

INDICATION: REYATAZ® (atazanavir sulfate) is a prescription medicine used in combination with other medicines to treat people who are infected with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). REYATAZ has been studied in a 48-week trial in patients who have taken anti-HIV medicines and a 96-week trial in patients who have never taken anti-HIV medicines.

REYATAZ does not cure HIV or lower your chance of passing HIV to others.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION:

Do not take REYATAZ if you are taking the following medicines due to potential for serious, life-threatening side effects or death: Versed® (midazolam) when taken by mouth, Halcion® (triazolam), ergot medicines (dihydroergotamine, ergonovine, ergotamine, and methylergonovine such as Cafergot®, Migranal®, D.H.E. 45®, ergotrate maleate, Methergine®, and others), Propulsid® (cisapride), or Orap® (pimozide).

Do not take REYATAZ with the following medicines due to potential for serious side effects: Camptosar® (irinotecan), Crixivan® (indinavir), Mevacor® (lovastatin), Zocor® (simvastatin), Uroxatral® (alfuzosin), or Revatio® (sildenafil).

Do not take REYATAZ with the following medicines as they may lower the amount of REYATAZ in your blood, which may lead to increased HIV viral load and resistance to REYATAZ or other anti-HIV medicines: rifampin (also known as Rimactane®, Rifadin®, Rifater®, or Rifamate®), St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*)-containing products, or Viramune® (nevirapine).

Serevent Diskus® (salmeterol) and Advair® (salmeterol with fluticasone) are **not recommended** with REYATAZ.

Do not take Vfend® (voriconazole) if you are taking REYATAZ and Norvir® (ritonavir).

The above lists of medicines are not complete. **Taking REYATAZ** with some other medicines may require your therapy to be monitored more closely or may require a change in dose or dose schedule of REYATAZ or the other medicine. Discuss with your healthcare provider all prescription and non-prescription medicines, vitamin and herbal supplements, or other health preparations you are taking or plan to take.

Tell your healthcare provider if you are **pregnant**, **breast-feeding**, planning to become pregnant or breast-feed, or if you have **end-stage kidney disease** managed with hemodialysis or **severe liver dysfunction**.

Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any side effects, symptoms, or conditions, including the following:

- Mild rash (redness and itching) without other symptoms sometimes occurs in patients taking REYATAZ, most often in the first few weeks after the medicine is started, and usually goes away within 2 weeks with no change in treatment.
- Severe rash has occurred in a small number of patients taking REYATAZ. This type of rash is
 associated with other symptoms that could be serious and potentially cause death. If you
 develop a rash with any of the following symptoms, stop using REYATAZ and call
 your healthcare provider right away:
- Shortness of breath
- General ill-feeling or "flu-like"
- symptoms
- Fever
- Muscle or joint aches
- Conjunctivitis (red or inflamed eyes, like "pink-eye")
- Blisters
- Mouth sores
- Swelling of your face
- Yellowing of the skin and/or eyes may occur due to increases in bilirubin levels in the blood (bilirubin is made by the liver).
- A change in the way your heart beats may occur. You may feel dizzy or lightheaded. These could be symptoms of a heart problem.
- Diabetes and high blood sugar may occur in patients taking protease inhibitor medicines like REYATAZ. Some patients may need changes in their diabetes medicine.
- If you have liver disease, including hepatitis B or C, it may get worse when you
 take anti-HIV medicines like REYATAZ.
- **Kidney stones** have been reported in patients taking REYATAZ. Signs or symptoms of kidney stones include pain in your side, blood in your urine, and pain when you urinate.
- Some patients with hemophilia have increased bleeding problems with protease inhibitor medicines like REYATAZ.
- Changes in body fat have been seen in some patients taking anti-HIV medicines.
 The cause and long-term effects are not known at this time.
- **Gallbladder disorders** (including gallstones and gallbladder inflammation) have been reported in patients taking REYATAZ.

Other common side effects of REYATAZ taken with other anti-HIV medicines include: nausea; headache; stomach pain; vomiting; diarrhea; depression; fever; dizziness; trouble sleeping; numbness, tingling, or burning of hands or feet; and muscle pain.

You should take REYATAZ once daily with food (a meal or snack). Swallow the capsules whole; do not open the capsules. You should take REYATAZ and your other anti-HIV medicines exactly as instructed by your healthcare provider.

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.fda.gov/medwatch or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

On REYATAZ,





Please see Important Patient Information about REYATAZ on the adjacent pages.

how you spend your time is up to you.



Once-daily REYATAZ can help fight your HIV.

REYATAZ, a protease inhibitor (PI), in HIV combination therapy:

- Can help lower your viral load and raise your T-cell (CD4+ cell) count
- Has a low chance of diarrhea (shown in clinical trials)
- REYATAZ in combination therapy had a 1%-3% rate of moderate-to-severe diarrhea in adults.
- Is taken once a day with a snack or meal

REYATAZ is one of several treatment options your doctor may consider.

Do not take REYATAZ if you are allergic to REYATAZ or to any of its ingredients.

Ask your healthcare team about REYATAZ www.REYATAZ.com

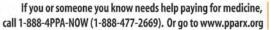
REYATAZ does not cure HIV, and has not been shown to reduce the risk of passing HIV to others.



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REYATAZ® (RAY-ah-taz) (generic name = atazanavir sulfate) Capsules

ALERT: Find out about medicines that should NOT be taken with REYATAZ. Read the section "What important information should I know about taking REYATAZ with other medicines?"

Read the Patient Information that comes with REYATAZ before you start using it and each time you get a refill. There may be new information. This leaflet provides a summary about REYATAZ and does not include everything there is to know about your medicine. This information does not take the place of talking with your healthcare provider about your medical condition or treatment.

What is REYATAZ?

REYATAZ is a prescription medicine used with other anti-HIV medicines to treat people who are infected with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). HIV is the virus that causes acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS). REYATAZ is a type of anti-HIV medicine called a protease inhibitor. HIV infection destroys CD4+ (T) cells, which are important to the immune system. The immune system helps fight infection. After a large number of (T) cells are destroyed, AIDS develops. REYATAZ helps to block HIV protease, an enzyme that is needed for the HIV virus to multiply. REYATAZ may lower the amount of HIV in your blood, help your body keep its supply of CD4+ (T) cells, and reduce the risk of death and illness associated with HIV.

Does REYATAZ cure HIV or AIDS?

REYATAZ does not cure HIV infection or AIDS. At present there is no cure for HIV infection, People taking REYATAZ may still get opportunistic infections or other conditions that happen with HIV infection. Opportunistic infections are infections that develop because the immune system is weak. Some of these conditions are pneumonia, herpes virus infections, and *Mycobacterium avium* complex (MAC) infections. It is very important that you see your healthcare provider regularly while taking REYATAZ.

REYATAZ does not lower your chance of passing HIV to other people through sexual contact, sharing needles, or being exposed to your blood. For your health and the health of others, it is important to always practice safer sex by using a latex or polyurethane condom or other barrier to lower the chance of sexual contact with semen, vaginal secretions, or blood. Never use or share dirty needles.

Who should not take REYATAZ?

Do not take REVATAZ if you:

- are taking certain medicines. (See "What important information should I know about taking REYATAZ with other medicines?") Serious life-threatening side effects or death may happen. Before you take REYATAZ, tell your healthcare provider about all medicines you are taking or planning to take. These include other prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements
- are allergic to REYATAZ or to any of its ingredients. The active ingredient is atazanavir sulfate. See the end of this leaflet for a complete list of ingredients in REYATAZ. Tell your healthcare provider if you think you have had an allergic reaction to any of these ingredients.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before I take REYATAZ? Tell your healthcare provider:

- If you are pregnant or planning to become pregnant. It is not known if REYATAZ can harm your unborn baby. Pregnant women have experienced serious side effects when taking REYATAZ with other HIV medicines called nucleoside analogues. You and your healthcare provider will need to decide if REYATAZ is right for you. If you use REYATAZ while you are pregnant, talk to your healthcare provider about the Antiretroviral Pregnancy Registry.
- If you are breast-feeding. You should not breast-feed if you are HIV-positive because of the chance of passing HIV to your baby. Also, it is not known if REYATAZ can pass into your breast milk and if it can harm your baby. If you are a woman who has or will have a baby, talk with your healthcare provider about the best way to feed your baby.
- If you have liver problems or are infected with the hepatitis B or C virus. See "What are the possible side effects of REYATAZ?"
- If you have end stage kidney disease managed with hemodialysis
- If you have diabetes. See "What are the possible side effects of REYATAZ?"
- If you have hemophilia. See "What are the possible side effects of REYATAZ?"
- About all the medicines you take including prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, and herblas supplements. Keep a list of your medicines with you to show your healthcare provider. For more information, see "What important information should I know about taking REYATAZ with other medicines?" and "Who should not take REYATAZ?" Some medicines can cause serious side effects if taken with REYATAZ.

How should I take REYATAZ?

- Take REYATAZ once every day exactly as instructed by your healthcare provider. Your healthcare provider will prescribe the amount of REYATAZ that is right for you.
 - For adults who have never taken anti-HIV medicines before, the dose is 300 mg once daily with 100 mg of NORVIR® (ritonavir) once daily taken with food. For adults who are unable to tolerate ritonavir, 400 mg (two 200-mg capsules) once daily (without NORVIR®) taken with food is recommended.
 - For adults who have taken anti-HIV medicines in the past, the usual dose is 300 mg plus 100 mg of NORVIR® (ritonavir) once daily taken
- Your dose will depend on your liver function and on the other anti-HIV medicines that you are taking, REYATAZ is always used with other anti-HIV medicines. If you are taking REYATAZ with SUSTIVA® (efavirenz) or with VIREAD® (tenofovir disoproxil fumarate), you should also be taking NORVIR® (ritonavir)
- Always take REYATAZ with food (a meal or snack) to help it work better. Swallow the capsules whole. Do not open the capsules. Take REYATAZ at the same time each day.
- If you are taking antacids or didanosine (VIDEX® or VIDEX® EC), take REYATAZ 2 hours before or 1 hour after these medicines.
- If you are taking medicines for indigestion, heartburn, or ulcers such as AXID® (nizatidine), PEPCID AC® (famotidine), TAGAMET® (cimetidine), ZANTAC® (ranitidine), AcipHex® (rabeprazole), NEXIUM® (esomeprazole), PREVACID® (lansoprazole), PRILOSEC® (omeprazole), or PROTONIX® (pantoprazole), talk to your healthcare provider.
- Do not change your dose or stop taking REYATAZ without first talking with your healthcare provider. It is important to stay under a healthcare provider's care while taking REYATAZ.
- When your supply of REYATAZ starts to run low, get more from your healthcare provider or pharmacy. It is important not to run out of REYATAZ. The amount of HIV in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time.
- If you miss a dose of REYATAZ, take it as soon as possible and then take your next scheduled dose at its regular time. If, however, it is within 6 hours of your next dose, do not take the missed dose. Wait and take the next dose at the regular time. Do not double the next dose. It is important that you do not miss any doses of REYATAZ or your other anti-HIV medicines.
- If you take more than the prescribed dose of REYATAZ, call your healthcare provider or poison control center right away.

Can children take REYATAZ?

Dosing recommendations are available for children 6 years of age and older for REYATAZ Capsules. Dosing recommendations are not available for children from 3 months to less than 6 years of age. REYATAZ should not be used in babies under

What are the possible side effects of REYATAZ?

The following list of side effects is not complete. Report any new or continuing symptoms to your healthcare provider. If you have questions about side effects, ask your healthcare provider. Your healthcare provider may be able to help you age these side effects.

The following side effects have been reported with REYATAZ:

- mild rash (redness and itching) without other symptoms sometimes occurs in patients taking REYATAZ, most often in the first few weeks after the medicine is started. Rashes usually go away within 2 weeks with no change in treatment. Tell your healthcare provider if rash occurs.
- severe rash: In a small number of patients, a rash can develop that is associated with other symptoms which could be serious and potentially cause death.

If you develop a rash with any of the following symptoms stop using REYATAZ and call your healthcare provider right away:

- · shortness of breath
- general ill feeling or "flu-like" symptoms
- fever
- muscle or joint aches
- conjunctivitis (red or inflamed eyes, like "pink eye")
- blisters
- mouth sores
- · swelling of your face
- yellowing of the skin or eyes. These effects may be due to increases in bilirubin levels in the blood (bilirubin is made by the liver). Call your healthcare provider if your skin or the white part of your eyes turn yellow. Although these effects may not be damaging to your liver, skin, or eyes, it is important to tell your healthcare provider promptly if they occur.

REYATAZ® (atazanavir sulfate)

- a change in the way your heart beats (heart rhythm change). Call your healthcare provider right away if you get dizzy or lightheaded. These could be symptoms of a heart problem.
- diabetes and high blood sugar (hyperglycemia) sometimes happen in patients taking protease inhibitor medicines like REYATAZ. Some patients had diabetes before taking protease inhibitors while others did not. Some patients may need changes in their diabetes medicine.
- if you have liver disease including hepatitis B or C, your liver disease may get worse when you take anti-HIV medicines like REYATAZ.
- kidney stones have been reported in patients taking REYATAZ. If you develop signs or symptoms of kidney stones (pain in your side, blood in your urine, pain when you urinate) tell your healthcare provider promptly.
- some patients with hemophilia have increased bleeding problems with protease inhibitors like REYATAZ.
- changes in body fat. These changes may include an increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast, and around the trunk. Loss of fat from the legs, arms, and face may also happen. The cause and long-term health effects of these conditions are not known at this time.

Other common side effects of REYATAZ taken with other anti-HIV medicines include nausea; headache; stomach pain; vomiting; diarrhea; depression; fever; dizziness; trouble sleeping; numbness, tingling, or burning of hands or feet; and muscle pain.

Gallbladder disorders (which may include gallstones and gallbladder inflammation) have been reported in patients taking REYATAZ,

What important information should I know about taking REYATAZ with other

Do not take REYATAZ if you take the following medicines (not all brands may be listed; tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take). REYATAZ may cause serious, life-threatening side effects or death when used with these medicines.

- Ergot medicines: dihydroergotamine, ergonovine, ergotamine, and methylergonovine such as CAFERGOT®, MIGRANAL®, D.H.E. 45®, ergotrate maleate, METHERGINE®, and others (used for migraine headaches).
- ORAP® (pimozide, used for Tourette's disorder).
- PROPULSID® (cisapride, used for certain stomach problems).
- Triazolam, also known as HALCION® (used for insomnia).
- Midazolam, also known as VERSED® (used for sedation), when taken by mouth.

Do not take the following medicines with REYATAZ because of possible serious side effects:

- CAMPTOSAR® (irinotecan, used for cancer).
- CRIXIVAN® (indinavir, used for HIV infection). Both REYATAZ and CRIXIVAN sometimes cause increased levels of bilirubin in the blood
- Cholesterol-lowering medicines MEVACOR® (lovastatin) or ZOCOR® (simvastatin).
- UBOXATRAL® (alfuzosin, used to treat benion enlargement of the prostate).
- REVATIO® (sildenafil, used to treat pulmonary arterial hypertension).

Do not take the following medicines with REYATAZ because they may lower the amount of REYATAZ in your blood. This may lead to an increased HIV viral load. Resistance to REYATAZ or cross-resistance to other HIV medicines may

- Rifampin (also known as RIMACTANE®, RIFADIN®, RIFATER®, or RIFAMATE®, used for tuberculosis).
- St. John's wort (Hypericum perforatum), an herbal product sold as a dietary supplement, or products containing St. John's wort. VIRAMUNE® (nevirapine, used for HIV infection).

The following medicines are not recommended with REYATAZ:

SEREVENT DISKUS^{III} (salmeterol) and ADVAIR^{III} (salmeterol with fluticasone), used to treat asthma, emphysema/chronic obstructive pulmonary disease also known as COPD.

Do not take the following medicine if you are taking REYATAZ and NORVIR®

VFEND® (voriconazole).

The following medicines may require your healthcare provider to monitor your therapy more closely (for some medicines a change in the dose or dose schedule may be needed):

- CIALIS® (tadalafil), LEVITRA® (vardenafil), or VIAGRA® (sildenafil), used to treat erectile dysfunction. REYATAZ may increase the chances of serious side effects that can happen with CIALIS, LEVITRA, or VIAGRA while you are taking REYATAZ unless your healthcare provider tells you it is okay.

 ADCIRCA® (tadalafil) or TRACLEER® (bosentan), used to treat pulmonary
- arterial hypertension
- LIPITOR® (atorvastatin) or CRESTOR® (rosuvastatin). There is an increased chance of serious side effects if you take REYATAZ with this cholesterol-

REYATAZ® (atazanavir sulfate)

- Medicines for abnormal heart rhythm: CORDARONE® (amiodarone), lidocaine, quinidine (also known as CARDIOQUIN®, QUINIDEX®, and others).
- MYCOBUTIN® (rifabutin, an antibiotic used to treat tuberculosis).

 BUPRENEX®, SUBUTEX®, SUBOXONE®, (buprenorphine or buprenorphine/ naloxone, used to treat pain and addiction to narcotic painkillers).
- VASCOR® (bepridil, used for chest pain).
- COUMADIN® (warfarin).
- Tricyclic antidepressants such as ELAVIL® (amitriptyline), NORPRAMIN® (desipramine), SINEQUAN® (doxepin), SURMONTIL® (trimipramine), TOFRANIL® (imipramine), or VIVACTIL® (protriptyline). Medicines to prevent organ transplant rejection: SANDIMMUNE® or NEORAL® (cyclosporin), RAPAMUNE® (sirolimus), or PROGRAF® (tacrolimus). The antidepressant travadone (DESVREI® and others)

- The antidepressant trazodone (DESYREL® and others). Fluticasone propionate (FLONASE®, FLOVENT®), given by nose or inhaled to treat allergic symptoms or asthma. Your doctor may choose not to keep you on fluticasone, especially if you are also taking NORVIR®
- Colchicine (COLCRYS®), used to prevent or treat gout or treat familial Mediterranean fever

The following medicines may require a change in the dose or dose schedule of either REYATAZ or the other medicine:

- INVIRASE® (saquinavir).
- NORVIR® (ritonavir).
- SUSTIVA (efavirenz).
- Antacids or buffered medicines. VIDEX® (didanosine).
- VIREAD® (tenofovir disoproxil fumarate).
- MYCOBUTIN® (rifabutin).
- Calcium channel blockers such as CARDIZEM® or TIAZAC® (diltiazem), COVERA-HS® or ISOPTIN SR® (verapamil) and others.
- BIAXIN® (clarithromycin).
- Medicines for indigestion, heartburn, or ulcers such as AXID® (nizatidine), PEPCID AC® (famotidine), TAGAMET® (cimetidine), or ZANTAC® (ranitidine).

Talk to your healthcare provider about choosing an effective method of contraception. REYATAZ may affect the safety and effectiveness of hormonal contraceptives such as birth control pills or the contraceptive patch. Hormonal contraceptives do not prevent the spread of HIV to others.

Remember:

- Know all the medicines you take.
- Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take.
- Do not start a new medicine without talking to your healthcare provider.

How should I store REYATAZ?

- Store REYATAZ Capsules at room temperature, 59° to 86° F (15° to 30° C). Do not store this medicine in a damp place such as a bathroom medicine cabinet or near the kitchen sink.
- Keep your medicine in a tightly closed container.
- Keep all medicines out of the reach of children and pets at all times. Do not keep medicine that is out of date or that you no longer need. Dispose of unused medicines through community take-back disposal programs when available or place REYATAZ in an unrecognizable, closed container in the household trash.

General information about REYATAZ

This medicine was prescribed for your particular condition. Do not use REYATAZ for another condition. Do not give REYATAZ to other people, even if they have the same symptoms you have. It may harm them. **Keep REYATAZ** and all medicines out of the reach of children and pets.

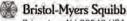
This summary does not include everything there is to know about REYATAZ. Medicines are sometimes prescribed for conditions that are not mentioned in patient information leaflets. Remember no written summary can replace careful discussion with your healthcare provider. If you would like more information, talk with your healthcare provider or you can call 1-800-321-1335.

