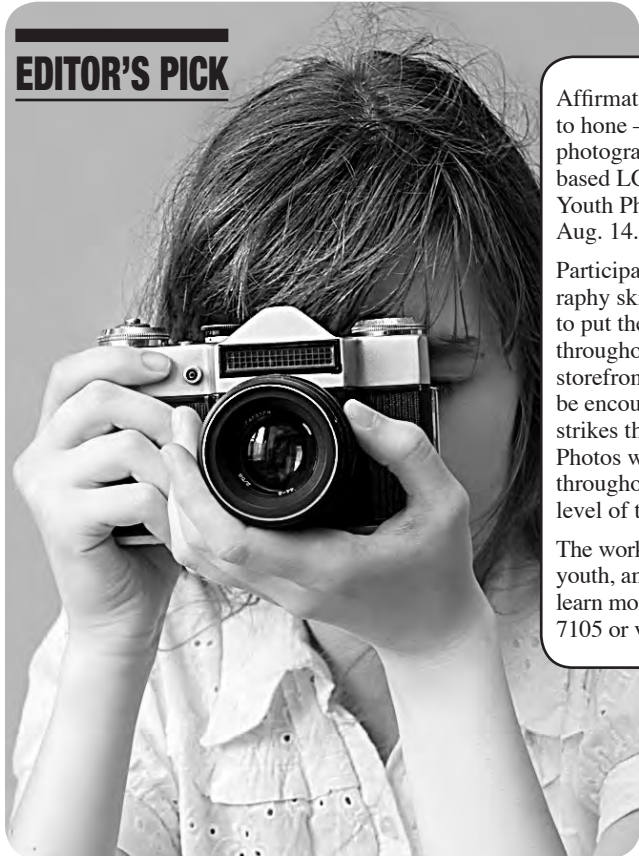
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EDITOR'S PICK



Affirmations youth will have the chance to hone – or just get started – with their photography skills when the Ferndale-based LGBT community center holds a Youth Photography Workshop at 4 p.m. Aug. 14.

Participants will be taught basic photography skills, and then will be challenged to put them to the test by taking photos throughout downtown Ferndale. From storefronts to local shoppers, youth will be encouraged to snap shots of whatever strikes them along Nine Mile Road. Photos will then be developed and hung throughout the youth space on the lower level of the center for display.

The workshop is free for Affirmations youth, and does not require an RSVP. To learn more, call Affirmations at 248-398-7105 or visit www.goaffirmations.org.

OUTINGS

Thursday, Aug. 12

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

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 ug. 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. Hosted by Trans Ohio. Ohio State University, Columbus. <http://transohio2010.wordpress.com>

Steven Gamburd, 6 p.m. The newest exhibition of works in the Pittmann-Puckett Art Gallery. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org

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, hosted by Transgender Michigan. Geary Park, Ferndale. www.transgendermichigan.org

Youth Photography Workshop, 4 p.m. A chance for Aff youth to learn basic photography skills and put them to the test in downtown Ferndale. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org

Men's Discussion Group, 6 p.m. A group for adult gay, bi or trans men. Topics range from public displays of affection or LGBT images in advertising to movie nights and picnics. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org

Into the Woods, 7 p.m. A summer garden party and fundraiser for Lambda Legal. Tickets: \$125 general admission, \$250 VIP. Private home, 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

James Taylor Jr., 9 p.m. A performance by the local singer/songwriter, sponsored by Track Mack and Trillium Real Estate. Tickets: \$6. [autbar.com](http://www.autbar.com), Ann Arbor. www.autbar.com

Briefs, Boots and Bondage, 10 p.m. Drink specials, 50/50 raffle and live DJ. Cover: \$2, benefiting ICON charities. R&R Saloon, 7330 Michigan Ave., Detroit. www.icondetroit.net

Tuesday, Aug. 17

Paid Piano Accompanist, 6 p.m. Sing Out Detroit is looking for a paid piano accompanist for rehearsals starting in September through July. Contact Linda for info. Sing Out Detroit, Royal Oak. 248-943-2411. linda@singoutdetroit.com. www.singoutdetroit.com

Wednesday, Aug. 18

MDGLCC Executive Board Meeting, 5 p.m. The executive board of the MDGLCC meets to discuss issues, events, strategies, etc. Metro Detroit Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce, Ferndale. 313-759-7894. info@mdglcc.org www.mdglcc.org

Todd Sanfield appearance, 7 p.m. A preview of the international cover model's new line of underwear. Plus, the men of Windsor bar The Legends of 2012 will be modeling Five15 Undergear fashions. Five15, 515 S. Washington, Royal Oak. 248-515-2551.

www.five15.net

Saturday, Aug. 21

Hepatitis A and B Vaccinations, 11 a.m. In partnership with ACCESS. Free, with HIV testing also available. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org

Perceptions Summer Picnic, 1 p.m. The annual picnic for tri-cities LGBT people. Admission: \$5 per car or \$1 for bikes and walk-ins. Perceptions, 2121 Schust Road, Saginaw. www.perceptionssv.org

OUTfest, 4 p.m. The third annual festival, with local performances, Karaoke, vendors and more. Pride Lafayette, Main Street, Lafayette. 765-423-7579. www.pridelafayette.org

Men's Discussion Group, 6 p.m. A group for adult gay, bi or trans men. Topics range from public displays of affection or LGBT images in advertising to movie nights and picnics. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org

Girls' Night [autbar](http://www.autbar.com), 9 p.m. With local artist Meghan Tonjes. [autbar](http://www.autbar.com), 315 Braun Court, Ann Arbor. www.autbar.com

MUSIC & MORE

BENEFITS/SOCIAL EVENTS

Catherine Ferguson Academy Farm "Grown in Detroit" A documentary viewing and dinner to benefit the farm. Tickets: \$25. Angelina Italian Bistro, 1565 Broadway, Detroit. 6 p.m. Aug. 12. 313-962-1355. www.angelinadetroit.com

