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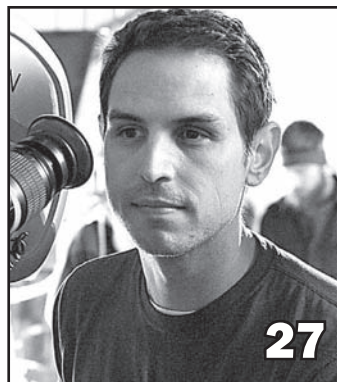
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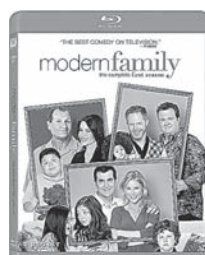
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Joe LaMuraglia, General Motors Social Media director, at A Night Out with Cadillac in New York. Photo courtesy of GM Plus News

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By Jessica Carreras

Jennifer Hsu is the executive director of the OutCenter of Berrien County, located in Benton Harbor on the west side of the state. But she's also a huge supporter of the center group Out Girls, which is dedicated to providing support and social opportunities for women in the southwest Michigan area.

1 How did Out Girls get started?

Out Girls began as a program of the OutCenter, then known as the YWCA Out and Affirmation Center, as a women's support group. Gloria Weberg, a retired social worker, was asked to take over the women's support group meeting once a week with attendance of four to 10 women weekly.



lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community with safe meeting spaces in which to share their experiences and build lasting relationships. Reducing isolation is important in rural communities such as ours to let all LGBT people know that they are not alone.

Out Girls provides southwest Michigan with a community gathering in which all women can be supported and affirmed.

2 Why did the group decide to make the switch from therapy to a social group?

Gloria Weberg, the coordinator of Out Girls, answered this question by saying the following:

"The attendance of the women's support group was sporadic and the women felt that they needed more positive thoughts in place of all the negative input. The decision of the group was to go out to dinner once a month. I feel that it has accomplished more through related interactions than it would in a structured setting. Although it does not meet more serious needs, the co-ed adult support group continues to be available."

Reducing isolation is important in rural communities such as ours to let all LGBT people know that they are not alone. Out Girls provides southwest Michigan with a community gathering in which all women can be supported and affirmed.

4 What do you think the group provides to lesbian, bisexual and transgender women in west Michigan?

Out Girls provides women in west Michigan with a connection to the LGBT community. It is a place to build relationships and to be among friends.

5 How can people get involved with Out Girls?

Lesbian, bisexual, transgender and allied women are encouraged to contact the OutCenter at info@outcenter.org, or check our website calendar for more details about upcoming Out Girls events. RSVP is encouraged but not required. We always look forward to welcoming new participants.

To learn more about this and other programs of the OutCenter of Berrien County, visit www.outcenter.org.

3 Why does the OutCenter feel that it's important to host this group?

It is important for the OutCenter to provide the

Please tell us if there's someone you would like featured in this column! Between Ourselves is a weekly feature. To recommend someone for Between Ourselves, e-mail Jessica at editor@pridesource.com

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MotorCity Casino goes all-rainbow for bowlers

Hundreds of LGBT bowlers descend on Detroit for 25th Motown Invitational Classic

BY JAN STEVENSON

DETROIT – Who knew bowling could be so glamorous?

The Motown Invitational Classic Bowling Tournament celebrated its 25th anniversary Oct. 8-10, capping off the three day event with a spectacular banquet at MotorCity Casino's Sound Board Theatre.

"This hotel is stunning," said Al Norman, a Columbus, Ohio-based bowler with a 214 average who stayed at MotorCity Casino Hotel along with about 150 out-of-towners.

The tournament attracted almost 300 bowlers from all over the Midwest.

"The tournament was very well run, and we really enjoyed our stay in Detroit," said Norman's partner of over 25 years, Mike Spondike (BA 158).

Kim Morrison (BA 109), also from Columbus, said the best part of the weekend was seeing the casino. "I've never been to a casino before," she shared, "and I was really blown away."