What are the ingredients in REYATAZ?

Active Ingredient: atazanavir sulfate

Inactive Ingredients: Crospovidone, lactose monohydrate (milk sugar), magnesium stearate, gelatin, FD&C Blue #2, and titanium dioxide.

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Princeton, NJ 08543 USA

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Eight Cities - One Walk

ANN ARBOR | JACKSON

Jackson - Saturday, September 25
Riverwalk Amphitheater
Ann Arbor - Sunday, September 26
Detroit Edison Bldg Parking Lot

BAY CITY | MIDLAND | SAGINAW

Saturday, September 25
Wenonah Park (Bay City)

CENTRAL MICHIGAN | Mt. Pleasant

Saturday, September 25
Island Park

DETROIT

Saturday, September 25
Palmer Park

FLINT

Saturday, October 2
University of Michigan, Downtown

LANSING | EAST LANSING

Sunday, September 26
Valley Court Park (East Lansing)

NORTHERN MICHIGAN | Traverse City

Sunday, September 26

Medalie Park

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World AIDS Day is fast approaching and the Michigan AIDS Coalition would like to

remember your loved one

in a graphic quilt.

To honor your loved one in a special way this year, please make a \$10 donation at www.michiganaidscoalition.org by November 10, 2010.

Quilt and names will be featured in the Dec. 1 issue.



www.michiganaidscoalition.org

Rhonda L. Kobold, D.O. and Becky J. Smith, D.O., PC



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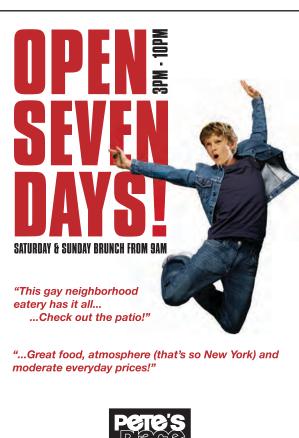












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By Jessica Carreras

Mike Odom is an account supervisor at Marx Layne, and has been the co-director of the Motown Invitation Classic for four years, which brings over 200 LGBT and allied bowlers to the tournament each year. Odom will be co-directing his last MIC tournament in October.

How did you first get involved with LGBT bowling leagues?

A friend encouraged me to join the local LGBT league back in the early '90s after learning I was an avid bowler. At that time, the Detroit-based league was the largest bowling league in the world – gay or straight – with more than 400 bowlers. It was called Betterment of The Individual and was held at State Fair Lanes.

After several years, BTI ultimately separated into smaller leagues throughout metro Detroit, which is what we have today.

Why do you enjoy being involved in the Motown Invitational Classic?

It is truly a privilege to be a part of an organization that has a 25-year history of promoting LGBT bowling and the spirit of friendly competition in

southeast Michigan. Each year, the MIC hosts on average 200-plus bowlers from Michigan, the U.S. and Canada. We are a welcoming committee on behalf of our community and we are proud to roll out the red carpet for local and out-of-town visitors alike.

Year after year, the MIC committee works very hard to raise the necessary funds to cover the cost of hosting one our region's best LGBT competitive events. Whether we are coordinating a bar crawl, boat cruise or bar of the week, I am always humbled by the wonderful group of dedicated committee members that help make MIC possible. They are a major part of the reason why I have been involved for so long.

What's coming up in the world of gay bowling?

Most LGBT bowling leagues have already started or are scheduled to begin soon. Metro Detroit is home to five LGBT bowling leagues: BTI Sunday Mixed, Westside Sunday Mixed, Metro Detroit Friday Night Mixed, Wednesday Pride and The Rainbow League.

The 25th MIC tournament is scheduled to take place Oct. 8-10. Whether you want to stop by Thunderbowl Lanes to watch the competition or swing by MotorCity Casino Hotel to check out the party at our host hotel, we welcome you to join in the fun.



The gay leagues have given us a great sense of pride. We have been there for each other when times are tough and when times are great, like one big family.

From the national perspective, the International Gay Bowling Organization's 30th Mid-Year Tournament will take place Nov. 10-15 in Washington, D.C. Next year, bowlers will compete in the "World Series" of gay bowling at the IGBO Annual XXXI May 25-30, which will be hosted in Toronto.

What positive element do you think MIC and the affiliated leagues bring to the gay community?

MIC and the local LGBT leagues have created a tremendous opportunity for people to meet and develop long lasting friendships. Over the years, I have made many friends with people from all walks of life.

The gay leagues also have given us a great sense of pride. We have marched together in AIDS walks, supported numerous nonprofits with donations of food, blankets, our personal time and finances, rallied around friends

who have been attacked in the streets for being gay, and have supported others who are fighting cancer and are struggling to survive. We have been there for each other when times are tough and when times are great, like one big family.

This will be your last year as co-director of MIC. What are your "parting words"?

These past four years have truly been a rewarding experience. Although it has been challenging at times, in the end it is always worth it.

To the new MIC co-directors: Allow the opportunity for fresh ideas and news ways of thinking to encompass everything that you do, whether it is through fundraising, building relationships in the community or interacting with your fellow committee members. A good leader is one that listens to every suggestion carefully and presents opportunities for people to be included in the decision making process.

To tournament sponsors and community supporters: Thank you for your generous support of the MIC tournament. You have helped us become one of the best LGBT bowling tournaments in our region.

To my family: Thank you for your patience. Yes, NOW we can spend more time together.

Visit www.mictournament.org for information about joining a local league.

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

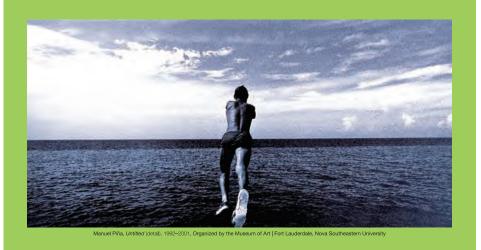






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TARGET FREE SATURDAYS

AIDS Walk Detroit surges on

Teen turnout larger 'than ever in the history' of fundraiser

BY JESSICA CARRERAS

ROYAL OAK – Though the weather was predicted to be rainy, the sun once again came out for the annual AIDS Walk Detroit, which took place Sept. 19 in downtown Royal Oak.

Thousands of people gathered at the Royal Oak Farmer's Market to ready for the 5K walk, to watch pieces from the Names Project AIDS Memorial Quilt be unfolded, and to remember loved ones lost to HIV/AIDS. Over 90 teams walked, raising over \$100,000 for Steppin' Out – and counting. It's money that will all go back toward metro Detroit HIV/AIDS organizations, promised Steppin' Out Board President Bill Thomas, owner of Royal Oak restaurant Pronto!

"It takes a lot of people to put this walk on, and for all of you who have been participating, the money that's raised stays right here in metro Detroit," he told participants at the Royal Oak Farmer's Market, where the walk begins and ends each year. "I want to thank you, from the board of directors of Steppin' Out. It goes to people who need food, medicine, clothing, shelter - it's really, really important that you participate today."

Royal Oak Mayor Jim Ellison and Ferndale Mayor Craig Covey made their usual appearance at the event, with Covey making a special plug for the upcoming elections. The longtime Ferndale politician is making a run for a seat on the Oakland County Commission, on which he would represent the 25th District, which includes Ferndale, Hazel Park and parts of Royal Oak.

We appreciate you being here, we're glad that you're here, and after you're done walking, there's one more thing you've gotta do if you want to keep fighting HIV/AIDS: I need you to vote on Nov. 2," Covey implored the walkers. "If you can vote, please vote."

Unable to vote, but certainly able and willing to help the cause of HIV/AIDS, were hundreds of teens from a myriad of local high schools, including Grosse Pointe North, Lincoln High, North Farmington High and Ferndale's Franklin High School, which had raised close to \$900 at last count. The school with the most money raised by the Oct. 20 deadline will win a free dance at their school, sponsored by AMP 98.7, which provided a live DJ for AIDS Walk

According to Thomas, this year's student participation set an AIDS Walk record. "This year, we have had more high school teams than ever in the history of Steppin' Out and AIDS Walk Detroit," he said, drawing large cheers from the teens. "You guys rock it out."

But beyond the energy of youth, the Extra Mile Club honored three participants who serve as an inspiration to other fundraisers. This year, walkers raising over \$1,000 as of Sunday's count included Ron Northrop, who raised \$3,580; Frank D'Amore, who raised \$7,600; and David Agius, who single-handedly raised an astounding \$13,000 for AIDS Walk Detroit.

Teams raising over \$10,000 each included Affirmations, Dignity Detroit and Health Emer-



U.S. Sen. Carl Levin reminded participants that the numbers that really matter, beyond dollars, are reducing the number of infections and deaths due to HIV/AIDS

gency Lifeline Programs.

But the numbers that truly matter, U.S. Sen. Carl Levin reminded participants, are numbers of infections, and of deaths due to HIV/AIDS. Those, he pointed out, serve as a sobering reminder that the disease is still a killer - even in

"As we celebrate some successes - we've seen a reduction in the amount of infections of AIDS - we also have a long way to go, and that's the reason you're here today," said Levin, a longtime supporter of both LGBT and HIV/AIDS causes. "We have a million or more Americans with HIV/AIDS. Perhaps 20 percent of them don't even know they have it, which is an addition to that tragedy."

Levin recapped the past year's federal policy gains in the arena of HIV/AIDS treatment and prevention, which included the reauthorization of the Ryan White CARE Act and the end of the national policy that prohibited the travel of HIV-positive people into the country.

But the true measure of success, noted Levin, will come when there is no need for funding or AIDS walks at all. "As we look forward ... to coming out every year to support your great effort - and this is a great day when we come together to do that - we also look forward to the day when we no longer have to march to end the scourge of HIV/AIDS," he said. "You are bringing that date closer by marching today."

To keep track of the total number of funds raised at the 2010 AIDS Walk Detroit, or to make a donation by the Oct. 20 deadline, visit www. aidswalkdetroit.org.





Above: Members of local HIV support group WINGS look on as pieces of the Names Memorial Quilt are unfolded. Below: Ferndale-based Lincoln High School currently leads the AIDS Walk High School Challenge with close to \$1,000 raised. The school that raises the most funds will be rewarded with a free dance, hosted by radio station AMP 98.7. BTL photos by Jessica Carreras



The individuals behind American Future Fund are also allied with the "family values" crowd. The board president of the organization is Iowa Republican state Senate candidate Sandra Greiner. On June 25, Greiner held a fundraising event for her campaign, the guest speaker for which was anti-gay former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum.

Iowa-based American Future Fund runs attack ads in state

'Swift Boat'-affiliated group targets Michigan's 7th District; Schauer campaign blasts org

BY SUSAN HOROWITZ

With the last of the primaries over, the right-wing funding machine has mobilized into high gear. One of the newest players in the 2010 campaign cycle is the Des Moines, Iowa-based conservative organization American Future Fund. It was founded in the spring of 2008 to help campaigns across the country elect candidates who believe in "conservative and free market ideals."

In an interview with the Center for Public Integrity last month, American Future Fund spokesman Nick Ryan said his group plans to spend between \$20-25 million on political ads this fall. On Sept. 15, that spending began in Michigan when the group purchased TV ads targeting the state's 7th and 1st U.S. House Districts.

The cookie-cutter attack ad, an adaptation of which is running in 13 other U.S. congressional districts, is targeting incumbent Rep. Mark Schauer (D-Battle Creek) who is running against former Rep. Tim Walberg (R-Tipton). The ad cost over \$500,000 and is expected to run over 4,000 times in the district through Election Day. It targets Schauer for his votes on health care reform and energy taxes, attacking him as a "liberal" who needs to "disappear." In 2008, the Human Rights Campaign gave Walberg a rating of zero and endorsed Schauer.

In a press release, the Schauer campaign called American Future Fund a "shadowy special-interest group," that has hired consultants who were behind the 2004 "Swift Boat" ads.

The Iowa Independent investigated the American Future Fund in 2008 and reported that Ben Ginsberg of the Washington, D.C., law firm Patton Boggs is the group's legal counsel. Ginsberg provided advice to Swift Boat Veterans for Truth in the 2004 presidential campaign that erroneously attacked John Kerry's military service record. Another American Future Fund adviser, Larry McCarthy, produced the infamous 1988 racially tinged Willie Horton TV ad that helped defeat Michael Dukakis, the democratic presidential candidate that year.

The individuals behind American

Future Fund are also allied with the "family values" crowd. The board president of the organization is Republican state Senate candidate Sandra Greiner. On June 25, Greiner held a fundraising event for her campaign, the guest speaker for which was anti-gay former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum. Santorum has been seen a lot in Iowa and there has been speculation that he is testing the waters for a presidential bid. He will be returning to Iowa for the American Future Fund speaker series on Oct. 1.

Last week, Greiner was in the national spotlight joining a chorus of Republicans that have been calling the president's religion into question. She told KTVO, "I am saying I don't know. ... He says he is a Christian. If he says he is a Christian I will take his word for it until somebody proves to me otherwise. I don't have time to do the research right now."

The Republican candidate for governor of Iowa, former Gov. Terry Branstad, is a board member of the American Future Fund. While seen as more moderate than his primary contestant, Bob Vander Plaats, who lost in June with 42 percent of the primary vote, Branstad has flipflopped regarding the Iowa Supreme Court justices' unanimous decision to allow same-sex marriage.

In May 2009, Branstad told the Des Moines Register, "I do respect the existence of the separation of powers." However, candidate Branstad is now endorsing changing Iowa's merit-based system for selecting judges, considered one of the best systems in the nation.

Right wing eyes Iowa Supreme Court justices

Meanwhile, as another Focus on the Family Values Voter Summit ended last weekend in Washington, D.C., attracting most of the 2012 Republican presidential hopefuls, the Iowa court decision was cited at the podium by a number of speakers.

One of the most onerous was Bryan Fischer, the director of Issue Analysis for Government and Public Policy at the American Family Association. Fischer's remarks to the gathering were anti-gay and anti-Muslim, emphasizing that Christians need to be involved in politics or else the "pagans and atheists" will run government.

Fischer is working with partners in Iowa that include the Iowa Family Policy Center.

He told the gathering that the American Family Association had already spent "several hundred-thousand dollars" to defeat three Iowa Supreme Court justices because of their "activist" role regarding the decision to allow same-sex marriage.

Having lost the primary election for Republican candidate for governor of Iowa, Vander Plaats is heading up the Iowa Family Policy Center (www.ifpc. org). On Aug. 6, the website Bleeding Heartland (www.bleedingheartland. com) reported that Vander Plaats will be leading the charge in a public campaign against retention of the Iowa Supreme Court justices.

Eastern Iowa Government's website (http://easterniowagovernment.com) indicated that Vander Plaats has the support of the Republican Governors Association in his efforts to defeat the Supreme Court justices. IFPC hopes to set a precedent that other Republican governors can follow in the future.

The IFPC identifies a key issue on the website (www.ifpcaction.org) as follows: "Sexuality: IFPC affirms sexual relations within the bond of marriage, and opposes distortions of sexuality or special rights to those practicing distorted sexual behavior." The Family Research Council's Tony Perkin's has recorded a short disinformation commercial addressing "why gay marriage matters" in Iowa, in an attempt to alarm voters.

In a video on the website, IFPC Action Board Chairman Danny Carroll addresses a gathering to discuss the April 2009 Supreme Court ruling which he said "violated God's design for a successful and healthy society" and he emphasized the need to reverse the opinion as soon as possible.

Salesman, former Aff youth Steven William Swan dies

Steven William Swan, 38, passed away suddenly Sept. 4 after suffering acute chest pains. He was rushed to the hospital from his St. Clair Shores home and was pronounced dead.



Swan, born Oct. 28, 1971, was a 1990 graduate of Grosse Pointe North High School where he was an accomplished member of the swim team. He later attended Oakland Community College. He worked as an ad sales representative for Pride Source Media Group and Between The Lines from 2004 to 2005. Before that, he was a top salesman at Art Van Furniture. During his high school years, he worked at Bill Knapp's restaurant and Jacobson's Department Store.

He is survived by his sister, Susan Swan of Colorado, brother Paul Swan of Texas, nephew Jack Hunter Swan, 2,

and niece Ada Catherine Swan, 5.

Swan's body will be cremated. A memorial service will be held at Christ Church, 61 Grosse Point Blvd., Grosse Pointe Farms at 1 p.m. Sept. 25.

When Swan was 18 he attended the Affirmations Youth Group. The family has requested that in lieu of flowers, donations be sent to Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale, MI, 48220 (www.goaffirmations.org).

Community activist Susan Sanborn North dies

Susan North, 70, passed away Sept. 7 while vacationing in California. She had suffered a severe stroke just days before.

North was a staunch supporter of Michigan's LGBT community, serving on committees at Affirmations, the Triangle Foundation and others. In the 1990s, she became well known as the leader of a group



of financial planners at Ameriprise Financial Services that specialized in the unique financial needs of the LGBT community – the first of its kind in the greater Detroit area.

North also shepherded countless requests from LGBT and HIV/AIDS agencies for financial support from Ameriprise Financial through direct gifts and event sponsorships.

Born in Laconia, N.H., in 1940, North was a graduate of Hunter College in New York. She was a computer programmer and author in her early life, writing 12 books on topics covering

computer programming and New England cooking.

Later, North became a financial advisor and indulged her passion for art, entering and winning national art quilt competitions. Her work was displayed as part of a traveling exhibit shown in the U.S. ambassadorial residences worldwide. Examples can be seen at www. SusanSanbornNorth.com.

North is survived by her daughter, Sarah Lydia Sanborn North, sister Bonny Smith and 23 first cousins. She is also survived by her three beloved English Bulldogs.

No funeral arrangements have been made per North's request, as she bequeathed her body to science. Sarah North said she is planning a celebration of her mother's life and art in the Detroit area in a few weeks. At press time, details were not yet available.

The family requests that donations in honor of Susan Sanford North go to these three organizations: The Roeper School, Mariann Hoag Financial Aid/Scholarship Program (www.roeper.org/donate); Equality Michigan (www.equalitymi.org); and The Bulldog Club of America Rescue Network (www.rescuebulldogs.org/donations).



BTL EDITORIAL

Feds committed to fighting hate

Very year, the Michigan Alliance Against Hate Crimes brings the Response to Hate Conference to Lansing, and a slew of law enforcement officials, students, nonprofit representatives, lawyers and concerned citizens meet to discuss and learn about hot topics and ways to combat hate crimes in Michigan and beyond.

On Sept. 16, the conference was held again, and the surprising focus of the day? Protecting LGBT citizens.

Although hate crimes based on sexual orientation and gender identity or gender expression are always included in hate crimes discussions, last October's passage of the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act pushed the issue to the forefront of the minds of everyone interested in preventing, prosecuting and educating the public about hate.

It was heartening to hear presenters and participants alike nod their heads in agreement that yes, it's important for our country to protect people from anti-LGBT hate crimes and yes, we as a society recognize and respect that fact.

But perhaps most impressive was the fact that a high-up representative of our federal government was at the conference, discussing his personal vested interest in prosecuting LGBT hate crimes.

Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights at the U.S. Department of Justice Tom Perez was the keynote speaker for the day, and he spent much of his time at the podium discussing both the importance of the newest hate crimes act and the federal government's drive to protecting and serving LGBT citizens.

"I prosecuted a lot of folks, and I refer to the term "equal opportunity bigot" – they hate African Americans, they hate Latinos, they hate Jews, the hate Muslims, they hate everyone who is different, including people who are gay, lesbian, transgender or bisexual," Perez told conference participants. "There is nothing worse as a prosecutor than looking someone in the eye and saying, 'Your son or daughter has been the victim of a brutal gay-bashing incident, and there's not a darn thing we can do about it, because we lack

It cannot be stated emphatically enough that the Shepard and Byrd Hate Crimes Prevention Act was not simply a token law passed to say, "Look! Here, we did something!" but a very real commitment to including LGBT people in the equation when it comes to fighting hate crimes.

the jurisdiction.'

"But now, the good news is that we are here and we can help and we are helping."