Friends for the Dearborn Animal Shelter "Bully Summer Splash Bash" A day to celebrate bully breeds. Free admission, with dock diving, weight pulling, a scavenger hunt and more. Currey's Family Pet Care, 6261 Hannan Road, Romulus. 11 a.m. Aug. 15. 313-943-2697. www.dearbornanimals.org

Friends for the Dearborn Animal Shelter "Grill and Chill" A barbecue to celebrate the August Facebook fan challenge. Dearborn Animal Shelter, 2661 Greenfield Road, Dearborn. 11 a.m. Aug. 21. www.dearbornanimals.org

Matrix Human Services "Dine & Dash in the D" A restaurant tour fundraiser for the non-profit. Tickets: \$90. Bert's Marketplace, Eastern Market, Detroit. 5:30 p.m. Aug. 19. www.dineanddashdetroit.com

Megan's Dreams "Megan's Dreams Golf Outing" A golf outing to benefit the Dearborn Animal Shelter with door prizes, 18-hole scramble, raffle and dinner. Tickets: \$100, or \$40 for dinner only. Dearborn Hills Golf Course, 1300 S. Telegraph, Dearborn. 12 p.m. Aug. 14. <http://megan dreams.com>

Michigan AIDS Coalition "Dining by Design" A three-day fundraiser with unique displays of art and design. Thursday tickets: \$100. Friday tickets: \$10. Saturday tickets: \$250. Benson and Edith Ford Conference Center, 460 W. Baltimore, Detroit. 6 p.m. Aug. 12, 12 p.m. Aug. 13, 6 p.m. Aug. 14. www.michiganaidcoalition.org

CONCERTS

City of Farmington Hills "Saline Fiddlers" A youth fiddling band, which has performed over 1,000 concerts all across the U.S. and Europe. Free. Heritage Park, Farmington Hills. 7 p.m. Aug. 19. 248-473-1848.

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.

Detroit Symphony Orchestra "Yo-Yo Ma" An evening of musical fusion, also with the Silk Road Ensemble. Tickets: \$19-71. Orchestra Hall, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 7 p.m. Aug. 15. 313-576-5111. www.detroitssymphony.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 "Maureen Choi Quartet" A jazz concert on violin, piano, bass and drums. Tickets: \$5-25. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Aug. 21. 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. www.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

Palace Sports and Entertainment "REO Speedwagon" The Love On The Run tour with special guests Neil Giraldo and Pat Benatar. Tickets: \$15-45. DTE Energy Music Theatre, 7774 Sashabaw Road, Clarkston. 7 p.m. Aug. 20. www.palacenet.com

Palace Sports and Entertainment "J. Geils Band" The "Exclusive Saturday Night Music Party End of Summer Blow Your Face Out" tour. Tickets: \$25-75. DTE Energy Music Theatre, 7774 Sashabaw Road, Clarkston. 7:30 p.m. Aug. 21. www.palacenet.com

Palace Sports and Entertainment "Zac Brown Band" The Breaking Southern Ground Tour, with special guests The Wood Brothers and Casey Driessen. Tickets: \$28-42. DTE Energy Music Theatre, 7774 Sashabaw Road, Clarkston. 7 p.m. Aug. 18. www.palacenet.com

Palace Sports and Entertainment "Paramore" The Honda Civic Tour, with special guest Tegan and Sara. Tickets: \$29-39.50. Meadow Brook Music Festival, 3554 E. Walton Blvd., Rochester Hills. 6:30 p.m. Aug. 15. www.palacenet.com

Palace Sports and Entertainment "Justin Bieber" The My World Tour with special guest Sean Kingston. Tickets: \$32.50-52.50. The Palace, 5 Championship Drive, Auburn Hills. 7 p.m. Aug. 15. www.palacenet.com

The Magic Bag "Paul Thorn" A performance by the Mississippi-based singer/songwriter. Tickets: \$15. The Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. 8 p.m. Aug. 17. 248-544-1991. www.themagicbag.com

University of Michigan Museum of Art "Sean Dobbins Trio" Part of the monthly jazz series. Free. University of Michigan Museum of Art, 525 S. State, Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Aug. 18. 734-763-UMMA. www.umma.umich.edu

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

Charles H. Wright Museum "African World Festival" The annual celebration of the sights, sounds, smells and textures of African and African-American culture. Free. Hart Plaza, Detroit. 12 p.m. Aug. 20, 12 p.m. Aug. 21, 12 p.m. Aug. 22. www.charleshwrightmuseum.org

Kerrytown District Association "Nashbash" Featuring performances by Olivia West, Whit Hill and the Postcards and more. Afterglow party held at the [autbar](http://www.autbar.com). Free. Ann Arbor Farmers Market, Kerrytown District, Ann Arbor. 5 p.m. Aug. 19. www.kerrytown.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 "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

Friends of the Penn "It's a Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad World" Part of the Summer Cinema Matinee series. Tickets: \$3. Penn Theatre, 760 Penniman Ave., Plymouth. 1 p.m. Aug. 19, 7 p.m. Aug. 19. 734-453-0870. www.penntheatre.com



For the past decade, the Honda Civic Tour has provided fans with a "must-see" concert experience. The tradition continues this year when hit-makers Paramore, along with Tegan and Sara, tour the country together – including a stop at the Meadow Brook Music Festival in Rochester Hills at 6:30 p.m. Aug. 15.

The Tennessee-based Paramore are performing on the heels of their 2009 release, "Brand New Eyes," including hit songs "Ignorance" and "Brick by Boring Brick." Other bands on the tour include pop-punk legends New Found Glory and newbies Kadawatha. The tour will also be giving away a customized Paramore Honda Civic – painted the same trademark shade of fiery orange as lead singer Haley Williams's hair.