The MotorCity Casino Hotel rolled out the rainbow carpet for the MIC Tournament – quite literally. They created a rainbow light show that ran all weekend on the outside of the 11-story hotel property.

"I loved the hotel, and I stayed here and gambled – probably too much," laughed Alan Green from Warren (BA 189), whose real name was withheld by request. "I especially loved the rainbow lighting surrounding the hotel property – it is just so cool."

Green said he feels it would be unsafe for him to be out at his work and appreciated the rare chance to be totally out in a public setting.

Mike Weber (BA 202) and Karl Schaffer have bowled in one of the area's LGBT leagues since 1996, and they've been partners for over 20 years. Weber said the best part of the tournament



MIC co-chairs Bruce Van Dike and Mike Odom

was to be able to bowl with their friends. "It's just nice to relax, have fun and bowl with these folks."

Brain Nelson, executive host at MotorCity Casino and a MIC bowler, was the primary liaison between the tournament organizers and MotorCity. "It is wonderful for me to bring my two worlds together like this – to welcome my gay bowling friends into my workplace," he said. "MotorCity Casino is totally gay-friendly, and management has been completely supportive of me as I've tried to make this weekend really special for the MIC Tournament."

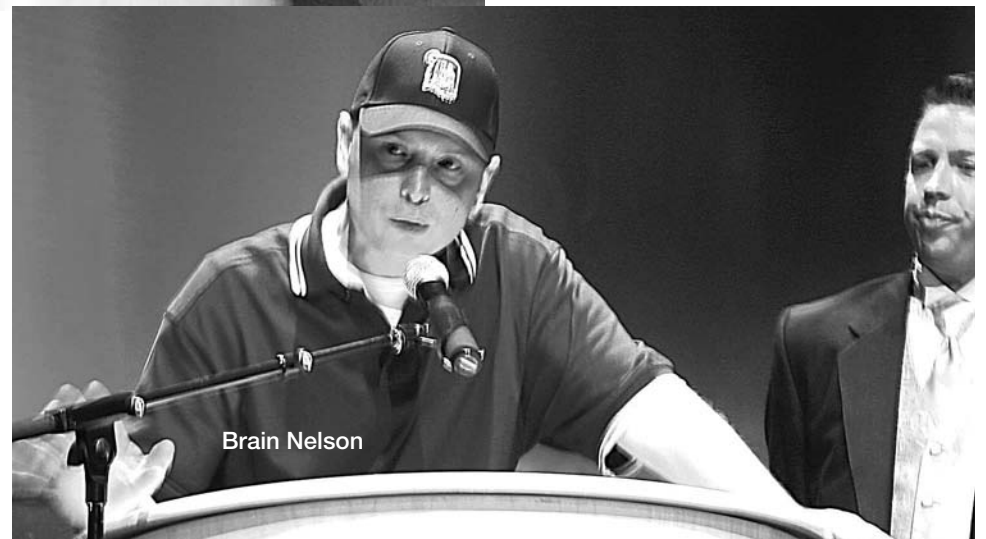
Sunday night's banquet utilized all the high-tech sound and light systems that Sound Board has to offer for a program that featured bowling trophies, cash prizes, drag queens

and a standing ovation for retiring tournament directors Mike Odom and Bruce Van Dike. The consensus among the attendees was that the venue, banquet, entertainment and event was spectacular.

Added Columbus-based bowler Bill Gerstmeier (BA 228), "I can't wait to come back to Detroit next year."

"It is wonderful for me to bring my two worlds together like this – to welcome my gay bowling friends into my workplace."

- Brain Nelson executive host at MotorCity Casino and a MIC bowler



Brain Nelson

Judge blocks 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell'

Federal government's response to Log Cabin suit unclear

BY REX WOCKNER

U.S. District Judge Virginia Phillips in Riverside, Calif., issued a permanent worldwide injunction Oct. 12 immediately barring the U.S. government from making any further use of the 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' military gay ban.

"(T)he act known as 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' infringes the fundamental rights of United States servicemembers and prospective servicemembers and violates (a) the substantive due process rights guaranteed under the Fifth Amendment to the United States Constitution, and (b) the rights to freedom of speech and to petition the Government for redress of grievances guaranteed by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution," Phillips wrote.