It cannot be stated emphatically enough that the Shepard and Byrd Hate Crimes Prevention Act was not simply a token law passed to say, "Look! Here, we did something!" but a very real commitment to including LGBT people in the equation when it comes to fighting hate crimes.

The federal government wants to help, and LGBT hate crimes victims – nay, the entire LGBT community, victimized or not – should know that this venue to justice is there for them, even if their community or local law enforcement are not.

Moreover, Perez and his team – along with the people at MIAAHC – are working to ensure that community organizations and local police departments, which are often the first to hear about a hate crime, are properly trained not only to contact federal attorneys for anti-LGBT hate crimes cases, but to simply respect LGBT people and to build bridges so that victims feel safe enough to come forward.

It's so wonderful to know that the highest office in our country is on our side when we are victimized, hurt or killed; that crimes against us will not go unnoticed. It's reassuring to us as LGBT people, and to our community overall.

THE GAY MORALIST



Marriage and iconography

BY JOHN CORVINO

ome weeks ago I wrote a piece responding to a Ross Douthat column which draws on the celibate lesbian author Eve Tushnet. Tushnet had written,

"If you have a unisex model of marriage, which is what gay marriage requires, you are no longer able to talk about marriage as regulating heterosexuality and therefore you're not able to say: Look, there are things that are different about heterosexual and homosexual relationships. There are different dangers, there are different challenges, and, therefore, there are probably going to be different rules."

My ultimate complaint was (and remains) that neither Tushnet nor Douthat explains why extending marriage to gay people would somehow warp it to where it could no longer meet the needs of straight people – especially since gays and straights share so many fundamental needs and challenges.

In a recent blog post, Tushnet responds (http://bit.ly/9rmKy1). Her response is organized around four points. I'll address each of them briskly here, with the hope that I might delve into some of them at greater length later.

First, she responds to my chiding her and Douthat for ignoring the myriad differences that exist within the category of heterosexual relationships – some with children, some without; some involving young lovebirds; some involving mature companions; some domestic, some long-distance, and so on.

Tushnet complains that my perspective requires one to believe that sex/gender difference is just one difference among others, rather than *the* difference. As she puts it, my view requires denying that sex difference is "iconic." She writes,

"I genuinely believe that sex difference is sublime in a way that age difference, for example, is not. Its sublimity stems in part, though I think only in part, from its danger, its potential for horror, and its simultaneous potential for exceptional beauty."

I'm not sure that Tushnet is aiming at my central complaint here. But if she is, then she's saying that the problem with extending marriage to same-sex couples is that doing so renders it unable to express the "iconic," "sublime" and "beautiful" male-female difference it traditionally expressed.

It's hard to respond to that, except to note that it depends on a radically different worldview from mine: As I see it, of the many important purposes of marriage, iconography is pretty low on the list.

I value marriage because of the concrete ways in which it recognizes and fortifies families, helping them to sustain relationships that do them – and society – palpable good. It serves people's deep needs for intimacy, care, support in child-rearing, and so on. Gay and lesbian people have those needs, too.

So if it's a choice between marriage-as-

iconography and marriage-as-meeting-concreteneeds, I'd pick the latter every time.

Second, Tushnet complains that "If lots and lots of differences are as important to marriage as sex differences, or sex differences are as unimportant to marriage as lots and lots of differences, it's exceptionally difficult to understand how marriage could be an institution which regulates sex at all."

No, it isn't. Sex (the activity) is a powerful and risky force, and thus there are reasons to regulate it in and through marriage. (Of course, the stakes are higher when that activity can also result in children.) Furthermore, sex brings people together and marriage helps keep them together, even as their sexual interest waxes and wanes. What's so difficult to understand?

Here Tushnet proffers the usual false dilemma: Either marriage is solely male-female or else it "means whatever you want it to mean." But there's plenty of reasonable middle ground between those polar (and false) alternatives.

Third, Tushnet speculates about my worldview. (She could have asked; I'm not that hard to find.) She suspects that, for me, men and women are nothing more than functions: "If we can figure out the function of a father, we can replace biological fathers with father figures or male role models and no harm done."

I hold no such thing. Indeed, I've written about the fact that I believe biological bonds are special, which is not to say that they are the only kind of parent-child bond deserving of support.

But what I also believe – and have repeatedly argued – is that it's unfair to saddle marriage-equality proponents with the donor-conception debate. Tushnet does this again in her fourth point, where she complains that members of the "'family diversity' movement" lack "aesthetic sensitivity" to biological connectedness.

If she's right, she's only half right: It's in part because of such aesthetic sensitivity that some gay couples – as well as many infertile straight couples – choose donor-conception over adoption. (There are other reasons, including the hurdles placed in front of gay couples seeking to adopt.)

I understand why Tushnet worries that some individuals' desires for "their own" biological children renders them less sensitive to children's interest in "their own" biological mother and father. But I cannot see how she (or anyone) convincingly connects the dots between that premise and the conclusion that gays shouldn't be allowed to marry.

It's not about iconography. It's about the real needs of gay and lesbian individuals, couples, and families.

John Corvino, Ph.D. is an author, speaker, and philosophy professor at Wayne State University in Detroit. His current fall speaking schedule is posted at www.johncorvino.com.



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— First Amendment, U.S. Constitution

S/he said

DADT, Montana and homophobia on Facebook

COMPILED BY HOWARD ISRAEL

"I had a roommate who told me, 'Whenever I see two gay people walking down the street, it makes me want to throw up,' I was like, 'Little do you know, I'm gay.'"

- A senior female cadet, quoted in an article titled "At West Point, Hidden Gay Cadets Put in Spotlight," about the closeted lives of cadets, www.nytimes.com, Aug. 24.



Vallerie D. Wagner

"'Black Lesbians Matter' accentuates the importance of using our voices to define us for ourselves. It is our opportunity to speak and have our voices heard and acknowledged; our issues and concerns validated and defined in our own words. We must continue to find and use our voices, for to remain silent is no longer an option."

- Vallerie D. Wagner, board member of the National Black Justice Coalition, in a press release

about "Black Lesbians Matter," a study of the unique experiences, perspectives and priorities of the black lesbian community, http://zunainstitute.org, July 27.

"I looked at that and said, 'You've got to be kidding me.' Should it get taken out? Absolutely. Does anybody think we should be arresting homosexual people? If you take that stand, you really probably shouldn't be in the Republican Party."

- Sen. John Brueggeman, (R-Mont.), in an article titled "Montana GOP policy: Make homosexuality illegal," about the state GOP's recently adopted official platform which supports making homosexual acts illegal, Associated Press, www.ap.org, Sept. 18.



Kevin Patrick O'Neil

"We actually achieve what we set out to do. We've gotten 1,566 homophobic pages removed from Facebook, and we have a real sense of community building in the group. Know how we did it? We listened to the members, and we got rid of the bigots, and the self servers and the haters. We kept the genuine, nice, normal, average, wonderful people that we have today, and we all worked together to make our voices heard."

- Kevin Patrick O'Neil, interviewed in a column titled "Wipeout Homophobia on Facebook: Taking a Stand for Tolerance," about the Facebook page O'Neil launched to combat anti-gay, racist and sexist Facebook pages, www. polarimagazine.com, Sept. 9.

"The next time the gay community starts pointing fingers in regards to black homophobia, I would suggest it take a more sobering look at racism within its own ranks. There is no group, regardless of who you sleep with or what skin color you have, that is either exempt or free of bigotry and bias."

- Devona Walker, in her column titled "Gay marriage, the legacy of Civil Rights and the black community," www. theloop21.com, Aug. 5.



"If you're a white, heterosexual woman like me, your chances of being infected by HIV/AIDS are very low—just one in 50,000. But if you're a gay Hispanic man, your chances are 350 times higher. In some U.S. cities, it's estimated that almost half of all gay, black men are HIV-positive. Part of what this strategy says is that we're going to intensify our prevention efforts in the communities where infections are concentrated. We're going to put our resources where the risk is."

- Secretary Kathleen Sebelius, Department of Health and Human Services, in a speech addressing federal efforts to combat HIV/AIDS in America, National Minority AIDS Council, www.nmac.org, Sept. 13.



The 1930s through 1940s were the heyday of "pansy" drag queens. Forbidden fruit for viewer sampling.

Life's a drag, then you...

In the 50-some years I've been out, I've seen more female impersonators than you can shake a rhinestone tiara at. If I never see another gay deceiver—let alone play drag queen bingo with one—that will not be a failure on the part of my continuing search for cultural enrichment.

(I don't consider lip-synching a talent. Creating an illusion of beauty, complimenting or interpreting the style of famous female celebs, or honest live singing is another matter. I remember one of the all-time best "ladies with talent", Detroit's legendary Gail Sherman. More of her later.)

I was celebrating my 21st birthday birthday when I saw my first drag show at the Flame Show Bar, located on Detroit's Brush Street in the city's famed Paradise Valley. (I went with my new partner, Ernie, three years older, a foot shorter. An intellectual top to me, a skinny-guy bottom.)

The Flame Show Bar was a black-and-tan venue. A club to which whites felt comfortable – even daring – frequenting. The performance that night of nights at the beginning of my own reasonably long gay run – with many mental costume and professional changes in the wings for me – was the internationally famous Jewel Box Review.

Headliners of the 12-member, Miami-based touring company formed in 1939 were nationally famous female impersonator T. C. Jones and male impersonator Storme DeLarverie. (Storme, 90, now living in New York City, is its equivalent of our Ruth Ellis. Jones died in 1971, age 51.)

In the late 1950s, public cross-dressing was confined only to Halloween. Anyone caught in drag any other time of the year might be arrested. (Two early impersonators who played Detroit's Diplomat Club, Billy & Maurice, wore elaborate hairdos and pancake makeup. Men's black shirts. Men's black slacks.)

In the 1960s, the Diplomat had its own star-struck retinue of drag queens: Bobbie Johns, former baseball shortstop; Lola Lola, ex-army sergeant, whose routine included humping the stage curtains; Chunga, who danced with a 6-foot snake; Vicki Marlene, who lip-synched songs that allowed her to cry, and Fat Jack, "a quarter ton of fat and fun", who wore a yellow polka-dotted bikini while butt-wobbling to music of the same title.

The earlier mentioned Gail Sherman was stunningly beautiful. She "clocked" decades before the expression came into use. She was vivacious, a talented vocalist, a gorgeous tease. She jilted a straight guy I knew. Jeffrey took a gun and killed himself in the club's parking lot. Gail, who later transitioned into a woman, must now be in her ambulatory 70s, if still around.

Perhaps the most famous impersonator to play the Diplomat was Ray (later Rae) Bourbon. He got his big start in 1927, appearing in Mae West's police-raided Broadway play, "The Drag." He followed that success with bookings on what was then derisively called the "Pansy Circuit."

The 1930s through 1940s were the heyday of "pansy" drag queens. Forbidden fruit for viewer sampling. A safe taste of gay life imitating – and often damn well besting – the genuine female article. (Chicago's Baton Club has for years carried on the drag queen glamour tradition to tourist packed weekend houses.)

When Bourbon (now Rae, though he lied about actually having a sex change) played the Diplomat, his glory days were over. He was paid daily to avoid IRS complications. He was older, heavier, booze bloated, mascara fluttered, still doing his infamous "Around the World in 80 Ways" LP record routine. Sadly pathetic. Soon to be forgotten.

Rae loved dogs. He boarded at least a dozen with a vet, but neglected to pay for the animals upkeep. Patient too long, the vet found shelters for the barking menagerie. A pissed-off Bourbon hired two thugs to rough up the vet. They accidentally killed him. Rae was arrested. Died without makeup in prison. (Rye Bourbon on the rocks.)

Charles@pridesource.com. Facebook, too.

Tony Perkins

Creep !!! Week

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

Prerybody loves a parade, don't they? Especially gays. And gay-loving militaries the world over. I mean, with homos in the ranks, they aren't much for fighting, but they can build a fabulous flotilla of floats.

Or so Tony Perkins of the Family Research Council thinks. On Sept. 17, Perkins hosted a "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" panel



Tony Perkins

at the Values Voters Summit, which is basically a circuit party for social conservatives – except there's no dancing, since gyrations of any kind are the devil's movements.

Perkins claims "our military is under immense attack from within our country" because Obama has made it a priority to "force the military to embrace homosexuality" regardless of "what the military thought."

And to explain what the military thinks, Perkins was flanked by retired

Lt. Col. Robert Maginnis, a senior fellow for defense policy at FRC, and Sgt. Brian Fleming, a young man injured twice in Afghanistan.

Sgt. Brian Fleming claims that gay soldiers can't be trusted because you wouldn't know if they had "inappropriate" motives for wanting to be your friend. Never mind that DADT is a recipe for mistrust since it's a policy based on dishonesty.

Fleming claims that gay soldiers can't be trusted because you wouldn't know if they had "inappropriate" motives for wanting to be your friend. Never mind that DADT is a recipe for mistrust since it's a policy based on dishonesty.

Maginnis calls the U.S. military a "moral-based organization" (because it's moral for a dude to kill another dude, so long as he doesn't kiss another dude).

And since no moral person would want to be around a bunch of queers, Perkins claims that if we let gays into the military "we will see Bible-believing chaplains being forced out of the military and not joining the military, leaving a huge vacuum."

Letting gays serve openly would be to "just stab (service members) in the heart" and would be "suicide for an all-volunteer force," according to Maginnis.

"That's why countries ... that have the 10 largest militaries in the world say, 'No, this isn't the thing to do,'" Maginnis says.

Perkins chimes in: "Well, those that do (let gays serve), they're the ones that participate in parades, they don't fight wars to keep the nation (and) the world free."

The crowd bursts into applause and Maginnis responds, "Right."

Except, you know, not right. In fact, not only are the countries that allow gays and lesbians to serve openly more than glorified color guards, several of them are actually U.S. allies.

Take Israel, for example, where gay and lesbian troops have been serving openly since 1993. And then there are countries that have sent troops to Iraq and Afghanistan, including Australia, the United Kingdom, Canada, Germany, France, Italy and Spain.

Now, I'm not a military expert, but I have a feeling these allied troops are doing more than dressing up as clowns and riding unicycles while throwing candy to smiling Iraqi and Afghan children lining the streets (although I do admit I think soldiers dressed as mimes would be an excellent psychological warfare tactic. This responsibility would obviously fall to the French).

Oh, by the way, those countries "that have the 10 largest militaries in the world" and who also reject homos include China, Russia, North Korea and Egypt. As Matt Gertz of Media Matters says, "That's generally not a list you want your country to be on where human rights issues are concerned."

But that would be a real bummer. So Perkins makes a hilarious joke about tranny soldiers trying to figure out which uniform to wear. And everybody laughs.

'Diversity is our greatest strength'

DOJ assistant AG promotes safety, civil rights for all at Michigan hate crimes conference

BY JESSICA CARRERAS

LANSING – Much discussion and celebration at the Michigan Alliance Against Hate Crimes' 2010 Response to Hate Conference, held Sept. 16 in Lansing, centered around the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act, which was signed into law last October by President Barack Obama. The act both strengthened current federal hate crimes law and added gender identity, sexual orientation and disability to the list of protected classes.

The reach of the law, the importance of it and what it meant in terms of enforcement in hate crimes cases on the local and federal level all came up in various parts of the conference. Judy Levy, who heads up the civil rights division for the U.S. attorney's office for the Eastern District of Michigan, discussed the specifics of the act during the day's LGBT-focused breakout session, and Eastern District Attorney Barbara McQuade made mention of it as well when addressing attendees.

But perhaps the most rousing speech of the day, which focused largely on the Hate Crimes Act, was given by Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights at the U.S. Department of Justice Tom Perez, the conference's keynote speaker.

Perez related not only the 13-year journey the bill took to becoming law, but also the pain he felt as a prosecuting attorney before it was passed.

"I prosecuted a lot of folks, and I refer to the term "equal opportunity bigot" – they hate African Americans, they hate Latinos, they hate Jews, the hate Muslims, they hate everyone who is different, including people who are gay, lesbian, transgender or bisexual," Perez shared. "There is nothing worse as a prosecutor than looking someone in the eye and saying, 'Your son or daughter has been the victim of a brutal gay-bashing incident, and there's not a darn thing we can do about it, because we lack the jurisdiction.'

"But now, the good news is that we are here and we can help and we are helping."

The key, he added, is educating communities, individuals, law enforcement officials and attorneys that the federal government's civil rights division wants to help prosecute hate crimes – especially in states that have no local protections for



Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights at the U.S. Department of Justice Tom Perez was the keynote speaker for the Michigan Response to Hate Conference on Sept. 16 in Lansing. Photo courtesy of the Michigan Department of Civil Rights

communities like LGBT people. Michigan is one such state.

Nonprofit organizations, he said, are crucial to that effort. "Our community-based organizations are indispensable partners in our efforts to combat hate crimes," Perez insisted. "We know that sometimes we have issues when Tom Perez says, 'Hi, I'm Tom Perez. I'm from the government and I'm here to help.' That doesn't always resonate in certain communities and so we recognize the bridge that is our nonprofit partners.

"That is a critical component to combating hate crimes."

Also important, Perez added, is using prosecution as only one tool in the arsenal to combatting hate crimes.

"We must have a holistic strategy that includes prosecution, that includes prevention, that includes education, that includes training, that includes the use of other civil tools at our disposal," he said. "That's what we're thinking about and that's what we're implementing at the Department of Justice."

One of the most important prevention tactics, Perez insisted, is teaching youth before they become adults who will commit hate crimes.

"I spend a lot of time in middle schools and people often wonder, 'What's the assistant attorney general for civil rights doing in middle schools across America?""
he shared. "I have learned from the experience of prosecuting hate crimes that today's bullies are often tomorrow's civil rights defendants. I don't want to wait for (that). I want to prevent them from becoming tomorrow's civil rights defendants by getting into the middle schools today."

He added vehemently, "I'm the father of three ... and they have a right as students and I have a right as a parent to know that when children go to school, they're going to go to a safe and nurturing environment."

The good news, Perez explained, is that organizations and communities interested in stopping hate crimes and promoting civil rights for all – including LGBT people – now have a support system in the federal government, that includes Perez and his team, as well as U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder and President Barack Obama.

"Civil rights is not simply an academic issue for Eric Holder, or for President Obama. This is something that they care about to their core," Perez assured attendees of the hate crimes conference. "We will use every tool in our law enforcement arsenal – enforcement, prevention, the bully pulpit. We must make sure we speak forcefully – as this president has done, as this attorney general has done – to tell America that our diversity is our greatest strength."

"I have learned from the experience of prosecuting hate crimes that today's bullies are often tomorrow's civil rights defendants. I don't want to wait (that). I want to prevent them from becoming tomorrow's civil rights defendants by getting into the middle schools today."

- Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights at the U.S. Department of Justice Tom Perez





Left, emcee Gabe Javier welcomes the crowd in Braun Court Saturday. Speakers and muscians came out to support WRAP. Photos courtesy Keith Orr.

OutFest continues its tradition in A2

ANN ARBOR – Hundreds of people danced, ate, drank, mingled and celebrated in Braun Court, the de facto LGBT community center of Ann Arbor, to commemorate the 16th annual OutFest. The event was billed as a celebration of National Coming Out Day and as a fundraiser for WRAP, the area's actual community center project.

Gabe Javier emceed the event that featured speakers, bands and a live DJ.

Dave Garcia, the executive director of the Kalamazoo Resource Center, spoke about how important grassroots organizing can be in the everyday lives of people. "HRC (Human Rights Campaign) and NGLTF (the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force), for all the good work they do, cannot touch our lives in a personal way," he said. "That is up to us – the local organizers and community centers."

Two delightful bagpipers serenaded the crowd to start the program, and several local bands performed, including Drag King Rebellion and (the) fundamentalists.

Keith Orr and Martin Contreras, owners of \aut\Bar and Common Language Bookstore, both located in Braun Court, were the primary organizers of the event, which raised about \$2,000 for WRAP.

Holland is Ready to host film series

Holland is Ready, a group of community leaders working for the safety and rights of LGBT people in the Lakeshore area, will kick off its free 2010-11 film series with a documentary that was a Sundance Film Festival grand jury prize nominee.