Tickets for the rain-or-shine outdoor show are \$29-39.50. For more information, visit www.hondacivictour.com.

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. www.michtheater.org

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.candccetroit.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

Detroit International Jazz Festival "Roots, Rhythm and Rhyme Poetry Slam" Part of the African World Festival. Competitors welcome. Underground Cafe, Hart Plaza, Detroit. 3 p.m. Aug. 21. www.charleshwrightmuseum.org

Palace Sports and Entertainment "Jim Gaffigan" A stand-up performance by the comedian. Tickets: \$19.50-49.50. Meadow Brook Music Festival, 3554 E. Walton Blvd., Rochester Hills. 8 p.m. Aug. 20. www.palacenet.com

Palace Sports and Entertainment "The Daily Show and Friends" Featuring Rory Albanese, Rob Riggle, Adam Lovitt and Wyatt Cenac from the popular Comedy Central television show. Tickets: \$15.50-29.50. Meadow Brook Music Festival, 3554 E. Walton Blvd., Rochester Hills. 8 p.m. Aug. 13. www.palacenet.com

THEATER

BENEFITS AND FUNDRAISERS

Barn Theatre School Gala Benefit Concert Robert Newman leads Barnies from the past and present share an evening full of unforgettable moments. \$100. Barn Theatre, 13351 W. M-96, Augusta. 8 p.m. Aug. 14. 269-731-4121. www.barntheatre.com

Laugh Lines An evening of music and monologues to benefit Kevin Rider, a Players Guild member who was recently diagnosed with Lupus. \$10. The Players Guild of Dearborn, 21730 Madison St., Dearborn. Aug. 13-14. 313-561-TKTS. www.playersguildofdearborn.org

Rock & Roll Meets Grand Illusion Aaron Balcom, award-winning illusionist & entertainer, raises funds to assist with medical expenses for Paiden, the son of Dave & Angela Goddeeris of Romeo, MI. \$10-\$20 general admission; \$30 VIP; \$50 Platinum VIP. Mirage Hall, 16980 18 Mile Rd., Clinton Township. Aug. 13. 586-752-2119. www.aaronbalcomillusion.eventbrite.com

Stephen Lynch in Concert Comedian, musician, Bernie and Broadway performer Stephen Lynch presents an evening of entertainment to raise funds for the Barn Theatre. Contains adult content and subject matter. \$40. Barn Theatre, 13351 W. M-96, Augusta. 8 p.m. Aug. 13. 269-731-4121. www.barntheatre.com

THEATER FESTIVALS

The Big-Little Comedy Fest Improv and sketch teams from all over the country come together in a weekend full of shows and workshops. \$15 per day or \$40 weekend pass. Dog Story Theater, 1115 Taylor Ave. NW, Grand Rapids. Aug. 20-22. 616-894-1252. www.dogstorytheater.com

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Renegade Theatre Festival Three nights and one afternoon of theater by most Lansing area troupes and several independents. Free! At multiple venues, throughout Old Town, Lansing. Aug. 19-21. www.renegadetheatrefestival.org

CIVIC/COMMUNITY THEATER

Bare: A Pop Opera \$15-\$18 Dynamic Stage Productions at Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron St., Ypsilanti. Aug. 19-22. www.D2productions.org

Barefoot Laffs \$10. Barefoot Productions at Walker-Buzenberg Building, 240 N. Main St., Plymouth. 8 p.m. Aug. 21. 734-582-9688. www.justgobarefoot.com

Hot Summer De(z)ire by Tennessee Williams Free; admission by donation. art4artillery Theatre Company at Russell Industrial Center, 1600 Clay Street, Bldg. 4, 3rd Floor, Detroit. Aug. 19-29. 248-914-5327. www.kyleholton.com

Light Up the Sky A Readers Theater production. Free. Dramatic Action at Franke Center for the Arts, 214 E. Mansion St., Marshall. Aug. 14. 269-781-0001. www.frankecenterforthearts.org

The Music Man \$3-\$12. Warren Civic Theatre, Warren Community Center, 5460 Arden, Warren. Through Aug. 15. 586-268-8400. www.warrencivic.org

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY THEATER

SubUrbia \$12. Henry Ford Community College Fine Arts and Fitness Division at Henry Ford Centennial Library, 16301 Michigan Ave., Dearborn. Aug. 19-28. 313-845-9817.

PROFESSIONAL THEATER

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

2010 Summer Colony Fest \$10 per night. Planet Ant Theatre, 2357 Caniff Ave., Hamtramck. Aug. 18-21. 313-365-4948. www.planetant.com/improv_summercolfest_2010.htm

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 \$20-\$26 adult; \$10 ages 18 and under. Hope Summer Repertory Theatre, Knickerbocker Theatre, 86 E. 8th St., Holland. Through Aug. 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.purpleosetheatre.org

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

Comedy Mondays \$5 for an all-night pass. Dog Story Theater, 1115 Taylor Ave. NW, Grand Rapids. www.dogstorytheater.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 at Dog Story Theater, 1115 Taylor Ave. NW, Grand Rapids. Aug. 12-15. www.dogstorytheater.com



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

My Mother's Italian, My Father's Jewish & I'm in Therapy \$30-\$35; dinner & show packages \$79.95-\$89.95. Andiamo Novi Theatre, 42705 Grand River Ave., Novi. Aug. 18-29. 248-348-4448. www.andiamoitalia.com/novi

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

Sundays at Go Comedy! \$7 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. Through Aug. 14. 517-278-6029. www.tibbits.org

The Last Night of Ballyhoo Plays in rotating repertory. \$8-\$19. Hope Summer Repertory Theatre at 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 at The Ringwald, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Through Aug. 30; no performance Aug. 21. 248-545-5545. www.whowantscaketheatre.com