"For the Bible Tells Me So" will be shown at 7:30 p.m. Oct. 1 at the Park Theatre, 248 S. River Ave., in downtown Holland. The documentary, which also won the audience award for best documentary at the Seattle International Film Festival, explores how five very normal, very Christian families handle the realization of having a gay child.

Among the families featured are those of former U.S. House Majority Leader Richard Gephardt, Episcopal Bishop Gene Robinson and Mary Lou Wallner, whose 29-year-old lesbian daughter, Anna, committed suicide after becoming estranged from her fundamentalist family and relatives.

"She didn't accept herself because we didn't accept her," Wallner said

Initially rigidly opposed to homosexuality, Wallner and her husband now travel throughout the country with TEACH-ministries, an acronym for To Educate About the Consequences of Homophobia.

Robinson, who was consecrated as the first openly gay Episcopal bishop in 2003, was a key figure in making and promoting the film

"It talks about the power of families and the power of love. In a very odd, ironic sense, it's about family values and how love trumps long-held beliefs, when you're confronted by a real person," Robinson said in one interview. "And I mean, none of the five families featured in this film began positive towards the notion of gay and lesbian people.

Other films in the free series are "Big Eden" on Friday, Nov. 5; "8: the Mormon Proposition" on Friday, Dec. 3; "Transamerica" on Friday, Feb. 4; "Seven Passages" on Friday, March 4; and "the Bird Cage" on Friday, April 1. All films start at 7:30 p.m. at the Park Theatre.

Cox chastises employee for anti-gay blog

No further action taken by Michigan AG's office

Attorney General Mike Cox last week responded to revelations that one of his employees has a peculiar pastime: attacking openly gay University of Michigan student body president Chris Armstrong, along with other similar prolife and anti-gay endeavors.

Andrew Shirvell, a graduate of U of M and lawyer in Cox's appellate division, runs a blog called the "Chris Armstrong Watch," in which Armstrong repeatedly is referred to as a "radical homosexual activist."

Shirvell was also elected as a Republican precinct delegate for Charlotte. Mich., in the Aug. 3 primaries.

Between The Lines first reported on Shirvell in May, when he was seen disrupting a rally of which Armstrong was a part. The May 8 event was a counter-protest to the Westboro Baptist Church's planned protest of the Ann Arbor Civic Theatre's production of "The Laramie Project." Westboro never showed, by Armstrong and over 100 local activists gathered outside the theater to show support for the play.

Shirvell was there as well, holding up a sign calling Armstrong a "racist liar" and heckling him throughout his speech to rally participants.

Shirvell has been seen on U of M's Ann Arbor campus and at several events since the fall semester started, criticizing Armstrong. Campus



Assistant Attorney General Andrew Shirvell's protested against openly gay University of Michigan student President Chris Armstrong, whom he called a "racist liar," at a May 8 rally outside of the Ann Arbor Civic Theatre's production of "The Laramie Project." BTL photo by Jessica Carreras

newspaper the Michigan Daily reported on the conflict, which brought the issue to the attention of other media outlets, as well as Cox.

Shirvell, a licensed lawyer, first caught the

attention of Michigan's LGBT community when, according to the Michigan Messenger, he posted a piece on RightMichigan.com in 2008 bashing then-Triangle Foundation Director of Policy Sean

Kosofsky. Shirvell later exchanged words with Joe Sylvester of the Log Cabin Republicans.

Then, on Feb. 7 of this year, a blog called "Cox Watch" purported to have e-mails between Shirvell and the Log Cabin Republicans where he was again slamming the group. "You are all sick freaks," the Feb. 3 e-mail from Shirvell began. He went on to say of LCR that "the grassroots will never let you and your butt-buddies ... hijack our pro-life, pro-family (Republican) party in pursuit of your perverted radical homosexual agenda."

A second e-mail from Shirvell stated that, "What I do on my own time – during lunch or here at home – is my business."

But apparently, Cox isn't happy with how Shirvell spends his free time. "All state employees have a right to free speech outside working hours," the AG said in a statement Sept. 15. "But Mr. Shirvell's immaturity and lack of judgment outside the office is clear."

A "Fire Andrew Shirvell" Facebook page has also recently popped up, with over 300 fans. Several have also pushed for Shirvell's firing directly on Cox's Facebook page.

The reprimanding, however, stopped there, with Cox's office offering no comment as to whether or not Shirvell would be fired. He works as a civil service employee, a position that carries more job security than at-will employees.

'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' fails in Senate

Dems fall short on votes to break defense spending filibuster

BY BTL STAFF

Buoyed by a federal court ruling declaring the military gay ban unconstitutional on Sept. 9 and by Lady Gaga's aggressive adoption of the cause of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" repeal at MTV's Video Music Awards on Sept. 12, gay advocates stepped up their push Sept. 13 for the full U.S. Senate to vote on DADT repeal this month.

Hours later, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) announced that he was planning a vote on the defense spending bill, of which DADT repeal is a part. However, on Sept. 21 the Senate failed to garner the votes to break the filibuster created by Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.), a staunch opponent of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell.'

The cloture vote needed 60 votes, but only obtained 56. When the repeal effort will be up for vote again is unclear. The repeal measure has already passed the House of Representatives.

"Today's Senate vote was a frustrating blow to repeal this horrible law," said Aubrey Sarvis, executive director of Servicemembers Legal Defense Network. "We lost because of the political

maneuvering dictated by the mid-term elections. Let's be clear: Opponents to repealing 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' did not have the votes to strike those provisions from the bill. Instead, they had the votes for delay. Time is the enemy here.'

Sarvis suggested activists' next move: "We now have no choice but to look to the lame duck session where we'll have a slim shot. The Senate absolutely must schedule a vote in December when cooler heads and common sense are more likely to prevail once midterm elections are behind us. Servicemembers Legal Defense Network will continue to take this fight to the American people, the vast majority of whom support repeal of 'Don't Ask,

If the defense budget bill slides into the lame-duck session, many Republicans have suggested they will agree only to a "continuing resolution" to keep the Defense Department funded. That would kill the version of the bill that contains the repeal of DADT.

'If the defense budget bill doesn't move to the Senate floor by the end of September, DADT repeal may not happen for several more years," said SLDN. "If Republicans take back the House in November, as many are beginning to predict, SLDN doesn't see (John) Boehner (who would become speaker) pushing a



in Portland, Maine. Photo: Terry Richardson

vote on DADT next year."

Even if DADT repeal passed and President Barack Obama signs it, nothing could have happened right away because language in the bill delays repeal until three things take place: the Pentagon completes a study by Dec. 1 on how to implement DADT repeal; Obama, Defense Secretary Robert Gates and Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Michael Mullen certify that the military will not be harmed by implementing DADT repeal in accord with the Pentagon's plans; and 60 additional days pass after the certification.

National reporter Rex Wockner contributed to this report

California gay marriage ban backers target judge

Written argument submitted; anti-Prop. 8 responses due next month

BY LISA LEFF

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) – Backers of California's same-sex marriage ban urged a federal appeals court to overturn the trial judge who struck down Proposition 8 by arguing that his consideration of evidence was "egregiously selective and one-sided."

In written arguments to the Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals submitted Sept. 17, lawyers for the ban's sponsors alleged that Chief U.S. Judge Vaughn Walker "quite willfully" disregarded a 1972 U.S. Supreme Court precedent and other relevant information when he decided the voter-approved measure was an unconstitutional violation of gay Californians' civil rights.

The district court based its findings almost exclusively on

an uncritical acceptance of the evidence submitted by plaintiffs' experts, and simply ignored virtually everything - judicial authority, the works of eminent scholars past and present in all relevant academic fields, extensive historical and documentary evidence - that ran counter to its conclusions," they wrote in their 134-page opening brief.

Lawyers for the two couples who successfully sued in Walker's court are due to file their responses next month. A three-judge Ninth Circuit panel has scheduled oral arguments in the case for the first week in December and put Walker's order requiring the state to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples on hold until it renders its own decision.

The court papers filed last Friday contained unbridled criticism of Walker's handling of the first federal trial to examine if the U.S. Constitution prevents states from limiting marriage to a

The appealing attorneys, who called two witnesses compared to 18 for the plaintiffs, asked the Ninth Circuit to ignore the trial testimony on which Walker laboriously based his opinion, calling it "unreliable and ultimately irrelevant" to whether Proposition 8 passes constitutional muster.

"Having blinded itself to the genuine animating purpose of marriage, the district court was obliged to offer a different rationale

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for the institution, presumably one that is entirely indifferent to the gender of the spouses," they wrote.

They also characterized as defamatory the judge's conclusion that "moral disapproval" of gay men and lesbians was the main reason voters passed Proposition 8 in November 2008.

"The district court decision is an attack on the many judges and lawmakers and millions of Americans who rightly and reasonably understand that marriage is the unique union of a man and a woman," said Alliance Defense Fund attorney Brian Raum, who is part of the legal team fighting to uphold Proposition 8. "The Hollywood-funded opposition wants to impose - through a San Francisco court – an agenda that America has repeatedly rejected."

American Foundation for Equal Rights President Chad Griffin, whose organization organized and funded the lawsuit that led to Walker's ruling, said he remains confident that it would be upheld in the Ninth Circuit and ultimately, the U.S. Supreme Court.

'The fact remains that Proposition 8 is unconstitutional, as was proven conclusively and unequivocally through a full federal trial," Griffin said. "There is no getting around the fact that the court's decision was based on our nation's most fundamental principles, and that the Constitution does not permit unequal treatment under the law.'





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Russian gay leader Alekseev abducted, released

oscow Pride founder and leader Nikolai Alekseev has reported that he was abducted by government agents of some sort at Moscow's Domodedovo Airport Sept. 15 and held for more than two days.

He was seized after passing through passport control and taken to a room by security officials and an airline worker, he said. There, his luggage, documents and computer were examined for more than two hours

Alekseev then was turned over to what he called "hulking men in civilian clothes, with faces not disfigured by intellect," who removed him from the airport via nonpublic passageways and drove him to a police facility two hours away, where he was further searched. In a moment when he was left alone, Alekseev used his iPad to discover where he was.

"I got my iPad and with two taps learned my location," he said. "If I did not have this device, I would have never found out where I was the first day. Thanks, Apple! The location showed up as the city of Kashira. I began frantically fingerzooming the map to find the exact address, but there was no 3G Internet there and the EDGE network loads maps very slowly. ... Afraid that they would catch me. I disconnected the iPad completely. Then they tried to get into it, but couldn't, because it was password-protected."

Alekseev said he was mocked and insulted, called "faggot" and "pederast," probably drugged via a glass of water and eventually presented with a paper to sign, which said that an agreement had been reached to drop his lawsuits at the European Court of Human Rights over Moscow



Russian gay leader Nikolai Alekseev. GavRussia

Mayor Yuri Luzhkov's bans of gay Pride parades. He didn't sign it, "despite persistent 'advice' not to enter into conflict with the authorities.

The second night, Alekseev was moved to another police facility in the city of Tula, farther south of Moscow, he said. Around the same time, someone used his cell phone to text false information to the media - saying that Alekseev was in Belarus, had sought political asylum there, and was dropping his European court cases.

When this was reported in the media, activists and journalists around the world who have regular contact with Alekseev strongly suspected that the information had not come from Alekseev or that he was no longer in control of his own mind.

Alekseev was released on the outskirts of Tula early the morning of Sept. 18, made his way to the city center and took a bus to Moscow, he said.

"I intend to sue the Domodedovo Airport and its aviation-security services. which violated international law and forced me back under Russian jurisdiction," Alekseev said.

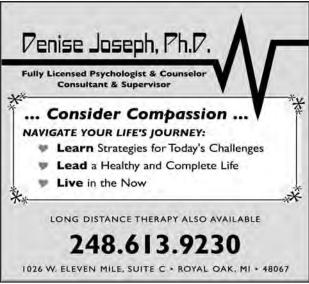
"In addition, my ticket was bought in Switzerland. Thus, the contract between Swiss Air Lines and the passenger falls under Swiss law. In this regard, I will seek a trial in Switzerland. I will also demand a complete investigation into the basis of crimes against me in the form of illegal deprivation of freedom and kidnapping."

(Though he speaks English fluently. Alekseev's primary lengthy account of his ordeal was written in Russian on his LiveJournal blog, and the quotations here have been translated. On Facebook, Alekseev said he would "get mad" if he tried to translate it.)

In a five-year battle with Luzhkov, who has banned the gay Pride march each year and sent police to arrest small groups of activists who defied the bans, Alekseev, a lawyer, has filed a series of lawsuits at the European Court of Human Rights. The court has merged the cases and is expected to deal with them this year.

"It appears the Russian authorities realize their inevitable humiliating defeat at the European Court of Human Rights and employ such desperate methods as intimidation, threats and abduction to prevent it," said the European Region of the International Lesbian Gay Bisexual Trans and Intersex Association, or ILGA-Europe.







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Gay Saudi diplomat seeks U.S. asylum

The former first secretary of Saudi Arabia's consulate in Los Angeles has requested asylum in the United States because he says he'll be executed for being gay if he returns home.

"If I go back to Saudi Arabia, they will kill me openly in broad daylight," Ali Ahmad Asseri e-mailed media outlets in mid-September.

Asseri said Saudi officials ordered him home after finding out he's gay and is friends with a Jew. He apparently has been in hiding since.

The U.S. does grant asylum to foreign gavs if the U.S. is convinced they face genuine harm in their native lands. The laws treat gay asylum-seekers as members of "a particular social group."

Saudi Arabia's entry in the United States' 2009 State Department Human Rights Reports says: "Under Shari'a as interpreted in the country, sexual activity between two persons of the same gender is punishable by death or flogging. It is illegal for men 'to behave like women' or to wear women's clothes and vice versa. There were few reports of societal discrimination, physical violence, or harassment based on sexual orientation. There were no organizations of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons. There was no official discrimination based on sexual orientation

in employment, housing, statelessness, or access to education or health care. Sexual orientation could constitute the basis for harassment, blackmail, or other actions. No such cases were reported."

The entry continues: "On June 13, Riyadh police arrested 67 men from the Philippines for drinking and dressing in women's clothing at a private party. According to their embassy, police released the men to their employers while charges were being processed. In 2007 the newspaper Okaz reported the public flogging of two men in the city of Al-Bahah after being found guilty of sodomy. The sentence was 7,000 lashes."

Honduran policeman sentenced for stabbing trans woman

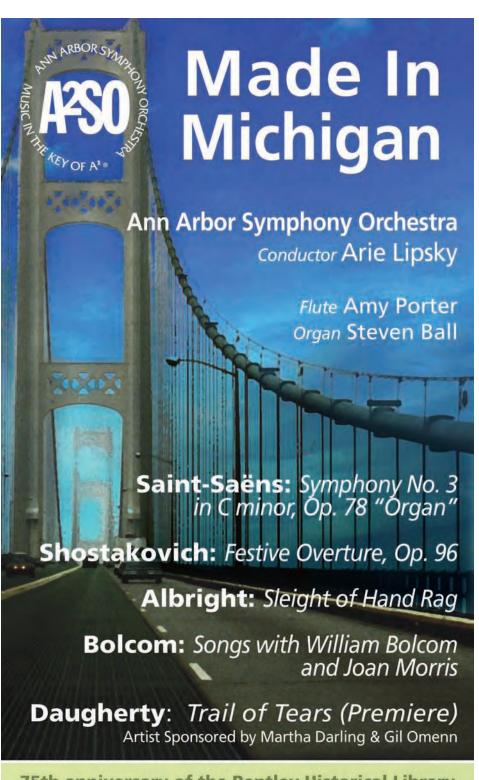
onduran police officer Amado Rodríguez Borjas will spend 10-L13 years in prison after being convicted Sept. 9 in a stabbing attack on a transgender woman in Tegucigalpa.

The woman, Nohelia Flores Álvarez, was abducted and stabbed 17 times on Dec. 18, 2008, after she refused to have sex with Rodríguez when he approached her in public, Human Rights Watch said.

"The case was fraught with acts of intimidation, with police, a witness and prosecutors, as well as Nohelia, threatened by anonymous attackers and callers," said HRW researcher Juliana Cano Nieto. "On March 21, unknown men kidnapped Nohelia and threatened to kill her if she continued with the case. She was shot in the arm in the ensuing struggle with the kidnappers but managed to escape.'

The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ended up providing protection to Flores and some other people involved in the case.

Human Rights Watch says that "nearly every" transgender person it has spoken with in Honduras has told of personal "harassment, beatings and ill-treatment at the hands of police."



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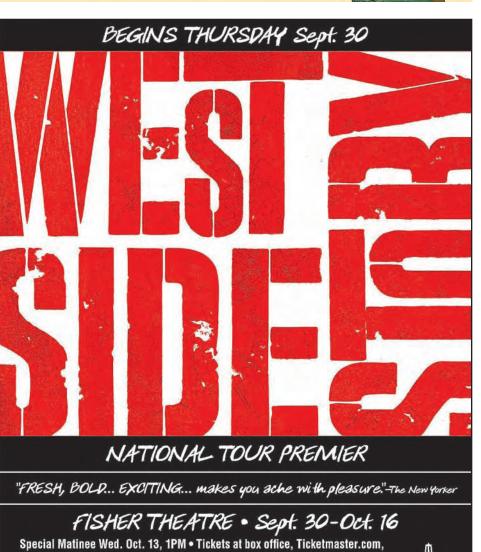
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Lisa Lampanelli **One Mean Queen**

Comedian on gay marriage, celebrity roasts and how we screwed up her life

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

LINCOLN

There's nothing like hearing a familiar voice on the other end of the line, and Lisa Lampanelli's is just as I remember it: loud and mean, like she's burping up Sue Sylvester.

"What's up you big fag face?" she razzes in her bawdy blurt. And I'd be shocked, like I admittedly was during our first interview just over three years ago, had this not been our fourth chat together. So how she's doing now?

'Sick of straighties!" she says. Which is unusual for the self-dubbed "Lovable Queen of Mean," who's typically trashing the minorities. But the insult comic's bad-mouthing, like the greeting she swooned me with, is just her way of scooping you up into a big bear hug and gently placing a soft kiss on your forehead, like you'd imagine from someone who looks as bingo

Lisa Lampanelli

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grandma as she does.

Ridicule doesn't exactly express a tender fondness, but Lampanelli dishes it out fairly, so at least nobody feels left out. Now that's love.

She's experiencing the real thing lately, falling for a guy she wouldn't typically go for if you know Lampanelli: a white one. "I know - I've disappointed everyone," she pouts. "But he's Italian, so when I tour the South he's still looked at like a colored, so it all works out."

The wedding is set for October at the historical Friars' Club in New York, and unlike most stars, the Connecticut-born comedian's hungry for any kind of publicity. Her people even suggested it as a talking point.

"I'm whoring out everything, are you kidding?" Lampanelli admits. "Who wants to talk about their wedding? Me! 'Cause I'm, like, fucking romantic, okaaay?'

Like any good gay, I ask about the big day, wondering if it will be as lavish as Liza Minnelli and David Gest's. She only cites the differences: "Well, I'm not marrying a queer," she says, "and

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I haven't broken two hips yet. Other than that, I'm just like Liza!"

Will she hire a gay wedding planner? "Nooo! Screw those dirty faggots. I'm not going to support you and your gay lifestyle. You guys should've listened to Howard (Stern) and heard my price because I'm not telling you, because you fucking faggots are all jealous of me and my \$300,000 wedding ... oh, did I let that slip out?!"

Then we logically jump into gay marriage, and in her own lovingly backward way she wonders why it's such a big deal to us because "you have the best out in the world."

She continues: "We should say yes to gay marriage but outlaw gay divorce and see how you like it."

Does that mean divorce is imminent for the soon-to-be newlyweds?

"I got my prenup all set," she says. "Signed, sealed and delivered!"

Lampanelli's always on top of it, always getting the last laugh; she clobbers the hell out of mankind (gay kind, black kind, old kind, handicap kind) with a mouth that never lets up – onstage, during TV interviews, during this interview. She toned her dirtiness down for a recent "Chelsea Lately" appearance, but that wasn't all that seemed unusual: Viewers, myself included, sensed awkwardness between the comedian and the show's host, Chelsea Handler.

Lampanelli settles that: "No, you read it wrong, because when we came off we were like, 'Oh my god, wasn't that so much fun?!' like two giddy schoolgirls. You know what it is? You faggots love to stir up trouble! Like, 'Hey, let's make Kathy Griffin hate Lisa; hey, let's make Lisa hate Margaret Cho.' Well, guess what? You don't have to make me hate Margaret Cho ... because I already do!"

Lampanelli backpedals, slipping out a light laugh that's more sweet than sour, and says she doesn't really abhor Cho, a constant among her targets. She doesn't even know the fellow queerloved comedian, but "I always have to make fun of her because she's a dirty Asian."

So there's no rivalry among female comedians?

"Not from where I sit, because I'm, like, better than them all," she explains, mentioning that Handler is actually producing her upcoming reality show that's still in negotiations and can't be talked about. "There's none between me and Kathy because she's tough, man. She doesn't care whom she fucks with; that's beautiful! A lot of people allude to celebrities, but she just says it, and I'm like, that's balls! I love that."

But Lampanelli's own saucy remarks sweep up lots of attention, too, just as they did after she opened the "Roast of David Hasselhoff" in August on Comedy Central, where she's also roasted Joan Rivers, Pamela Anderson and William Shatner (next up, she hopes: "The fat lesbian roast. I'd love to do Rosie O' Donnell ... and Oprah Winfrey.")

During Hasselhoff's time in the hot seat, Lampanelli said his black and bloated liver could've starred in "Precious" and that his career "has crumbled worse than downtown Haiti." Even Perez Hilton thought it was too much.

"Oh, she just had her period! She was just a little annoyed, and I get it," Lampanelli says. "But where's the line? And who's gonna draw it, some arbitrary FCC or whatever? If you can make it funny – which I obviously did, because I'm, like, the best comedian who ever lived! – then obviously it has not gone too far."

When Lampanelli was on the receiving end, the roasters went for the obvious – her love for black men and her voluptuous size. After opening up about her self-esteem battle in her book "Chocolate, Please: My Adventures in Food, Fat, and Freaks," recently out in paperback, you might wonder if she was more affected than she looked. Not this time, she says.

"If they're funny, I don't mind them. And they were funny," Lampanelli says, naming Gilbert Gottfried as her favorite that night. "In the past there's been jokes that aren't that great and you're just like, that kind of hurts. But when the joke is really good, you almost appreciate the comedy more than what they're saying. These were really clever and I said, 'OK, this is not affecting me."

Lampanelli breaks off for a bit, mulling over her thoughts a little more until she swings back in: "I mean, it hasn't yet. Oh my god, maybe now that you mention it I'll go and binge this afternoon. You faggot, leave it to you to fuck up my life!"

Payback's a bitch, Lisa.

More with the 'Queen of Mean'

On her upcoming comedy special, 'Glamour-Puss,' out in early 2011

I'm sure it'll be nominated for a Grammy, but I won't win again because I like to be consistent. I like to never win anything and always be slightly less than everyone. I'm an insult comic, so I will never depart from those roots because they are so precious to me – and by precious, I don't mean the fat, black chick.

On her reality show

I have to shut my mouth because I got in trouble last week. They're like, "You're gonna queer the deal by yapping about it and naming the network." And I'm like, "I gotta be proud of something!" Shit, all I lost was two pounds for my wedding – and (my fiancé) Jimmy lost 60. Fucking AIDS!

On Jimmy's testicles

His nuts are huge. It looks like that thing a hobo ties on a stick and puts over his shoulder; it's freakin' enormous. You gays like the big nuts; I'm not crazy about 'em, but what can I do? It's more painful for him; he got one caught in the zipper ... of his boot, which was really fucked up.

On doing the talk show circuit

They let you talk about anything edgy, you just can't use language, which is really easy. That would be hard to go on and kind of just be sweet ... because sweet don't come naturally.



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► Cazwell

Continued from p. 19

Cazwell

10 p.m. Sept. 25 Ice Nightclub 11425 Joseph Campau St., Detroit www.cazwell.com

What did you learn from the documentary?

Well, I actually have some friends from Detroit, so I know the city has a lot of flavor. And, of course, there's the recession

and, you know, the motorcar industry. I just think Detroit should be the first city to start the electric car and get ahead of everybody, to tell you the truth. People are over gasoline. Start doing solar cars. Detroit should just get it together and be the first to do that shit. People there are smart!

What's your plan for your Detroit show?

Everybody there just wants to fucking party, right? It's going to be a high-energy show. Everyone will forget their troubles, but actually I think that - sorry, I'm walking down the street, so if you can't hear me, just let me know.

Well, I'm glad you're walking and talking and not driving.

You know, I don't even have a license. You don't want me to have one. I'm so fucking ADD that I'll just stop to look for something in the middle of traffic and hit somebody. I don't want to drive because I have the power to kill somebody.

So how are you getting to Detroit?

Not driving!

I think you should bring your ice cream

You know, I went to a gig by ice cream truck with all my dancers. Maybe they could hook it

Are those your dancers in the "Ice Cream Truck" video?

Well, they're the dancers for that particular video. The two dancers that I think I'm bringing with me are the ones I typically tour with. Either way, I'm going to have cute dancers with me.

Good - that's all that matters. How do you know the guys in that video?

We all work in the same club scene, and I wanted to do a video that was dedicated to hot Latino boys of New York, because that's what I love to watch in the summertime. So yeah, we all know each other. I didn't just pick people off the street.

I hope you slept with them all.

I'll keep that to myself. I don't want to get any Latin ex-boyfriend in a fucking tizzy

You've said you started rapping because you couldn't sing or act, but I have to say you make a pretty convincing straight dude in that "Tonight" video.

Really? Well, I was trying to do more trannychaser. I was just trying to be really angry and upset because I'm supposed to have an infatuation with someone else. Maybe people act straight when they're stressed out?

So since you couldn't act or sing, what



Cazwell (front center) and his "Ice Cream Truck" dancers. Photo: Marco Ovando

made you think you could rap?

Oh, did I say I could rap? (Laughs) Well, first. I started off in a rap group called Morplay; me and this butch dyke used to rap together on, like, mixed CDs and stuff for our friends' birthdays

She moved to Seattle, and then I went solo. I basically just started rapping because I can't sing and I like to perform and I like music, you know?

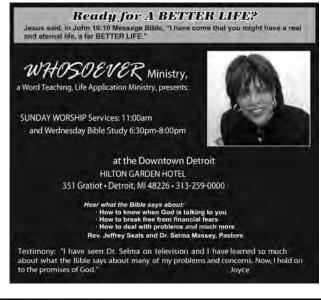
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My priority was music, and her priority was her relationship with her girlfriend, which is typically more on the lesbianic side, you know what I'm saying? Not that I was against it, but I was just like, my dream comes first; this is what I want to do, so anyone I'm with has to be along for the ride

You're finishing up Amanda Lepore's upcoming album, right?

Yeah, thank fucking god, right? When we drop the album we really want it to be good, but it just takes money and time, and Amanda is really busy. Another reason we've been taking a bit of time is because we just cut a track with Mva. Mva is a fan of Amanda's work and mine, and I wrote a song called "Convertible" for Amanda. I was just like, "Let's try to get Mya on it," and we did.

How involved are you with Amanda's project?

I've been producing a lot of the tracks – writing, getting her in the studio. I'm the executive producer behind it, so I just have to make sure she gets her shit done. I actually think it's coming out at the perfect time - the anniversary of Marilyn Monroe's death, and she (Lepore) has this new video "Marilyn."

Are you working on an album of your own?

She has her full-length album coming out either at the end of this year or the beginning of next year, and then in February I'm going to have a full-length album. I'm already putting pieces of that together right now. I just want people to play the whole thing through. DJing five nights a week has really inspired the direction of it. I

have a better idea of what people actually move I wouldn't trade it, though. to. It's going to be very, very New York.

Are you as much of a hornball as you make yourself out to be with your music?

Umm... who isn't a hornball? All my friends are sluts. I don't think I'm any more of a hornball than anybody else I know. I just think I talk about it.

Wait, so just your friends are sluts? You're not?

No, it doesn't mean I'm not (laughs). Everybody is pretty hypersexual, but some people don't like to talk about it, especially in their music - especially if they're gay (laughs). So maybe that's why I'm standing out a bit.

I remember I played in Portland and I had a lot of gay guy fans come, and I just remember the feeling of empowerment that I felt they had when they knew all the words to "All Over Your Face." I kind of feel like gay people really need that, that feeling of empowerment of their sexuality. I mean, I'm not trying to sound corny about it, but it made them feel good about the fact that they want to suck dick.

Do you think being gay has held you back in any way career-wise?

It's not holding me back now. I don't think I could've got shows the way I am now. It's all about the Internet, and that's just a fact. I honestly think gay people would be in the closet 50 times more than they are now if it wasn't for the Internet, without a doubt.

It does make it a little less colorful on the outside, on the sidewalk and in the clubs because people don't have to go to a bar to find somebody.

Have you encountered any kind of homophobia within the genre?

I don't really focus too much on it, but everyone's a fucking hater on a blog. Everyone will smile to your face on the street, but then go home and type all this bullshit about you just because they're fucking feeling it. Everyone turns into a badass when they're behind the keyboard and nobody can see them.

How did growing up in Massachusetts influence your career choice at all?

I don't know, but in some ways I just think it's shaped my personality, making me more outspoken and giving me more of a ballsy attitude. Worcester is very bad - you know, Denis Leary's from there? (Laughs) So he kind of encapsulates the whole cigarette-stained vibe of the city.

I mean. I'm very grateful I grew up in Worcester because it made me who I am, but I could never live there. Last time I was there, I had an anxiety attack and left. But maybe a lot of people do that when they go back to their hometown?

Bad memories?

No, just a lot of people I was friends with had died of heroine overdoses. It's one thing if you're a drug addict, it's another thing if you're a drug addict in Worcester (laughs).

You performed with Lady Gaga before she became a megastar. Do you find her to be the same person as when you knew her?

I do, actually. I showed up at this crummy bar in Avenue C and we were going to do a song together. She was like, "When it comes to this part, I'm going to throw you, and I'm going to get on you, and I'm going to start riding you and then we're going to roll off the stage." And that's exactly what we did.

So Gaga rode you?

Well, I was on my back, like a cowgirl-type thing. I remember her song "Just Dance" had just been starting to get pushed to radio and no one in this gay club had heard it. All the gays were kind of just looking at her, not really getting it. No one really went crazy or anything. But now if she were there, she'd get assaulted. It'd be like a mob scene!

Now everyone wants to work with her, and she can do whatever she wants. She has my back, and I respect that to the fullest because there are so many artists out there who are in the closet. That really offends me.

Who's in the closet?

It really offends me that Queen Latifah is holding hands with her girlfriend and going to gay bars -I'm not saying she's gay, but I see her looking like she's a lesbian. And I'm pretty damn sure she is. No, she's gay! I know what a lesbian looks like.

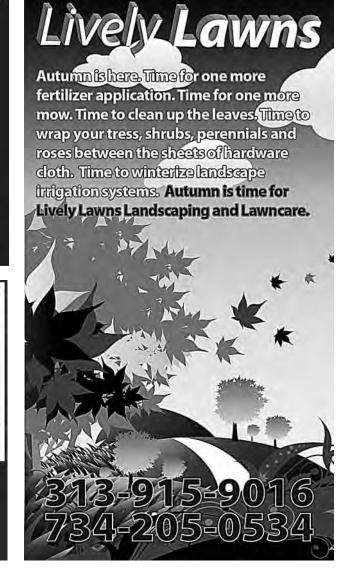
So that type of thing really offends me, when people are struggling for their rights and doing what they can - and then what, you're going to be on your deathbed someday taking your last breath and you faked who you are for what? A fucking job?!











Visit pridesource.com to find footnotes on LGBT books

"The Twin," by Gerbrand Bakker, translated by David Colmer. Archipelago Books, 343 pages, \$16 paper.

Middle-aged Dutch farmer Helmer lives a life of unfilled loneliness. For companionship he



has his invalid father, who he loathes and loves in equal measure; a neighbor and her young son, who chat with him on occasion; and two donkeys, bought in a fit of whimsy. The hole at the center of his heart is Henk, his identical - but far more outgoing - twin brother, dead decades earlier in a car accident. As boys, Henk and Helmer slept together - whether sexually is never made clear - until Henk fell in love with a girl. That first separation pained Helmer; his brother's death shattered him. But when Henk's former lover contacts him after many years to ask if he will house her wayward teenage son, also named Henk. the lonely farmer's life takes on new dimension - particularly in one of many powerful connections between past and present – when teenage Henk slips into bed with Helmer one night. Bakker's brilliant novel – yes, brilliant, and sublime, and subtle, and seductive - is a triumphant balance of delicacy, complexity and simplicity.

Featured Excerpt

The poet's life is just so much crenellated waste, nights and days whipping swiftly or laboriously past the cinematic window. We're hunched and weaving over the keys of our green our grey our pink our blue manual typewriter maybe a darker stone-cold authoritative selectric with its orgasmic expectant hum and us popping pills and laughing over what you or I just wrote, wondering if "that' line means insult or sex. Or both. Usually both.

-from "Inferno (A Poet's Novel)," by Eileen Myles

"Inferno (A Poet's Novel)," by Eileen Myles. O/R Books, 256 pages, \$16 paper.

A young girl, dazzled by English professor Eva Nelson's ass, relocates from sedate, Catholic Boston to the mad mix of creative genius and sexual exploration that is Manhattan as the era of punk dawns. She works in a bar, sleeps with men, drinks in taverns, smokes dope, meets women, discovers Patti Smith, segues from "female" to "hunk" to "dyke," and over the years evolves into the poet-as-rock star. That is, she grows up to be Eileen Myles, narrator of this gruff and graceful work of artistic self-examination. "The place I found was carved out from sadness and sex and to write a poem there you merely needed to gather," she writes. The result is this comic and melancholy collection of gathered memories, a lusty, vivid chronicle of a rowdier time and place. The book will be hard to find in bookstores (the publisher even eschews amazon.com) but can be ordered directly from www.orbooks.com - and there's even a choice of two different covers, one literarily sedate, the other quite fiery.



"Gender Outlaws: The Next Generation," edited by Kate Bornstein and S. Bear Bergman. Seal Press, 302 pages, \$16.95 paper.

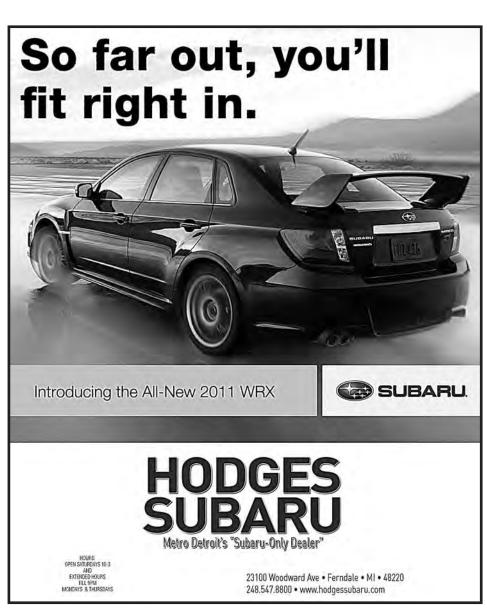
Transpeople. Genderqueers. Trannies. Sex/gender radicals. Transsexuals. They're all represented, in many forms and flavors,

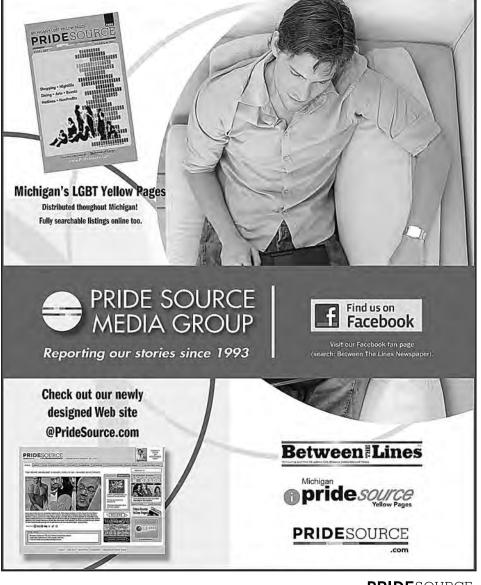
in this prose-and-poetry collection of intense, painful memoirs and breezy, joyous minibiographies addressing the fluidity – sometimes hard-won and often wholly fabulous - of the sexual self. Back in 1994, Bormstein published "Gender Outlaw," a frank critique of society's attitudes toward the transgendered, based on her own sexual and artistic life. In this eclectic collection of almost 50 essays, older generation meets newer as younger writers address the same landscape – or, more appropriately, genderscape. Every contributor illuminates an aspect of identity: Kyle Lukoff writes about gender confusion contributing to an eating disorder; Joy Ladin writes about the "Daddy voice" coming from the woman she has become; Mercedes Allen honors the "aesthetic beauty of the transfemale" body"; Cory Schmanke Parrish wonders, wittily, "what does my wiener do on the days I don't wear it?" This anthology of many voices mulling a singular theme brings today's gender outlaws into the queer literary mainstream.

"The More I Owe You," by Michael Sledge. Counterpoint Press, 336 pages, \$15.95 paper.

Fascinating fact is transformed into sumptuous fiction in Sledge's debut novel, based primarily on a slice of poet Elizabeth Bishop's life – the 15 years she lived in Brazil in the 1950s and 1960s, tumultuously in love with the aristocratic architect and activist Lota de Macedo Soares. Drawing on Bishop's letters and journals – though not her correspondence with Soares, which was destroyed by Soares' ex-lover Mary (who lived for a time with the two women) - Sledge re-imagines the poet's South American years with extraordinarily atmospheric prose and unflinchingly emotional intimacy. Both women were beset by demons: Soares, manipulative and controlling, was prone to tantrums; Bishop struggled with alcohol and bouts of deep, paralyzing depression. Brazil itself is depicted as intensely as the central characters, as Sledge infuses the story with the country's political turmoil of the time while evoking both the urban bustle of Rio de Janeiro and the lush landscape of the remote mountain retreat where Soares designed an eccentric glass-walled house.

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.





For the latest professional theater news, log on to www.EncoreMichigan.com.

Everyone's 'beyond therapy' at The Acorn

BY DONALD V. CALAMIA

At some point in our lives, everyone has experienced a very bad or extremely weird first date – and that goes doubly true for anyone who's ever answered a personals ad in the newspaper or on the internet. So I suspect theatergoers everywhere can relate in one form or another to the trials and tribulations of Bruce and Prudence, the scarred, yet very likable central characters in Christopher Durang's "Beyond Therapy" now on stage at The Acorn Theater in Three Oaks.

As Durang points out in no uncertain terms, it's not easy to forge an intimate connection with another person in this fast-paced, mixed-up and very impersonal world. Yet Bruce (John Bonner) and Prudence (Katie Dufresne) put aside their personal qualms and take the advice of their respective shrinks: He's to place

REVIEW

'Beyond Therapy'

The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Dr., Three Oaks. Friday-Saturday through Sept. 25. \$20. 269-756-3879.

www.acorntheater.com

a personals ad; she's to respond to one. And as fate would have it, that's how the two first meet

Of course, their dinner doesn't go well. Bruce wears his feelings on his sleeve and blurts out whatever thoughts cross his mind - whether appropriate or not. And if he feels like crying, he does - which is a major turn off for Prudence, who likes her men a little more macho. Which means Bruce's live-in boyfriend, Bob (Sean Kinslow), is also problematic.



John Bonner and Katie Dufresne play two lost souls fated or jinxed to cross paths in "Beyond Therapy." Photo: The Acorn Theater

Although the date crashes and burns, the two find themselves reunited when Prudence once again answers another personals ad - this time written for Bruce by his touchy-feely therapist, Charlotte (Megan Kelleher).

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

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The show closed WHEN?



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If it's about Michigan theaters, it's here.