The Marvelous Wonderettes \$26-\$36.50. Mason Street Warehouse, 400 Culver St., Saugatuck. Through 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. www.broadwayonstage.com

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

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

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 \$25-\$41. Performance Network Theatre, 120 E. Huron St., Ann Arbor. Through Sep. 5. 734-663-0681. www.performancenetwork.org

THEATER FOR YOUNG AUDIENCES

Aladdin Jr. \$3. Center Stage Productions at Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron St., Ypsilanti. Aug. 13 - Aug. 13. 734-480-2787. www.riversidearts.org

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

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

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

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

AUDITIONS & CLASSES

LCC PERFORMING ARTS DEPT - auditions for fall Black Box and mainstage productions, Aug. 24 & Sept. 1, 517-483-1488; REDBUD PRODUCTIONS - registering adults and high school actors for fall classes, 734-663-7167; WARREN CIVIC THEATRE - auditions for "Hairspray," Aug. 23-28, 586-268-8400;.

ART 'N' AROUND

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.mcfta.org

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

Basement 414 "Unfathomable Reins/ Animaesque" A solo and group exhibition, featuring works connecting to animals and an installation of hybrid sculpture. 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

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

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. 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, 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 Ponczac and Ryan G. Hill. River's Edge Gallery, 3024 Biddle, Wyandotte. June 19 - Aug. 13. www.artattheedge.com

Henry Ford Community College Theater Arts presents "SubUrbia" by Eric Bogosian.

The parking lot of a mini-mall convenience store is the private domain of three men in their very early 20s and their friends. Building tension among the friends is accentuated with absurd physical moments and sheer violence. As the next day dawns, some of the group have found their way out of their suburban town, while the rest are left to deal with a tragedy that could have been any of them.

Adult content: parental caution advised.

Performances are at 8 p.m. Aug. 19, 20, 21, 26, 27 and 28 at the Henry Ford Centennial Library, 16301 Michigan Ave., Dearborn. All seats are \$12 for adults and \$10 for all students with ID. Call 313-845-9817 for tickets or information.

River's Edge Gallery "Layers" Works by Jeremy Hansen, Dennis Jacobs, Rudy Salazar III and Eddie Thiel. Live painting held Aug. 13. River's Edge Gallery, 3024 Biddle, Wyandotte. Aug. 2 - Aug. 31. www.artattheedge.com

Riverside Arts Center "Ypsi Project" Photos of Ypsilanti citizens by Erica Hampton. 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. 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

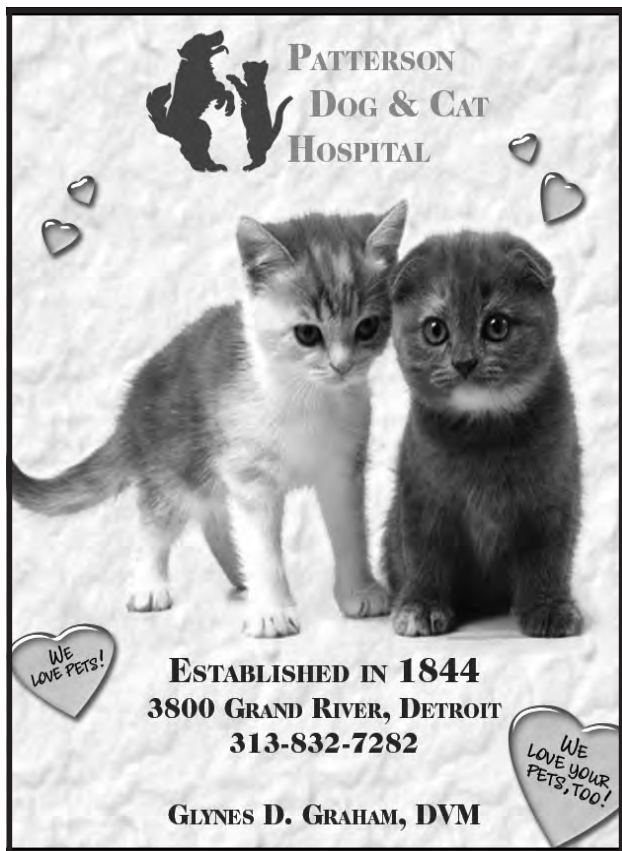
University of Michigan Museum of Art "Turning Point" Japanese studio ceramics in the mid-20th century. Free. University of Michigan Museum of Art, 525 S. State, Ann Arbor. May 15 - Aug. 22. 734-763-UMMA. www.umma.umich.edu

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

University of Michigan Museum of Art "On Beauty and the Everyday" The prints of American artist James McNeill Whistler. University of Michigan Museum of Art, 525 S. State, Ann Arbor. Aug. 21 - Nov. 28. 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.wcccd.edu

Woods Gallery "Photographs by Jon Pickell" Reception held 6:30-8:30 p.m. Aug. 27. Free. Woods Gallery, 26415 Scotia, Huntington Woods. Aug. 1 - Aug. 30. www.woods-gallery.org



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Addicted to bathhouses ... should I tell him?

Q. One year ago, I met the love of my life, "Roger." I've had other relationships, but nothing like this one. Roger and I are absolutely meant for each other, and Roger feels the same way about me. We're both in our 30s and are ready for commitment. We have been talking about having a commitment ceremony, or eloping to a state that allows gays to marry. We're not sure yet.

So, you are probably wondering how I could have a problem. Here it is: I have this thing for bathhouses. It has nothing to do with the person I love; it's a sexual gratification thing that can't be matched, for me, with any other person in any other place. That's my dirty little secret.

As I said, it has nothing to do with my love for Roger, or even my enjoyment of sex with him. It's just that I really need both. I know I could promise myself that I wouldn't go to another bathhouse again, but I've made that promise several times before and I broke it every time.