Cline's music, not life, takes center stage

BY JUDITH COOKIS RUBENS

Country music legend Patsy Cline's life was a mixture of struggle, success and tragedy. Her journey to break into the male-dominated music business of the '50s and achieve pop crossover success has all the makings of great theater.

That, combined with her enduring songs and tragic ending - she died in a 1963 airplane crash at only 30 - make it no surprise that Farmers Alley Theatre chose the musical tribute "A Closer Walk with Patsy Cline" to open its third season.

If you're looking for more backstory about the singer's personal life or professional hurdles, you'll be disappointed. However, as a polished concert of some 20 songs, it's a triumph, thanks to Lana Hawkins' stunning interpretation.

Hawkins, primarily a jazz and standards singer, takes on Cline's daunting song catalog with conviction. She finds her voice and rhythm best in slower ballads such as "Always," "Crazy" and the gospel-tinged "Just a Closer Walk with REVIEW

'A Closer Walk with Patsy Cline'

Farmers Alley Theatre, 221 Farmers Alley, Kalamazoo. Extended through Oct. 10. \$25-\$29. 269-343-2727.

www.farmersalleytheatre.com

Thee." Hawkins is backed by a hugely talented five-piece band, featuring guest fiddler Amberly Rosen. Cline's backup vocalists, the Jordanaires, are recreated here with a winning male quartet.

Sanctioned by the Cline estate, the Dean Regan-created "A Closer Walk" made its U.S. debut in 1991. The premise is simple. A '50s/'60s radio DJ and admitted Cline fan, Little Big Man, spins Cline's tunes at radio station WINC in her Winchester, Va., hometown. As he ticks off her hits (not necessarily in chronological order), we get surface commentary about her performances and career upswing from



Lana Hawkins stars in "A Closer Walk with Patsy Cline." Photo: Farmers Alley Theatre

dive bars to The Grand Ole Opry, Las Vegas and Carnegie Hall. There's only scant mention of her marriages, family life and

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

Bach Dor shrewishly slays comedy

BY BRIDGETTE REDMAN

It was not merely the small size of the audience at the Hannah Center Friday night that muffled the laughter one would expect from the clever and bawdy comedy "The Taming of the Shrew" — it was the lack of humor and an interpretation that was offensive from first to last.

Even with the problematic final speech, "The Taming of the Shrew" earns its place among Shakespeare's most popular comedies. Petruchio is looking to wive wealthily, while Kate is scaring away all of her sister's suitors. Both man and woman are strong-willed individuals who fight tooth and nail until they end up falling in love. Meanwhile the sister is besieged

REVIEW

'The Taming of the Shrew'

Bach Dor Shakespeare Company at Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Rd., East Lansing. Through Friday-Sunday through Sept. 26. \$15. 517-333-2580.

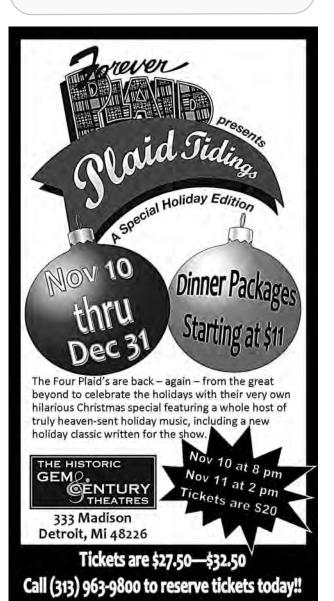
by suitors who disguise themselves and quarrel amongst each other until one is triumphant. It is filled with fiery sexual tension, disguises and physical comedy. At least, that's what it is supposed to have. It did not.

The Bach Dor Shakespeare Com-

pany failed to achieve comedy with their disjointed and distasteful presentation. They neglected to provide any real sexual tension, instead portraying abusive power struggles between people who never connected. The physical comedy was forced, robbing all the characters of their authenticity. There were some clever movement bits, but they devolved to physical tics when they substituted for any real character work or relationship connections.

"The Taming of the Shrew" requires careful direction in the modern world lest it turn into exactly what this production was - a play that glorified the abuse of women.

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



Happenings



Michigan Pride will be hosting its firstever golf outing on Sept. 26 at the Wheatfield Valley Golf Course in Williamston. The event will raise funds for the annual Lansing-based Pride parade, rally and festival.

The day will include 18 holes of golf with a cart, lunch halfway through the game and a six-pack of beer with every cart. In addition, there will be a silent auction, 50/50 drawing, golfing contests and a BBQ dinner after the outing. Participants can register in teams of four, or can be paired up with other golfers.

Registration fees are \$65 per person. Participants should e-mail team members' names to ktaskey1203@yahoo.com and register online at www.michiganpride.org.

OUTINGS

Thursday, Sept. 23

Kaleidoscope, 6 p.m. A fundraiser for the Ruth Ellis Center with appetizers, drinks and a video presentation about voqueing, Tickets: \$125, and \$50 for guests under age 30. Scarab Club, 217 Farnsworth, Detroit. 313-252-1950. www.ruthelliscenter.com

Unnatural Causes, 6 p.m. A viewing of the documentary that explores whether inequality is making LGBT people sick. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road. Ferndale 248-398-7105 www.goaffirmations.org

Financial and Estate Planning Workshop, 6:30 p.m. Discussing such topics as life insurance, estate planning investments and more for LGBT people. Free, Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Boad Ferndale 248-398-7105 www.goaffirmations.org

The Apple Tree, 8 p.m. A performance of the play, performed in three one-act musicals. Tickets: \$20, with proceeds benefiting the OutCenter. Twin Cities Players, 600 W. Glenlord Road, St. Joseph.

Friday, Sept. 24

Womyn's Film Night, 7 p.m. "Drool" After beginning a romance with her neighbor, housewife Anora accidentally kills her abusive husband and then sets out on a road trip with her new lover and kids to dispose of the body. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale, 248-398-7105 www.goaffirmations.org

Youth Talent Show, 7 p.m. A youth talent show with big prizes for winners! Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105 www.goaffirmations.org

Saturday, Sept. 25

Anger Management Group Workshop 9 a.m. A 5-week workshop for men only to learn about anger and their relationship with it. Cost: \$30 per session. Hosted by Lansing Association for Human Rights Women's Center of Greater Lansing, 1712 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 517-410-9494. www.lahronline.org

Aerial Fitness Program, 11:30 a.m. A six-week course that will cover stretching. trapeze, aerial hoop, circus rings and more Cost: \$85. Affirmations. 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 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

Lavender Dance Party, 8 p.m. An all-women fall kickoff event. Cover: \$5. Holiday Inn, 3600 Plymouth Road, Ann www.lavenderevent.com

Sunday, Sept. 26

Golf Outing, 9 a.m. The first annual outing, with lunch, BBQ dinner raffle auction and contests. Cost: \$65. Michigan Pride, 1600 Linn Road, Williamston

Tuesday, Sept. 28

Paid Piano Accompanist, 7 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, Sept. 29

Anger Management Group Workshop, 3 p.m. A 10-week course for men only to learn about anger and their relationship with it. Cost: \$15 per session. Hosted by Lansing Association for Human Rights Women's Center of Greater Lansing, 1712 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 517-410-9494. www.lahronline.org

Thursday, Sept. 30

Gateway Open House 6 p.m. A chance to get to know more about programs at Gateway Services and how they help local youth. Kevin Moody Youth Home. South Waverly Road, Lansing. 517-351-4000. www.gatewayservices.org

Supreme Court Forum 6 p.m. A discussion with attorney Jay Kaplan about the importance of the Michigan upreme Court elections. ACLU of Michigan, 2966 Woodward Ave., Detroit. www.aclumich.org

Friday, Oct. 1

Womyn's Film Night, 7 p.m. "Fun in Girls" Shorts" An eclectic anthology from LGBT film festival Frameline with six of their best lesbian-themed shorts. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org

Saturday, Oct. 2

Anger Management Group Workshop, 9 a.m. A 5-week workshop for men only to learn about anger and their relationship with it. Cost: \$30 per session Hosted by Lansing Association for Human Rights. Women's Center of Greater Lansing, 1712 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing 517-410-9494. www.lahronline.org

Aerial Fitness Program, 11:30 a.m. A six-week course that will cover stretching, trapeze, aerial hoop, circus rings and more. Cost: \$85. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale, www.goaffirmations.org

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MUSIC& **MORE**

BENEFITS/SOCIAL EVENTS

AIDS Walk Michigan "Ann Arbor AIDS Walk" One of eight walks to raise funds to help fight HIV/AIDS. Detroit Edison Building Lot, 425 S. Main Street, Ann Arbor, 1 p.m. Sept. 26. www.aidswalkmichigan.org

AIDS Walk Michigan "Central Michigan AIDS Walk" One of eight walks to raise funds to help fight HIV/AIDS. Island Park, Mt. Pleasant. 9 a.m. Sept. 25. www.aidswalkmichigan.org

AIDS Walk Michigan "Northern Michigan AIDS Walk" One of eight walks to raise funds to help fight HIV/AIDS. Medalie Sept. 26. www.aidswalkmichiaan.org

AIDS Walk Michigan "Detroit AIDS Walk" One of eight walks to raise funds to help fight HIV/AIDS. Palmer Park, Detroit. 8:30 a.m. Sept. 25. www.aidswalkmichigan.org

AIDS Walk Michigan "Jackson AIDS Walk" One of eight walks to raise funds to help fight HIV/AIDS. Riverwalk Amphitheater, 1 Energy Plaza Drive, Jackson. 9 a.m. Sept. 25. www.aidswalkmichigan.org

AIDS Walk Michigan "Flint AIDS Walk" One of eight walks to raise funds to help fight HIV/AIDS. UM-Flint University Center, Flint. 12 p.m. Oct. 2. www.aidswalkmichigan.org

AIDS Walk Michigan "Lansing AIDS Walk" One of eight walks to raise funds to help fight HIV/AIDS. Valley Court Park, East Lansing. 10 a.m. Sept. 26. www.aidswalkmichigan.org

AIDS Walk Michigan "Bay City/Midland/ Saginaw AIDS Walk" One of eight walks to raise funds to help fight HIV/AIDS. Wenonah Park, Downtown, Bay City. 9:30 a.m. Sept. 25 www.aidswalkmichigan.org

Collingwood Arts Center "A Night @ The Races" A birthday celebration for the CAC with live music, live painting, auctions, raffles and dinner, Tickets: \$40 each, or \$70 per couple. Raceway Park, 5700 Telegraph Road, Toledo. 5 p.m. Sept. 25. 419-476-7751 www.cactoledo.com

Downriver Council for the Arts

"Salute to Excellence" An event to honor individuals who have supported and promoted the arts and culture in the Downriver area. Grosse lle Golf and Country Club, 9339 Bellevue Road, Grosse Ile. 7 p.m. Sept. 24, 734-720-0671. www.downriverarts.org

Elizabeth Makeup and Modeling

'Catwalk for Cancer" A fashion fundraise to benefit the national program Look Good...Feel Better, which helps the selfesteem of cancer patients. Tickets: \$35. Uptown Grille, 3100 West Maple Road, Commerce. 6 p.m. Sept. 28. www.catwalkforcancer.info

Flint Institute of Arts "Art on Tap" A beertasting event with over 60 craft and import brews. Tickets: \$20. Flint Institute of Arts, 1120 E. Kearsley, Flint. 4 p.m. Sept. 25. 810-234-1695. www.flintarts.org

Kalamazoo Deacons Conference ' Run for the Son" A 5K run/walk to benefit the conference, a ministry to people in Michigan living in poverty. Registration: \$18 before Sept. 18, \$20 after. Bicentennial Park Portage 9 a m Sent 25. 269-344-7333. www.kazoodc.org

Northville Chamber of Commerce Ghoultide Gathering" A juried show featuring Halloween art. Admission: \$5. Mill Race Village, 215 Griswold, Northville. 9 a.m. Oct. 2. www. downtownnorthville com

Urban Institute for Contemporary Art

"Brunch & Banter" A brunch with ArtPrize artists where guests can learn about the contemporary art. Urban Institute for Contemporary Art, 41 Sheldon Blvd., Grand Rapids. 1 p.m. Sept. 26, 1 p.m. Oct. 3. www.uica.org

CLASSICAL

Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra "Made in Michigan" A Michigan-centered

concert with music, art and a lecture that tells the history of the state. Hill Auditorium, 825 N. University, Ann Arbor 4 p.m. Sept. 26. 734-994-4801. www.a2so.com

Detroit Chamber Winds and Strings "Baroque to Bolcom" Tickets: \$25 adults, \$22 seniors, \$10 students. Christ Church Grosse Pointe, 61 Grosse Point Blvd., Grosse Pointe Farms, 4:30 p.m. Sept. 25. 248-559-2095. www.detroitchamberwinds.org

Flint Symphony Orchestra "From the Eternal City" Performing works by Rossini, Paganini and Respighi. Tickets: \$8-55. The Whiting, 1241 E. Kearsley, Flint 8:30 n m Oct 2 810-238-1350 www.thefim.org

Fontana Chamber Arts "Tokyo String Quartet" The opener to the FCA's 10th season, Tickets: \$28-30, Dalton Center Recital Hall, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, 8 p.m. Sept. 24, 269-382-7774, www.fontanachamberarts.org

Lansing Symphony Orchestra "Tchaikovsky & Sibelius" Part of the MasterWorks series. Tickets: \$12-45. Wharton Center, Michigan State University East Lansing. 8 p.m. Oct. 1. 517-487-5001, www.lansingsymphony.org

MSU College of Music "Faculty Concert" Anne Nispel, soprano, and Harlan Jennings, baritone, with Jame Wilhelmsen on piano. Tickets: \$10 adults, \$8 seniors free for students Music Building Auditorium, Michigan State University, East Lansing, 3 p.m. Sept. 26 517-353-9958. www.music.msu.edu

MSU College of Music "Guest Artist Recital" A performance on piano by Sarkis Baltaian. Tickets: \$10 adults, \$8 seniors. free for students. Music Building Auditorium, Michigan State University, East Lansing, 8 p.m. Oct. 1, 517-353-

MSU College of Music "Wind Symphony" Tickets: \$10 adults, \$8 seniors, free for students. Wharton Center, Michigan State University, East Lansing. 7:30 p.m. Sept. 30. 517-353-9958. www.music.msu.edu

MSU Symphony Orchestra "William Tell Overture" Also performing works by Prokofiev and Shostakovich. Tickets: \$10 adults, \$8 seniors, Wharton Center, Michigan State University, East Lansing. 8 p.m. Sept. 25. 517-353-9958. www music msu edu

University of Michigan Museum of Art "Chamber Music Concert" Closing of the American Romanian Festival with works by Enescu and Schumann, Tickets: \$10. University of Michigan Museum of Art, 525 S. State, Ann Arbor. 7:30 p.m. Sept. 26. 734-763-UMMA www.umma.umich.edu

CONCERTS

Detroit Institute of Arts "Friday Night Live" Music by electronic duo ADULT, as a soundtrack to their horror films. Detroit Institute of Arts 5200 Woodward Ave. Detroit. 7 p.m. Oct. 1. 313-833-7900. www.dia.org

Detroit Symphony Orchestra "Michel Camilo's Big Band Caribe" A performance with the jazz and Latin pianist and composer, Tickets: \$19-71, Orchestra Hall, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit, 8 p.m. Oct. 1. 313-576-5111. www.detroitsymphony.com

MotorCity Casino "B-52s" A performance by the world-famous new wave pop band. Tickets: \$32-45. Sound Board Theater, Motor City Casino, Detroit. 8 p.m. Sept. 23. www.motorcitycasino.com

MSU College of Music "Collage IV" With performances of classical, contemporary and jazz work. Tickets: \$20 adults, \$18 seniors \$10 students Wharton Center Michigan State University, East Lansing. 8 n m Sept 24 517-432-2000

Olymnia Entertainment "The Men of Soul" With Jeffrey Osborne, Peabo Bryson, Freddie Jackson and Howard Hewett. Tickets: \$29.75-75.75. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. Oct. 1. www.ticketmaster.com

Palace Sports and Entertainment

"Eddie Money" A performance to close out the summer concert season, with special quest Jesse Money, Tickets: \$10-34.50. DTE Energy Music Theatre, 7774 Sashabaw Road, Clarkston. 7:30 p.m. Sept. 24. www.palacenet.com

Palace Sports and Entertainment "Lyle Lovett and His Large Band" An eclectic performance by the country/folk/blues singer-songwriter, Tickets: \$10-45. Meadow Brook Music Festival, 3554 E. Walton Blvd., Rochester Hills. 8 p.m. Sept. 24. www.palacenet.com

The Magic Bag "Michelle Shocked" A performance by the Texan singer-songwriter. Tickets: \$23. The Magic Bag 22920 Woodward Ave Ferndale 8 p.m. Sept. 24. 248-544-1991. www.themagicbag.com

The Magic Bag "An Acoustic Evening with Rik Emmett" A concert with the singer/songwriter from hard rock band Triumph, with Dave Dunlop. Tickets: \$20 The Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. 8 p.m. Sept. 26. 248-544-1991. www.themagicbag.com

The Magic Bag "Bettie Serveert" A performance by the Vancouver-based rock band. Tickets: \$12. The Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave., Ferndale 8 p.m. Sept. 30, 248-544-1991. www.themagicbag.com

The Magic Bag "Savoy Brown" Featuring Kim Simmonds, with special guest Paz Man's Supersession Tickets: \$20 The Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward A Ferndale. 8 p.m. Oct. 1. 248-544-1991. www.themagicbag.com

University Musical Society "Rosanne Cash" A selection of covers from a list of 100 essential country songs given to her by her father, Johnny Cash. Tickets start at \$10. Hill Auditorium, 825 N. University, Ann Arbor, 8 p.m. Sept. 25, www.ums.org

University Musical Society "La Capella Reial de Catalunva" A concert of classic Mexican and Latin music, with Hesperion XXI and Tembembe Ensamble Continuo, directed by Jordi Savall, Tickets start at \$35. St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, 2250 E. Stadium Blvd., Ann Arbor, 8 p.m. Sept. 30. www.ums.org

University Musical Society "Jordi Svaal" With Mexico's Tembembe Ensamble Continuo. Tickets start at \$35. St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, 2250 E. Stadium Blvd., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Sept. 30. www.ums.org

FESTIVALS

Kerrytown Concert House "Edgefest" The annual festival, with a focus on brass performances, Tickets: \$135 Edgepass \$15-25 individual concerts. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. Sept. 29 - Oct. 2. 734-769-2999 www.kerrytownconcerthouse.com

Northville Chamber of Commerce

"Car Tunes Festival" A classic car show live entertainment, food and an outdoor movie. Downtown, Northville. 12 p.m. Oct 2 www.downtownnorthville.com

Pastways "A Community Remembers" A festival with art, flower show and performances that will take guests back to historic Farmington, Heritage Park. Farmington. 4 p.m. Sept. 24, 10 a.m. Sept. 25. www.pastwavs.info

Woldumar Nature Center "American Heritage Festival" A weekend of events remembering Michigan's cultural heritage. Tickets: \$7 adults, \$5 members, \$3 children under 12. Woldumar Nature Center, 5739 Old Lansing, Lansing. 11 a.m. Sept. 25. 11 a.m. Sept. 26. www woldumar org

FILM & VIDEO

Ann Arbor District Library "Believe In Me" A film showing and discussion about mental health awareness. Mallets Creek Branch, 3090 E. Eisenhower Parkway. Ann Arbor. 2 p.m. Oct. 2. 734-327-4200.

Dancingstar Productions "Naked Angel" A sneak preview of the film, shot entirely in southeast Michigan. Tickets: \$10 adults, \$7 members. Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor. 6:30 p.m. Sept. 24. www.michtheater.org

Michigan Theater "Suspiria" The Italian horror film by Dario Argento. Tickets: \$9 adults, \$7 students, seniors and veterans. Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor. 10 p.m. Oct. 2. www.michtheater.org

University of Michigan Museum of Art "Police, Adjective" With a talk by American Romanian Festival Director Marian Tanau. Admission: \$10. University of Michigan Museum of Art, 525 S. State, Ann Arbor, 7 p.m. Sept. 24, 734-763-UMMA. www.umma.umich.edu

University of Michigan Museum of Art "Gently Anastasia Was Passing" Admission: \$10. University of Michigan Museum of Art. 525 S. State. Ann Arbor 4 p.m. Sept. 25. 734-763-UMMA. www.umma.umich.edu





At 6 p.m. Sept. 28, Evolution Marketing and Elizabeth Makeup and Modeling will present Catwalk for Cancer, an event to show that selfesteem and feeling beautiful can go a long way in helping cancer patients.