For the most part, I just see my bathhouse visits as something apart from a relationship, and I have always been able to keep them separate. However, I did lose one relationship (his name was "David") by being honest about my bathhouse needs. I told David — three years into our relationship — that I needed to go to bathhouses if I were going to be a happy man, and that I had been doing it all along. (I thought I should be honest about what I was doing.) He couldn't understand it and left me, even after I told him that my bathhouse habit had nothing to do with my love for him or my desire to be with him sexually. I told him that I tried to be safe about my visits. I made it clear that I never cheated on him with another person, outside of the bathhouse. (I don't consider a bathhouse "a person.") Well, being honest cost me my relationship with David, and I was really sorry that I had told him.

However, one of the reasons David said that he was angry with

me is that I hadn't been honest with him right up-front when we got together. So, I'm thinking that before I marry Roger, maybe I should be up-front with him and tell him about my need for the bathhouse. What do you think?

Secret Need

A. I'm astounded that you think that you are being "up-front" with Roger if you, now, let him know about your bathhouse "needs." Are you really under the illusion that you are at the beginning of a relationship with him? Or are you always as dishonest with others as you are with yourself? Good grief! You've been with Roger for a year and have gotten to the point of commitment — this is not the beginning of your relationship with him. Somehow, I have to believe that you really know that.

All that aside, it is important for you to tell Roger about your bathhouse habit before you make any more plans toward commitment. You absolutely owe this information to him, or to anyone with whom you are involved; and frankly, you need to talk about this early on in a relationship — before sex enters the picture, not when it gets to the commitment stage. It's not just a matter of honesty; it's a matter of health safety as well.

Telling Roger about your bathhouse "need" may well lose your relationship with him, as it did with David. However, relationships need to be open and honest, if they are to be successful. There's not a place in relationships for "dirty little secrets."

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.

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'The Marvelous Wonderettes' live up to their name

BY BRIDGETTE M. REDMAN

When tensions are running high between the four friends performing at their 1958 senior prom, Suzy hisses a phrase of encouragement reminding her friend to "Be Marvelous!"

It wasn't a reminder that any of the four actresses or their musical and technical crew needed to receive. From start to finish, they were marvelous, making the performance at the Mason Street Warehouse in downtown Saugatuck an evening of pure delight.

"The Marvelous Wonderettes" doubles as the title of the musical and the name of the girl's glee group that is performing at the prom. The four seniors — and four of five contestants for the title of prom queen — were pulled in at the last minute to perform after the president of the boy's glee club got himself in trouble and they were barred from the prom.

In the first act, they sing such '50s favorites as "Mr. Sandman," "Lollipop,"

REVIEW

'The Marvelous Wonderettes'

Mason Street Warehouse, 400 Culver St.,
Saugatuck. Tuesday-Sunday through Aug.
22. \$26-\$36.50. 269-857-4898.
www.masonstreetwarehouse.org

"Lipstick on Your Collar," and "Born Too Late." In the second act, they move forward to their 10-year reunion and are singing '60s standards such as "It's In His Kiss," "It's My Party," "Son of a Preacher Man," and "Rescue Me."

While no new music was written for this musical, it isn't merely an oldies revue. Instead, the show's creator Roger Bean chose songs from the '50s for the first act and the '60s for the second act that tell the story of these four women and the choices that are changing their lives and their friendships.



Melissa Robinette, Kelly Carey, Abby Mueller and Gina Milo in "The Marvelous Wonderettes." Photo: Mason Street Warehouse

Like most of the songs from that period, "The Marvelous Wonderettes" bops along in a high-energetic and often silly fashion with moments of tenderness and poignancy along the way. Bean was clever in his writing and it is well worth paying attention to the small details in the first act, because they'll come around again in new ways in the second act.

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

Play it up, Virgo!

From mid-Leo, the Sun is aggravating Jupiter, Saturn and Pluto, which could create brilliant political insights, but that will take extraordinary work and humility. Rampant megalomaniacal egotism is much likelier. Being attuned to what other people (think they) need is half the battle.

ARIES (March 20 – April 19): Whatever hand you're dealt it's way too easy for you to overplay. Your partner may be a bit too overcautious, but still pay close attention to his or her warnings. Somewhere between that reticence and your recklessness a great strategy can be planned.

TAURUS (April 20 – May 20): Your home will never be as perfect as you wish. You may want too much. Meditation and a broader perspective will help you appreciate what you have – and there's still a lot you can do with that!

GEMINI (May 21- June 20): Your impulsive outspokenness will certainly shake things up. If you think, just briefly, about what you really want to say, you could accomplish a lot more good and dodge a lot of trouble.

CANCER (June 21- July 22): Home, career, and your relationships seem to be pulling in different directions. You may be ready to jettison any or all of them. Stop. Think. Reevaluate your priorities as the first step to seeing how all three of those can work together.

LEO (July 23 – August 22): The spotlight and the podium come to you maybe too easily. Controversy is very likely to follow. You can handle that, but remember who you have to work with after all is said and done!

VIRGO (August 23 – September 22): Pulling back a little bit, taking care of private, personal business will not shield you from the spotlight, but will arouse more interest, a bit of mystique. Play it up, à la Greta Garbo, and you will be much in demand.

LIBRA (September 23 – October 22): You feel bogged down in the big problems of family, partnership and the encroaching burdens of maturity. "Lighten up, have fun," is usually just flippant, but really, that will help you see through the problems.

SCORPIO (October 23 – November 21): Trying to get work done discreetly? Forget discretion. Whatever you say or do will be picked up and broadcast. Keep good grace and humor (that may be a challenge!) and do welcome any criticism as a chance to improve your accomplishments.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 – December 20): Friends criticizing your extravagances are doing you a huge favor. Don't just shut them out or take their advice without question. The more feedback you can get out of them, the more you'll profit from their perspective.

CAPRICORN (December 21 – January 19): Getting ahead will take shrewd finesse, not easy with all eyes upon you! Principles you learned in early childhood, probably from a stern teacher – as well as faith in your own wit and resilience – will get you through.

AQUARIUS (January 20 – February 18): Your opinion is valuable, but worth more if you heed the law of supply and demand. Make it rare and asked for! Sure, you can handle any argument you get into, but give your partner a break!

PISCES (February 19 – March 19): Financial opportunities are out there, but you have to work hard to make them pay off. Listen to advice from an older friend, but don't follow it directly. Rather, use it as a springboard to think of something even better.

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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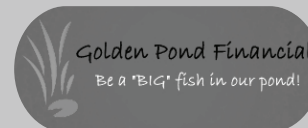
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3. Scroll down to the entry form for the fake ad contest and enter your name, etc.
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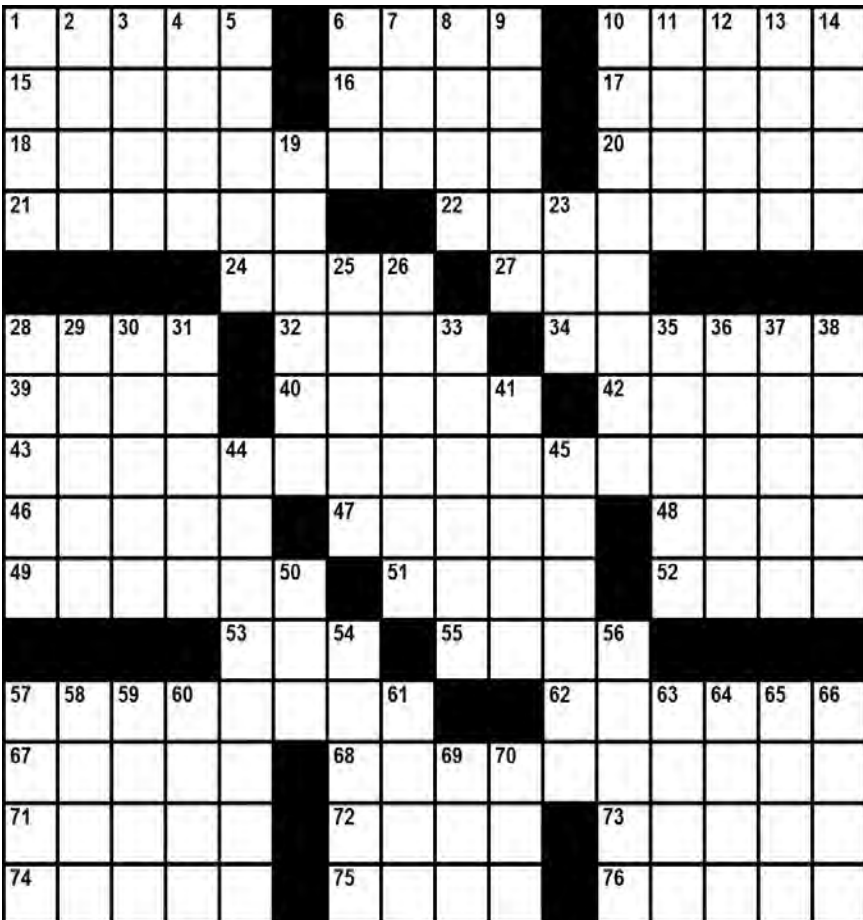


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Q P U Z Z L E Not Gaga About Gold

Across

- 1 Major and minor, to Bernstein
- 6 Isle of exile in Brando's "Desiree"
- 10 Reinaldo Arenas' Peter
- 15 Lower in rank
- 16 ___ ex machina
- 17 One that lies on the bottom
- 18 Start of Lady Gaga's description of money
- 20 Very thin
- 21 Where bitches hang out
- 22 More of the description
- 24 Give a pink slip to
- 27 Net destination
- 28 Mall bag
- 32 "That was close!"
- 34 Without a partner
- 39 Big name in publishing
- 40 "So long!"
- 42 Kind of geometry
- 43 More of the description
- 46 Hot to trot
- 47 Mini, in Marseille
- 48 Something to think about
- 49 Words from a closet, perhaps
- 51 Devil-may-care
- 52 O-o-o-o-okla., once
- 53 Hypotheticals
- 55 Scholarship criterion

- 57 More of the description
- 62 Big name in African kings
- 67 Jethrene Bodine's mother
- 68 End of the description
- 71 Lint collector
- 72 Fairy story
- 73 Fruit with wrinkles
- 74 Mudville slugger
- 75 Bones' partner
- 76 Beaver State capital

- 26 Portrayer of 7-Down in "Capote"
- 28 Oscar winner Marisa
- 29 Rehoboth Beach setting
- 30 Chicken order
- 31 Cosmetics name
- 33 Auden's first name
- 35 Like a superbly pitched game
- 36 Move effortlessly
- 37 Titanic, e.g.
- 38 Second name in cross-dressing
- 41 Pernod flavorer
- 44 Highsmith character played by Damon
- 45 Maupin's "Significant ___"
- 50 Salamander
- 54 Goes through
- 56 Extinguishes
- 57 Homer work
- 58 Warrior Princess
- 59 Pink-slips
- 60 Pennsylvania city
- 61 It's hard and woody
- 63 Vidal's Breckinridge
- 64 Bellow in the library?
- 65 Sea flier
- 66 Pansy supporter
- 69 Larry Kramer, for one
- 70 Bear lair

Down

- 1 "The Knife" handle
- 2 Penetrating reed
- 3 Rhett Butler's final word
- 4 Armchair quarterback's channel
- 5 Palindromic court star
- 6 Summer hrs. in NY
- 7 Writer Harper
- 8 Onion, for one
- 9 Shakespearean title start
- 10 Guy in boxer shorts?
- 11 Israeli statesman
- 12 Skater Mattis
- 13 Give a lot of mouth
- 14 Sgt. Snorkel's pet
- 19 Run out
- 23 Monopoly foursome (abbr.)
- 25 Tight-fisted

See solution on page 33

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Four Wettings and a Funeral

I'm mistaken; I thought dating was over, passé, pedestrian, but I've come to find we've simply altered the rules. Blame it on evolution or survival of the indiscriminate if you will, but I feel the Internet – the need for “social” networking – has shape-shifted us into a new species that no longer identifies with the concept of boundaries, particularly when it comes to interacting with friends face-to-face.