Catwalk for Canter will showcase the latest fall trends in clothing, hair and makeup, while raising funds for Look Good...Feel Better, a national program dedicated to helping individuals with cancer improve their self-esteem and cope with treatment and recovery in style. Held at the Uptown Grille in Commerce, the event will feature dinner, music and a fashion show.

Tickets are \$35 and are available for purchase online, or at participating business locations. To learn more, or to buy tickets, visit www. catwalkforcancer.info.

OTHER

Dawn Farm "How to Support Recovery and Not Addition" A presentation for family and friends of addicts with therapist Ronald Harrison Free St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, 5305 Elliott Drive Ypsilanti, 7:30 p.m. Sept. 28, 734-485-8725. www.dawnfarm.org

Everybody Reads "Raw Food Demonstration" A workshop and meal with raw yegan chef Chris. Cost: \$6. Everybody Reads Bookstore, 2019 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 2 p.m. Sept. 25. 517-346-9900. www.becauseeverybodyreads.com

Everybody Reads "Banned Book Week Celebration" A presentation and select reading of books by the ACLU of Michigan Lansing branch. Everybody Reads Bookstore, 2019 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 7 p.m. Sept. 29. 517-346-9900. www.becauseeverybodyreads.com

National Kidney Foundation "Personal Action Toward Health Class" A free class to help individuals learn how to manage long-term health conditions. Preregistration required. Royal Oak Township Recreation Department, 21272 Mendota, Ferndale. Sept. 17 - Oct. 22. 734-222-9800. www.nkfm.org

Sole Sisters "Sole Sisters Shoe Party" A shopping event for shoe-loving women. Sole Sisters, 87 E. Canfield, Detroit. 1 p.m. Sept. 26. 313-808-3614.

United Health Organization "Project Healthy Living" A day of free and lowcost health care services. Registration recommended. Eastland Mall, 18000 Vernier Road, Harper Woods. Sept. 22 Sept 25 313-581-8913

United Health Organization "Project Healthy Living" A day of free and lowcost health care services. Registration recommended. Northwest Activities Center, 18100 Meyers Road, Detroit. 6 a.m. Sept. 28. 313-581-8913. www.projecthealthyliving.net

United Health Organization "Project Healthy Living" A day of free and lowcost health care services. Registration recommended. Westland Mall, 35000 W Warren Ave., Westland. 10 a.m. Sept. 30. 10 a.m. Oct. 1, 12 p.m. Oct. 2. 313-581-

SHOWS

MotorCity Casino "Paul Rodriguez" A performance by the stand-up comedian Tickets: \$35-37. Sound Board Theater, 2901 Grand River Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m Oct. 1. www.motorcitycasino.com

MotorCity Casino "Hypnotastic" A contemporary performance in hypnotism by Todd Newton. Tickets: \$15-20. Sound Board Theater, 2901 Grand River Ave., Detroit, 7 p.m. Sept. 26.

THEATER

BENEFITS AND FUNDRAISERS

Mitzi's Abortion A compelling play about a young woman who struggles to define herself in a world where others are determined to make choices for her. A fundraiser for Planned Parenthood of South Central Michigan. Sept. 17 - \$25, which includes reception and silent auction beginning at 6:30 p.m.; Sept. 18 - \$100, which includes an exclusive reception, silent auction and the playwright, Elizabeth Heffron, beginning at 6:30 p.m.; Sept. 24 & 25 - \$15, which includes a talkback. Planned Parenthood of South Central Michigan, Epic Theater, 359 S. Kalamazoo Mall, Suite 205, Kalamazoo. Through Sep. 25. 269-372-1200. www. plannedparenthood.org/ppscm

CIVIC/COMMUNITY THEATER

84 Charing Cross Road \$12 SRO Productions, 26060 Berg Rd., Southfield. Oct. 1 - 17. 248-796-4645.

A Midsummer Night's Dream \$16-\$18. Stagecrafters, 415 S. Lafayette Ave Royal Oak, Through Oct. 3, 248-541-6430. www.stagecrafters.org

Crossing Delancey \$15. The Players Guild of Dearborn, 21730 Madison St. Dearborn, Through Oct. 3, 313-561-TKTS. www.playersguildofdearborn.org

Doubt \$15 plus \$1 surcharge Center Stage Jackson at Ruth Day Theatre at Potter Center, Jackson Community College, 2111 Emmons Rd., Jackson Sep. 24 - Oct. 3. 517-796-8600. www.centerstagejackson.org

Fortinbras \$12. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. Oct. 1 - 10. 517-482-5700. www.riverwalktheatre.com

Godspell \$24. Grosse Pointe Theatre, Grosse Pointe War Memorial, 32 Lake Shore Road, Grosse Pointe Farms. Through Oct. 2. 313-881-4004. www.gpt.org

Godsnell \$10-\$22 Kalamazoo Civic Theatre, Civic Auditorium, 329 South Park St., Kalamazoo. Sep. 24 - Oct. 10. 269-

Kiss Me, Kate \$18. Spotlight Players at The Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Rd., Canton, Through Sep. 26, 734-394 5300. www.spotlightplayersmi.org

Leaving Iowa \$13-\$15. The Farmington Players, 32332 W. 12 Mile Rd., Farmington Hills. Oct. 1 - 17. 248-553-2955. www.farmingtonplayers.org

'night, Mother \$16, PTD Productions at Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron St., Ypsilanti. Sep. 23 - Oct. 2. 734-483-7345. www.ptdproductions.com

Prelude to a Kiss \$25. The Croswell Opera House & Fine Arts Association, 129 E. Maumee, Adrian. Sep. 24 - 26. 517-264-7469. www.croswell.org

Starry Night Dinner served at 6:30 p.m.; reservations required. \$33; show-only: \$18. Starlight Theatre at Waverly Fast Cafetorium 3131 W Michigan, Lansing. Oct. 1 - 9. 517-243-6040. www.starlightdinnertheatre.com

The Drowsey Chaperone A Michigan premiere, \$17, Village Players of Birmingham, 34660 Woodward Ave., Birmingham. Through Sep. 26. 248-644- $2075.\,www. birming ham village players. com$

The Receptionist A staged reading. No charge, donations welcome. Center Stage Jackson at The Bon Ton Room (All Play and No Work), 3017 Wildwood Ave., Jackson. Oct. 1 - 2. 517-787-6733. www.centerstagejackson.org

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY THEATER

In The Blood \$5-\$20. Western Michigan University Dept of Theatre Gilmore Theatre Complex's York Arena, 1903 W. Michigan Ave, Kalamazoo. Sep. 23 - Oct. 3. 269-387-3220. www.wmutheatre.com

The American Clock \$8 - \$12. Michigan State University, Auditorium Arena Theatre, 113 Auditorium, East Lansing, Sep. 22 - Oct. 3, 517-355-3351

PROFESSIONAL THEATER

A Closer Walk with Patsy Cline \$25-\$29. Farmers Alley Theatre, 221 Farmers Alley, Kalamazoo. Extended through Oct. 10, 269-343-2727.

Ain't Misbehavin' - The Fats Waller Musical \$48.55 (which includes brunch served from 1-2:30 n m) Jazz Cafe at Music Hall, 350 Madison St., Detroit. Sep. 26. 313-887-8500. www.jazzcafedetroit.com

Beyond Therapy \$20. The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Dr., Three Oaks. Through Sep. 25. 269-756-3879. www.acorntheater.com

Blue Door Previews Sept. 23-26 & 30 (\$15), \$15-\$24, Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam Rd., Williamston. Sep. 23 - Oct. 17. 517-655-7469. www. williamstontheatre.org

Criminal Hearts \$20. Planet Ant Theatre, 2357 Caniff Ave., Hamtramck. Through Oct 2. 313-365-4948. www.planetant.com

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

Hay Fever: \$20-\$30. Hilberry Theatre, 4743 Cass Ave., Detroit. Plays in rotating repertory Oct. 1 - Dec. 4. 313-577-2972.

Keely & Du: \$18. UDM Theatre Company at Marygrove College Theatre, 8425 W. McNichols Rd., Detroit. Oct. 1 - 10. 313-993-3270. www.theatre.udmercy.edu

Last of the Red Hot Lovers: \$28-\$30. Tipping Point Theatre, 361 E Cady St, Northville. Through Oct. 16. 248-347-0003. www.tippingpointtheatre.com

Play It Again, Sam: \$18. Magenta Giraffe Theatre Company, 1515 Broadway St., Detroit. Sep. 24 - Oct. 17. 313-408-7269. www.magentagiraffe.com

Sonia Flew: A co-production with The Jewish Ensemble Theatre Company. \$22-\$41. Performance Network Theatre, 120 E. Huron St., Ann Arbor. Through Oct. 17, 734-663-0681. www.performancenetwork.org

Sundays at Go Comedy!: \$7 for the evening. Go Comedy! Improv Theater, 261 E. Nine Mile Rd., Ferndale. 248-327-0575. www.gocomedy.net

Susurrus : Times vary: groups of four admitted every 15 minutes. Recommended for ages 16+; contains adult themes. \$30. University Musical Society, Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd., Ann Arbor, Through Oct. 3. 734-764-2538. www.ums.org

The Breaking Point · Black Smith Enterprises, Charles H. Wright Museum 315 E. Warren Ave., Detroit. Sep. 25 - 26. 734-634-3151

The Last Great British Sex Farce Ever! \$14-\$16. Broadway Onstage Live Theatre, 21517 Kelly Rd., Eastpointe Through Oct. 9. 586-771-6333. www.broadwayonstage.com

The Taming of the Shrew: \$15. Bach Dor Shakespeare Company at Hannah Community Center 819 Abbot Rd Fast Lansing. Through Sep. 26. 517-333-2580.

The Underpants: \$16. The Box Theatre, 70 Macomb Place, Mt. Clemens. Through Sep. 25. 586-954-2311.

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

True West : Free; by donation. The Abreact Performance Space, 1301 W. Lafayette Blvd., #113, Detroit. Through Sep. 25, 313-378-5404. www.theabreact.com

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

West Side Story: \$39-\$89 (includes parking and facility fees). Fisher Theatre, 3011 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit. Sep. 30 -Oct 16 1-800-982-2787 www.broadwayindetroit.com

Women in Love : \$15-\$25 Blackbird Theatre, 325 Braun Ct., Ann Arbor Through Oct. 16, 734-332-3848.

THEATER FOR YOUNG **AUDIENCES**

Aesop Bops: \$8. Wharton Center, Pasant Theatre, Michigan State University, East Lansing. 1:30 p.m. Sep. 26. 517-353-1982. www.whartoncenter.com

Kolobok : \$10 adults, \$5 children. PuppetART, Detroit Puppet Theater, 25 E. Grand River Ave., Detroit. Saturdays through Sep. 25. 313-961-7777. www.puppetart.org

AUDITIONS & CLASSES

AVON PLAYERS - auditions for "Forever Christmas: A Christmas to Remember," Sept 26-27 248-608-9077 MATRIX THEATRE - offers an awesome au theater and arts classes for ages 5-18, call 313-967-0999 for detail:



In its 55-year history, Stagecrafters has never performed Shakespeare – until now. Stagecrafters will present "A Midsummer Night's Dream" through Oct. 3 at the Baldwin Theatre, 415 S. Lafayette, in downtown Royal Oak.

Passing on Shakespeare's plays came to an end when Ryan S. Moore threw his director's hat into the ring for the 2010-11 season. A 10-year Stagecrafters' veteran, Moore was thrilled that Stagecrafters had decided to plunge into Shakespeare's works. "Presenting this play connects us to an important tradition and to the well of genius from which everything we perform ultimately springs. I think Shakespeare-averse audience members will be surprised at how sexy, comical and fun the bard can be," said Moore.

Advance tickets for performances are \$16-\$18. For reservations or information, call 248-541-6430.

ART'N'

ART & ARCHITECTURE

Charles H. Wright Museum "Portraits of Life and Landscapes" The Art of Frank Kelley Jr. Charles H. Wright Museu 315 E. Warren Ave., Detroit. Aug. 27 - Dec. 12. 313-494-5800. www.charleshwrightmuseum.org

Community Arts @ Paramount Gallery "Custom Guitar Exhibit" Works by Steve Brook and Daniel Cascardo. Paramount Bank, 22635 Woodward Ave., Ferndale, Aug. 13 - Sep. 24. www.paramountbank.com

Detroit Institute of Arts "In Your Dreams" 500 years of imaginary prints from Europe and America, Museu admission: \$8 adults, \$6 seniors, \$4 youth. Detroit Institute of Arts, 5200 Woodward Ave., Detroit, Sep. 8 - Jan. 2. 313-833-7900. www.dia.org

Downriver Council for the Arts "Creative Bead Attitude" An exhibition of beadwork by members of the Great Lakes Beadworkers Guild. Costick Center, 28600 W. 11 Mile Road, Farmington Hills. Sep. 13 - Oct. 15. 586-945-4620 www.downriverarts.org

Downriver Council for the Arts "The Soul of New Orleans" Photographs of music and life by Joe Crachiola. Wyandotte Arts Center, 81 Chestnut, Wyandotte. Sep. 17 - Oct. 8. www.downriverarts.org

Flint Institute of Arts "Unbroken Ties" Dialogues in Cuban Art, presenting works of artists who have remained in Cuba alongside works by those who have left the country. Flint Institute of Arts, 1120 E. Kearsley, Flint, Sep. 9 - Dec. 7, 810-234-1695. www.flintarts.org

Gallery Project "Politics of Fear" A multimedia exhibit of works by 35 artists visualizing fear in American society. The Gallery Project, 215 S. Fourth Ave Ann Arbor. Sep. 8 - Oct. 17. 734-997-7012. www.thegalleryproject.com

Gallery U "Beyond Design" A mixed media group show. Gallery U, 310 Fourth Street, Royal Oak. 5 p.m. Sep. 30. 248-399-7322. http://gallery-u.blogspot.com

Holocaust Memorial Center

"Synagogues in Germany: A Virtual Reconstruction" Computer aided design reconstructions of 14 synagogues destroyed during Kristallnacht. Holocaust Memorial Center, 28123 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills. Aug. 29 - Nov. 29 248-553-2400. www.holocaustce

Jewish Community Center of Metro Detroit "The Green Show" Sculptures, iewelry and other art created from recycled materials. Jewish Community Center, 6600 W. Maple, West Bloomfield. Sep. 2 - Oct. 14. 248-432-5579, www.iccdet.org

Kalamazoo Institute of Arts "Beauty amid Thunder" The past two centuries of Chinese art, in the new Joy Light Gallery of Asian Art. Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, 314 S. Park, Kalamazoo, Aug. 28 - Oct. 17. 269-349-7775. www.kiarts.org

Kalamazoo Institute of Arts "Wondrous ink" Selections from the Richard Fabian Collection, held in the new Joy Light Gallery of Asian Art. Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, 314 S. Park, Kalamazoo. Aug. 28 Dec. 5. 269-349-7775. www.kiarts.org

Kalamazoo Institute of Arts "Strong Women, Beautiful Men" Japanese Portrait Prints from the Toledo Museum of Art, held in the new Joy Light Gallery of Asian Art. Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, 314 S. Park, Kalamazoo. Aug. 28 - Oct. 31. 269-349-7775. www.kiarts.org

Kerrytown Concert House "In The Studio" Paintings and drawings by local artist Sarah Innes. Kerrytown Concert House 415 N Fourth Ave Ann Arbor Aug. 26 - Sep. 27. 734-769-2999 www.kerrytownconcerthouse.com

Kerrytown Concert House "Cycles" An exhibition of works by multi-media artist McCabe Ash. Opening reception held 5-7 p.m. Oct. 13. Kerrytown Concert House 415 N Fourth Ave Ann Arbor Sep. 27 - Oct. 25. 734-769-2999. www.kerrytownconcerthouse.com

Kresge Art Museum "2010 Faculty Biennial Exhibition" Featuring works by MSU faculty. Kresge Art Museum, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Sep. 10 -Oct. 10. www.artmuseum.msu.edu

Kresge Art Museum "Luces en Alba" Dawning Lights in Mexican Photography. Held in the Perspectives Gallery. Kresge Art Museum. Michigan State University, East Lansing. Sep. 7 - Oct. 4. www.artmuseum.msu.edu

Lawrence Street Gallery "Celebrate the Print" Works by 40 local printmakers. Lawrence Street Gallery, 22620 Woodward Ave., Ferndale, Sep. 1 - Sep. 24 248-544-0394 www.lawrencestreetgallery.com

Lawrence Street Gallery "Glenn "Fuzz" Corey and Gary Van Gorp" An exhibition of new works by the resident artists, including drawings and paintings. Opening reception held 6-9 p.m. Oct. 1. Lawrence Street Gallery, 22620 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Sep. 29 -Oct 30 248-544-0394 www.lawrencestreetgallery.com

Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum "Artists Portray Artists" An exhibition of 35 portraits and self-portraits. Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum, 7400 Bay Road, Saginaw Oct 1 - Jan 29 989-964-7096. 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

Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit "Mobile Homestead" Celebrating the maiden voyage of the new public sculpture by local artist Mike Kelley. Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, 4454 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 12 p.m. Sep. 25. www.mocadetroit.com

Pink Pump "Sweet Feet 2" The grand opening and art exhibition for Pink Pump's newest location. Free. Pink Pump, 601 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor. 7 p.m. Sep. 25. www.pinkpump.com

Riverside Arts Center "Great Lakes Small Works" A 2D and 3D juried exhibit. Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron, Ypsilanti. Sep. 2 - Sep. 25. 734-480-2787. www.riversidearts.org

Riverside Arts Center "On the Wild Side - Art of Nature" Presenting the artwork of Lisa Ramlow, Marie Rust and Lori Taylor. Opening reception held 5-7 p.m. Oct. 2. Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron, Ypsilanti. Sep. 30 - Oct. 30. www. riversidearts.org

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

The Butcher's Daughter Gallery "Paycheck to Paycheck, part two" A group exhibition in two parts, each running for the length of a worker's pay cycle. Opening reception held 6-9 n.m. Sept. 25. The Butcher's Daughte Gallery, 22747 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Sep. 25 - Oct. 9. 248-890-6536. www. thebutchersdaughtergallery.com

The Lunch Cafe "Curiouser" Works by photographers Mary and Ken Marzorati Runs through Nov. 13. The Lunch Cafe. 3116 12 Mile Road, Berkley. 11 a.m. Oct. 2. www.aestusimaging.com/curiouser

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.u umich.edu

Urban Institute for Contemporary Art "Pecha Kucha" A presentation format where artists show 20 images, each for 20 seconds, and talk about their work. Free, Amway Grand Plaza Hotel, 187 Monroe Ave., Grand Rapids. 5 p.m. Sep 23. www.uica.org

Women's Caucus for Art-Michigan "Balance: An Artist's Collaborative Game With works by 38 women artists, all from Michigan. Closing reception held 6-10 p.m. Sept. 26. River's Edge Gallery, 3024 Biddle, Wyandotte. Sep. 8 - Sep. 26. 734-246-9880.





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

Mom and her girlfriend make out in front of me

I am 14 years old. My mom is a lesbian. I am • writing this letter to you because I know my mom always reads Dear Jody, and I think she will listen to you because she talks about what you have to say about people's problems. She agrees with you – most of the time.

She doesn't listen to me, even though I've tried to tell her over and over again what the problem is. The problem I have with her is that she and her girlfriend are always smoothing on the couch when my friends are over. They are, like, all over each other. I don't care that she is gay, but my friends make fun of them because of the way my mom and her girlfriend act. It's so embarrassing! If she doesn't cut it out, I will just not have my friends over anymore. I've told her that, but I don't think she cares.