“So? I slept with Drake, big deal,” Patrick says, while catching a beer with me at a German pub. “I’m not even sure what Drake is to me anyway.”

“Well, for the last three years, he’s been one of your best friends.”

“Oh...yeah, hm,” he says, quickly slurping his Guinness to avoid the awkwardness of the moment. “Well, I had to guilt someone into sleeping with me. What the hell was I supposed to do? I haven’t had sex in like, two months.”

Yes, two months! There’s no telling how long that is in dog years or asshole years.

Therefore, I should understand, and I should accept the fact that Patrick resorted to the desperate measure of doing Drake – an act which technically, I’d be fine with if it wasn’t for his tactics: specifically his “woe is me” method, where usually after drowning in three beers, he openly questions why anyone would have sex with him. “I’m so fat and ugly!”

“I can’t believe that actually works,” I groan. “Dude, of course it works. Women have been doing it for years,” he assures me.

My response: whiplash, coupled by a few gratuitous eye-blinks. “Stop being so dramatic. You know I just can’t have sex with anyone.” Surveying the bar, he leans in for a whisper. “You know my problem.”

Yes, besides a martyr, Patrick is also a sharp-shooter, the quickest gun in town. In other words, he pre-ejaculates. Mainly, before he gets his zipper down...

“You know, I bet some guys find that sexy,” I inform him.

“Oh bullshit, Anthony. You always try to make everything sexy,” he jabs. “There’s nothing sexy about it.”

‘Tis true, but I’m grasping for straws to make light of the situation. I hear that’s what you do as a friend. But maybe I’m wrong. Maybe I should just start having sex with him. Is that how it works? Seriously, I haven’t dated for awhile so I don’t know. We’re in a bar. We’re having drinks, talking sex. Could my flattery be considered a come-on? When your friends start having sex with one another how do you know where you stand with any of them...ever?

The next day, I contemplate this while heading to the funeral of another friend’s grandmother. I wonder about my role in the funeral. Should I be attending? Is this what my friend would want? I can’t call and bother him, and I’m not sure if it’s wise for him to bother me either

Each of us, we’re swallowing so much loss and sadness. We each need a helping of support, so why do I question if it’s proper for me to provide him that support today? Who knows, maybe I’m more confused than Patrick about roles in a friendship. Or maybe I’m just too horny to think straight.

– mainly because I’m pathetic, and still dealing with the death of my nine-year relationship. Each of us, we’re swallowing so much loss and sadness. We each need a helping of support, so why do I question if it’s proper for me to provide him that support today? Who knows, maybe I’m more confused than Patrick about roles in a friendship. Or maybe I’m just too horny to think straight.

Would life be more clear if I said screw it and started screwing everyone too?

“Dude, it happened again,” Patrick says. On the phone, his voice sounds panicky, as I drive up the crowded interstate to the church. “I shot all over Drake’s leather couch. I couldn’t stop it. Dude, I got some on his cat...hit him like a bullet.”

“I don’t need all the details.”

“Please, I can’t deal with this. What’s wrong

with me?”

“Nothing!” I yell. “It happens to a lot of guys. It’s normal. Get on medication and get over it!”

“Well, you don’t have to be nasty. What’s your problem?”

“I’m on my way to a funeral.”

“Oh,” he says, concerned. Then he goes silent, turning the “oh” into an “ooh” when he forms an idea. Maybe if he were to have sex somewhere completely un-sexy, like a, hm, funeral, he’d be able to perform longer. He’d drop atom bombs. “Dude, why didn’t I think of this earlier? I just have to have sex somewhere where I’m totally turned off. Any ideas?”

“Well, why don’t you try my car, because right now, I seem to be totally turned off in it... probably because of this conversation.”

Patrick doesn’t find me funny. I’m not being supportive, he says. If I were a good friend, I would help him; I would have an answer. Sadly, he tells me that his ailment fails to allow him to feel like a real man. What will Drake think of him if he can’t fully perform? What will Drake tell everyone?

“He’s your friend. He won’t tell anyone anything,” I assure him, walking into the church.

He lingers with a response. “Maybe that’s why we have sex with friends, because we trust them,” he says.

“Yeah, and maybe that’s why I’m not having sex,” I admit. “Because lately, I can’t remember what a real friend is.”

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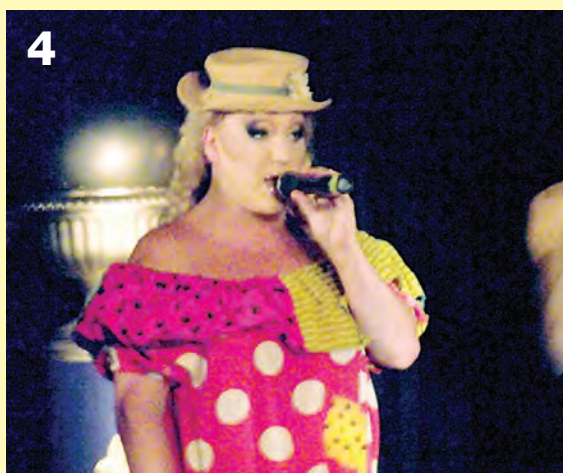
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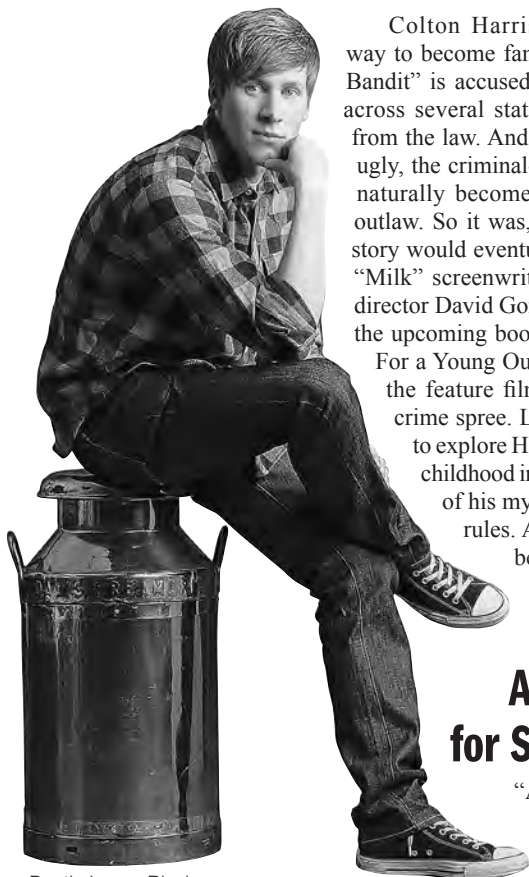
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Dustin Lance Black loves the 'Barefoot Bandit'



Dustin Lance Black

Colton Harris-Moor found an unusual way to become famous. The alleged "Barefoot Bandit" is accused of stealing cars and planes across several states, living a life on the lam from the law. And because he's young and not ugly, the criminal-turned-media-obsession has naturally become something of a folk hero/outlaw. So it was, perhaps, inevitable that his story would eventually become a movie. Enter "Milk" screenwriter Dustin Lance Black and director David Gordon Green, who'll approach the upcoming book, "Taking Flight: The Hunt For a Young Outlaw," as source material for the feature film version of Harris-Moor's crime spree. Look for the finished product to explore Harris-Moor's difficult, bullied childhood in an effort to make more sense of his mysterious break with society's rules. And if it glorifies sociopathic behavior along the way? Well that's just what Hollywood, isn't it?

A different 'View' for Sara Gilbert

"As The World Turns" is 54 this year. And it's being cancelled. But when

networks close a door they open a window, which means something's going to fly into that spare hour of programming. And what's hot for daytime? Talk shows like "The View," something CBS doesn't have yet. So here comes a new crew of ladies for an as-yet-untitled talk show focusing on current events from the perspective of mothers. At the moment the lady-team includes Julie Chen, Holly Robinson Peete, Leah Remini, and gay audience favorites like "Hairspray"'s Marissa Jaret Winokur and Sharon Osbourne and "Roseanne"'s Sara Gilbert. Now 35, the former most-sardonic-teen-on-television is now a mother of two with her partner Allison Adler, and with Rosie O'Donnell no longer on "The View," it'll be great to see a fresh lesbian mom perspective on a network talk show again. Look for the show to debut sometime in September or October and the quotes to start flying.

Whishaw and Ball bring 'Death' to HBO

Alan Ball has been very good for HBO — "Six Feet Under" still ranks among the cable network's biggest hits, and "True Blood" is currently their dominant franchise — so it's no surprise that the gay creator and the TV giant are keeping their relationship alive. Ball's latest for HBO will require even more buckets of fake splatter: "All Signs of Death" is a darkly comic drama about a slacker who stumbles into a career as a crime-scene clean-up guy, only to tumble into his own murder mystery, complete with femme fatale. Based on Charlie Huston's 2009 novel, "The Mystic Arts of Erasing All Signs of Death," the show will star Ben Whishaw, the dreamy young Brit

who's set hearts a-flutter in "Bright Star" and "Brideshead Revisited." HBO has committed to a pilot, which will shoot in late summer, using smaller-than-usual cameras to give the show that gritty, handheld look. Cross your bloody fingers it goes to series.

'Glee' busts out the fishnets for 'Rocky Horror' episode

Oh "Glee," just when we think you can't get any gayer, you go and raise the stakes again. The big news coming out of the "Glee" panel at the recent San Diego Comic-Con was queer creator Ryan Murphy's announcement that the Fox hit would do an episode built around the songs from "The Rocky Horror Picture Show" sometime during the second season. (During the panel, gay "Glee" co-star Chris Colfer mentioned his desire to sing "The Time Warp," which led to Murphy's bombshell. A set-up? You be the judge.) Lots of other cool tidbits were mentioned — the possibility of an all-Britney Spears episode, return appearances by Broadway divas Kristin Chenoweth and Idina Menzel, a religious-themed episode that will include Colfer's Kurt going to see Mercedes (Amber Riley) sing at church and an Artie-Tina breakup. But Romeo's favorite revelation came from Naya Rivera, who plays the wickedly hilarious Santana. She told the crowd that Brittany (Heather Morris) and Santana would kiss during Season 2...and that she wants their couple name to be "Santittany." Nice.

Romeo San Vicente is too distinctive to ever be a part of a mash-up couple name. He can be reached care of this publication or at DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com.

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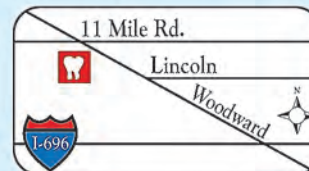
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