Could you tell her they should not act like that when people are around? Thank you.

Embarrassed Daughter

 $_{\bullet}$ I'm glad you wrote to me. Have your mom A read this letter. Hopefully, it will open up a productive dialogue between the two of you, so you can let her know what behaviors are bothering you and why. It will also give you a chance to listen to her thoughts, and hear how she feels about this issue. In any disagreement, it is important for both people involved to listen and try to understand the other's

Mom: It's important to listen to your daughter and see if the two of you can come up to an agreement regarding this problem so that your daughter is not embarrassed to have her friends over. I'm sure you'll agree that it is important to have your child feel comfortable in her home with her friends: and it's great that she wants to be around the home – not all 14-year-old kids do. This is an opportunity for both of you to hear each other's feelings and understand how this is affecting each of you.

For most – probably all – 14 year olds, having their parents "smooching" in front of their friends would be embarrassing; it doesn't matter whether the parents are gay or straight. This is not a gay parent issue; it's a parent issue.

Hear me out, Democrats

• I am a gay Republican – and I'm proud of • it. I know many people think I am crazy but it is what I believe in – for the most part. I'm like most people; I don't believe in every little thing, but I do go along with most party lines. I am fiscally conservative as well as pretty conservative when it comes to things like immigration, gun control and freedom of speech. I know most Republicans are against gay marriage and so am I. I was raised to believe a marriage is between a man and a woman, and I don't know why gay people think they need to get married, anyway. I have lots of friends that are Democrats, and they keep thinking if they just badger me enough, they can change what I believe. They don't seem to hear what I have to say, but they do want to tell me what they think about everything that's political.

I don't care if you agree with me or not, I just want suggestions on how to make my point and get my friends to listen to me

Republican and Proud

 $_{\bullet}$ Most often, with something as controversial **1** • as politics or religion, it is difficult for either side to hear or understand the other side. There is no way you can get others to listen to you if they don't choose to listen. It is better not to discuss politics with friends that don't listen to your beliefs, or if you're not willing to listen to theirs. In these cases, let them know that politics is off limits as far as you are concerned, and if they bring up political things, remind them that you don't wish to talk about it

If you want to discuss politics, it might behoove you to find some other like-minded individuals with whom you can talk and discuss issues.

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



by Jack Fertig

Breathe, Aries!

Saturn in Libra is squaring the lunar nodes, showing necessary steps in the relationships that are most important in our life's lessons. Mars is in Scorpio, offering insights to those problems, but those insights can feel more urgent and be more complex and distracting than strictly helpful.

ARIES (March 20 - April 19):

Your control issues can wreck your relationship. Step back. Breathe. Be responsible for yourself, and let your partner do the same. Domestic issues are an easy distraction. Work is where you need to focus your energies and sense of mastery.

TAURUS (April 20 – May 20):

You're fine on the details; don't worry about those! Work on seeing the big picture. There, you need some help that you'll get if you want it. Be gracious and pay attention! Criticism from your boss shows investment in vour success.

GEMINI (May 21- June 20):

While being your own harshest critic has benefits, you may be too hard on yourself. Expressing your personal values is important, but you'll have more to say and be better heard speaking from the shared values of your tradition and culture.

CANCER (June 21- July 22):

LGBT folks often struggle with definitions of "family." Draw a picture of yours. Don't write a list; draw a picture! Who's in? Who's out and why? Those you have to think about may or may not belong, but work on clarifying those relationships.

LEO (July 23 – August 22): There's so much you want to say and so much more to your message than is apparent. Don't blame your audience for not getting it! Work on your own communication skills and welcome

constructive criticism.

VIRGO (August 23 – September 22): The most important things you need to express are not coming out logically and won't be accepted on pure logic anyway. Take it as a creative challenge to let your passions clarify - not cloud - your reason.

LIBRA (September 23 - October 22): Your work and ambitions could be a distraction from domestic issues that require more attention. At least take a good, close look at your priorities and your limits. Your efforts to do too much could be antagonizing the people who really matter to you.

SCORPIO (October 23 - November 21): Cool your jets, Hot Stuff! Before charging in "where angels fear to tread," reconsider your premises and re-examine details. Don't let anxiety urge you forward or paralyze you. Look ahead thoughtfully and proceed accordingly.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 - December 20): Whatever it is you're worried about, your friends will help you get things into perspective. Don't let it grow out of proportion. Your problems are simpler and the solutions more pragmatic than vou realize.

CAPRICORN (December 21 - January 19): Helping others can be an easy way to avoid your own issues. Balance healing yourself with nurturing others to strengthen your pursuit of your goals. Shrewd networking will ameliorate the stress of vour career.

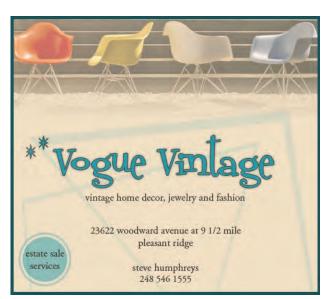
AQUARIUS (January 20 -February 18): Find opportunities to promote yourself. Getting ahead is still hard work, but you're up for it. To sustain energy for the longer run, be conscious of how your own success can and should be helpful to others.

PISCES (February 19 -March 19): Sometimes you really are Little Miss Innocent, but it won't wash now! Put this troublemaking phase to good work. Focus on political ends or community building. If you really need to get nasty with someone, there's a politician who deserves it.

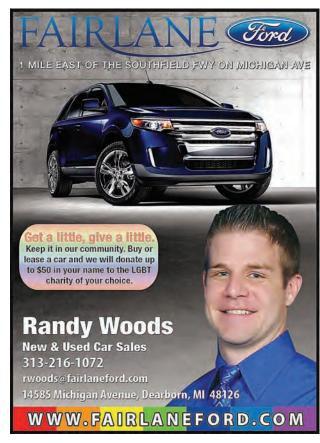
Jack Fertig, a professional astrologer since 1977, is available for personal and business consultations in person in San Francisco, or online everywhere. He can be reached at 415-864-8302, through his website at http://www.starjack. com, and by e-mail at QScopes@ qsyndicate.com.















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Solution on 33

Faith of Our Mothers

Across

- 1 Cross-dresser in a Kinks
- 5 Purse attachment
- 10 Like a milguetoast
- 14 "Hey, sailor!"
- 15 "___ Family"
- __ angle (not straight)
- 17 Ceremony performed by 28-Across
- 20 Used rubbers
- 21 "Queer as a three-dollar bill," e.g.
- 22 Tried to get elected
- 23 Triangular
- 27 Guitar master Paul
- 28 Gay religious icon
- 30 Kline of "De-Lovely" 33 Pump purchase
- 34 Try a Susan Feniger cookbook, e.g.
- 38 Jump for Doug Mattis
- 39 Whispered sweet nothings 41 Gilbert or Teasdale

- 42 Like a Merry Christmas in St. Louis
- 44 "Bewitched" director Nora
- 46 Klingons, e.g.
- 47 Dottermans of "Antonia's I ine'
- 49 Justice Fortas
- 50 Writer Castillo
- 51 Cole Porter's "Let's
- 52 Popeye and Bluto
- 54 Parishioners of 28-Across
- 59 On the calm side
- 60 "Are you calling me_
- 61 Pride member 63 Letter opener
- 64 In need of a backrub
- 65 Top
- 66 Edna, for one
- 67 Tidied the lawn 68 Title document

Down

1 Weapon pointed at James Bond's crotch

- 2 "Gone With the Wind" heroine Scarlett
- 3 Willy the salesman
- 4 Encouraging words
- 5 Garbo's homeland 6 Cowpoke's nickname
- 7 Smash into

exander

- 8 Notre Dame's Parseghian
- 9 Empire conquered by Al-
- 10 Critically injure
- 11 International Male's business, e.g.
- 12 Name of many a gay bar
- 13 "You'll be back on your _ in no time" ("As Good
- As It Gets") 18 Roomy vehicle
- 19 Wealthy, to Mauresmo
- 24 Linking toy
- 25 Poet ____ Wu
- 26 Cathedral of Hope area
- 28 Send a Dear John letter,
- but not to Elton 29 Talc target

- 30 Curly-leafed veggie
- 31 Come out
- 32 They put thermometers in vour boxers
- 35 Reid of "Josie and the Pussycats"
- 36 Club for Sheehan
- 37 Children's caretaker
- 39 In between partners?
- 40 Banned from 12-Down?
- 43 Tolstov and Saver
- 45 Roz portrayer on "Frasier"
- 48 Did salon work
- 49 Military position
- 51 Farm gear pioneer
- 53 Mixed-up fruits
- 54 Court petition
- 55 Make a hole bigger
- 56 Metallic sound
- 57 "Good one!"
- 58 " ____ Like It Hot"
- 59 Get sum
- 62 Composer Rorem

Pet of the Week:



there! I'm Taylor, and as you can see, I am one wrinkly dog. I'm a one-year-old Chinese Shar-Pei/Hound mix who's looking for his forever family. I am very friendly and love to be cuddled, and if we had a chance to meet, I know that we could be best friends. The adoption fee includes sterilization, age-appropriate vaccinations and much more. Visit or call the Michigan Humane **Society's Rochester Hills Center for Animal Care** at (248) 852-7420 and provide the pet ID number, 11462625.

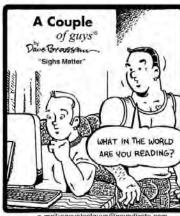












THAT'S JUST IT, JOEY - FOR THE

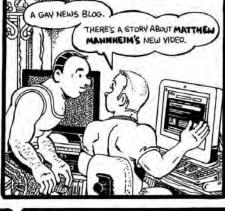
AND I HOPE HE GETS

WHAT HE DESERVES.

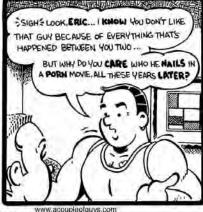
FIRST TIME ON VIDEO, HE'S

GOING TO BE ON THE BO'









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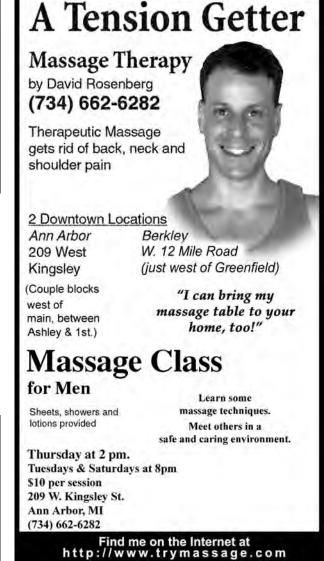
Between The Lines is currently looking for interns to assist with marketing and editorial projects.

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Teaching kids of gay parents

• I teach fifth grade, and every fall we study • genealogy and create what are called "family ." I have a new student this year who has two dads, and I think he's adopted. How do I handle this topic appropriately in class?

 $_{\bullet}$ First of all, kudos to you for being sensitive A • first of all, knows to you to: office and be to this subject; the family tree project can be a tough one for adopted children – and for anyone whose roots don't match the classic format, whether that means kids with two LGBT parents, single parents of any kind, or grandparents and any other adults serving as their guardians.

The wisest approach is to discuss the lesson with the child's parents in advance so you can develop a plan as partners. In fact, don't be surprised if the dads approach you directly about how the larger topic of how their sexuality may affect their child at

school. No doubt, they're worried about potential name-calling or bullying. As for the family tree lesson, this topic has likely come up for them already, so they may have some good ideas on how to handle it smoothly. Let the parents know that you respect their family structure and want to honor it in a way that instills pride in their child – which is, after all, the whole point of the lesson.

Finally, when it comes time to start the project, do your best to explain to the entire class that families come in all different shapes and sizes, even presenting some varied examples that include gay families and others. And then see where your new student takes the exercise himself, with your guidance if necessary.

How does my daughter know she's gay?

• Last week my 17-year-old daughter told me • that she's gay and has a girlfriend. I think she's really too young to fully understand her sexuality and want to ask her whether this lesbian relationship is really just a phase. Is that OK?

A • Not really. This question is usually posed as • a means to deny or object to someone's true sexual orientation, and it can be perceived as either uninformed or, at worst, hostile. Even those who may be "questioning" their own identity or experimenting have a right to decide whether they want to embrace some particular term or identity (and I'm not suggesting that's the case for your daughter). When someone comes out to you – especially a child of yours – keep in mind that she has given this matter much thought and has also put great trust in you. It's not likely to be a "phase," just as your own sexuality, when it first came into bloom, probably was not. And you probably knew at 17 that you were straight, right?

My friends want to set me up with every gay guy they

I moved east about six months ago as a single guy. While I do happen to be looking for a boyfriend, I find it very annoying that every straight person I've met knows one gay man to set me up with. You know the drill - the gay neighbor, the gay hairdresser, the gay mechanic, the gay lawyer. I certainly appreciate all the good intentions, but how do I explain that just because I am gay it doesn't mean I want to be matched up with every gay man they know?

A. Hey, be thankful that you have so many friends who care enough to try and set you up. And while another man's sexual orientation is not enough to make him the match of the century, it's also true that meeting someone through a friend gives you a leg up over a chance encounter online or at a club. Definitely don't be snarky with your matchmaker friends. Instead of giving them the "just

because I'm gay" line, ask questions about the guy: How old? What line of work? Truly single? Funny? Smart? Red-headed? Why do you think we might be interested in each other? Don't make it into an inquisition, but find out a little about the potential date – besides the fact that he's gay. If you like what you hear, ask for an introduction – on e-mail, through a social media site – or let your friend know it's OK to give out your phone number. And even if you don't end up going out with a particular fellow, thank your friend for trying to help you out. And keep trying.

Looking for a second date but don't want to beg

• I had a wonderful evening earlier in the week • with this woman I met in the neighborhood wine store. The sex was great, too. I called her a couple of days later and haven't heard back. How many times can I call back before I look like a loser?

• Give it one more shot. She may have lost your A number, been out of town or been distracted. If she still doesn't respond after a second attempt, it's much more likely that was a one-night stand and she's not interested in a second outing.

Steven Petrow is a past president of the National Lesbian & Gay Journalists Association and writes for the Huffington Post and The Advocate. He's also the author of "The Essential Book of Gay Manners & Etiquette. ``Learn more at www.gay manners.com.





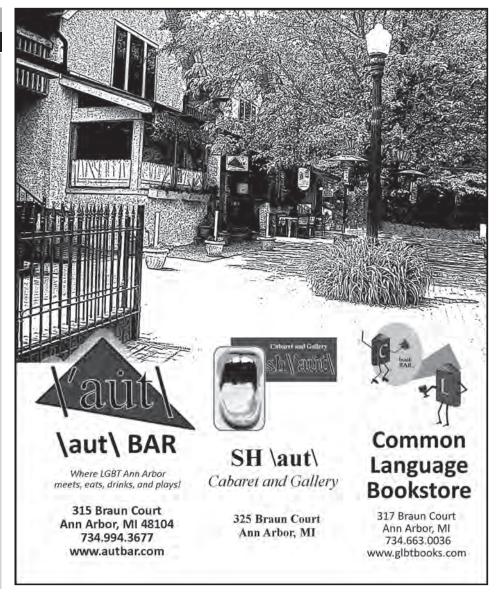
BTL photos by Danielle











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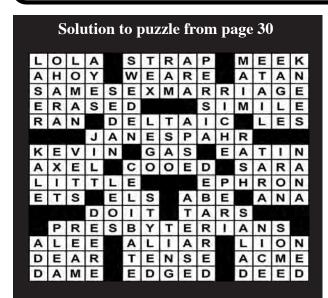
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Margaret Cho and Jennifer Grey go 'Dancing'

"Dancing With the Stars" is such a weird phenomenon. It gives audiences the thrill of seeing celebrities they like (or loathe) in a new light, for better or worse, as ballroom dancers. And yet, it's also hands-down the dorkiest show on television "because" it features ballroom dancing. A new cast of celebs has been announced and it's that loveable mix of old favorites, wannabes, jokes and cult heroes. For gay audiences, the two biggest draws will surely be bisexual comedian Margaret Cho and "Dirty Dancing" sweetheart Jennifer Grey. But wait, there's more: Bristol Palin, Audrina Patridge, basketball star Rick Fox, Michael Bolton, The Situation, Brandy, David Hasselhoff and

the most beloved TV

mom of all time, Florence

Henderson. Just be ready

to finally be made sick

of "baby in a cor-

ner" jokes by the

announced.

time the winner's

Margaret Cho. Photo: David C. Lee for Asiance

Queen Latifah's latest 'Dilemma'

No, the dilemma is not the recent "I'm not gay" interview that her personal trainer and frequent companion Jeanette Jenkins just gave to AfterEllen.com. Queen Latifah's new movie is simply called "The Dilemma." It's the story of two best friends (Kevin James and Vince Vaughn), one of whom comes to believe that his buddy's wife is cheating on him. But to tell or not to tell? That is the question. The comedy is from veteran director Ron Howard and unlike a lot of his recent fare, it's not going to be aimed at holiday/awards season audiences. It opens next January, usually the month where misfit films go to die or find themselves poorly marketed. But who knows, this might be calculated counter-programming. In any case, Latifah, James and Vaughn are of part an all-star ensemble that includes Channing Tatum, Winona Ryder, Jennifer Connelly and more. Call it this year's "Valentine's Day," but with more infidelity.

'Stalking Simon Le Bon' takes a fall

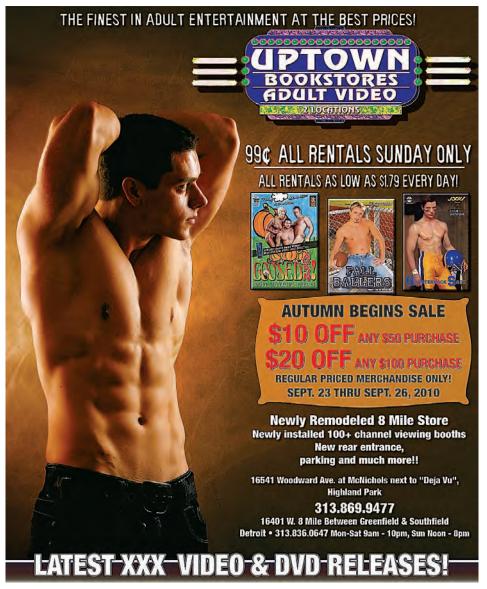
To be a "Durannie" in the 1980s was more than a hobby for some young girls (and boys). It was an all-consuming lifestyle. Duran Duran did, after all, make the most exotic videos MTV had to offer, and it didn't hurt that the hit-making band appeared to consist solely of male models. So now that that generation of superfans has grown up, it was only a matter of time before their collective coming-of-age crush found its way into a script. Enter the upcoming feature "Stalk-

ing Simon Le Bon," the story of teenagers doing anything it takes to get to a Duran Duran show in the mid 1980s. The band has already given their blessing to the project and it looks as though cool, underappreciated gay filmmaker Jim Fall ("Trick," "The Lizzie McGuire Movie") will be taking on directing duties. Now all they need is Robert Pattinson to play one of the bandmates – he won't need to fake an American accent either - and they'll get a whole new generation of fans on board.

'Yank!' yanked until 2011

"Yank!," the off-Broadway musical that was due to move to Broadway soon, has had its premiere delayed a year to give the creative team time to revise the script. Now the show is due to open during the fall 2011 season with current lead Bobby Steggert still committed to star. The story is one that will be familiar to anyone who's seen the documentary "Coming Out Under Fire," about gay men and lesbians serving in the armed forces during World War II and how the end of the war marked the beginning steps toward modern urban gay communities. "Yank!" follows two American servicemen as they fall in love in the middle of their tours of duty and will be helmed by award-winner stage director David Cromer. The retro-yet-still-timely subject matter sounds worth the wait, no matter when it opens. And it will still probably beat the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" to the punch.

Romeo San Vicente has felt like punching quite a few people over "Don't Ask Don't Tell." He can be reached care of this publication or at DeepInsideHollywood@ asyndicate.com.





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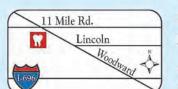
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