"(T)he court ... permanently enjoins defendants United States of America and the Secretary of Defense, their agents, servants, officers, employees, and attorneys, and all persons acting in participation or concert with them or under their

direction or command, from enforcing or applying the 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' Act and implementing regulations, against any person under their jurisdiction or command," she declared.

Phillips' injunction further "orders defendants United States of America and the Secretary of Defense immediately to suspend and discontinue any investigation, or discharge, separation, or other proceeding, that may have been commenced under the 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' Act, or pursuant to 10 U.S.C. § 654 or its implementing regulations, on or prior to the date of this Judgment."

She also granted plaintiff Log Cabin Republicans' request to apply for attorneys' fees and LCR's request to file a motion for costs of suit.

The injunction follows a nonjury trial that was held July 13-16, and Phillips' issuance of her opinion striking down DADT on Sept. 9.

"This order from Judge Phillips is another historic and courageous step in the right direction, a step that Congress has been noticeably

slow in taking," said Alexander Nicholson, executive director of Servicemembers United. "While this is certainly news to be celebrated, we would also advise caution in advance of a potential stay from the 9th (U.S.) Circuit (Court of Appeals). If the appellate court wishes to put itself on the right side of history, however, it will allow this sound and long-overdue decision to remain in effect."

LCR attorney Dan Woods called the injunction "a complete and total victory for Log Cabin Republicans."

Indeed, for the moment, DADT is dead. It is unknown if the U.S. government will seek a stay of the injunction, challenge the worldwide scope of the injunction, or appeal the underlying decision.

The government is not required to do so. President Barack Obama has expressed strong opposition to DADT on numerous occasions.

The Department of Justice said it had no comment on the injunction.

"The administration should comply with her order and stop enforcing this unconstitutional, unconscionable law that forces brave lesbian and gay Americans to serve in silence," said Human Rights Campaign President Joe Solmonese. "The president has said this law harms our national security and we believe it would be a mistake to appeal the decision. Each additional day that this unjust law remains in force is one more day the federal government is complicit in discrimination."

Servicemembers Legal Defense Network's legal director, Aaron Tax, commented: "We applaud Judge Phillips for putting an immediate stop to all investigations and discharges under this unconstitutional law. As explained by the judge, this order applies across the military. ... We have clients under investigation and facing discharge right now. We'll be monitoring each case over the coming days."

City ordinances in focus

★ Ordinance
○ Pending



The where, when and how of Michigan's 18 standing and two pending citywide anti-discrimination policies

BY JIM LARKIN

A surge in municipal anti-discrimination ordinances that protect peoples' sexual orientation may indicate Michigan's gay and lesbian fight for equality has momentum.

Ten Michigan cities and townships included sexual orientation in their anti discrimination ordinances in the 2000s and residents in two more cities – Holland and Jackson – are currently fighting to have it included. That compares to five in the 1990s, one in the 1980s and two in the 1970s.

Traverse City was the most recent, passing their ordinance in a unanimous city commission vote Oct. 4.

"Attitudes have changed and when you look at the polling more and more people feel people should not be discriminated against based on their sexual orientation," said Jay Kaplan, staff attorney for the ACLU's LGBT Project. "These ordinances send a message that we value diversity and that no one should be discriminated against."

From Ann Arbor's ground-breaking anti-discrimination ordinance in 1978 to Kalamazoo's overwhelming public-vote passage of one in 2009, cities across the state have increasingly demanded that its residents should not be discriminated against because of their sexual orientation and/or gender identity.

Detroit in 1979 was the first to follow Ann Arbor's lead and was followed by Saginaw in 1984, Flint, Birmingham, Grand Rapids, Douglas and Ypsilanti in the 1990s and East Lansing, Ferndale, Dearborn Heights, Lansing, Huntington Woods, Grand Ledge, Saugatuck, Saugatuck Township and Kalamazoo in the 2000s.

Traverse City, in its hotly debated Oct. 4 vote, became the first Northern Michigan city with such protections.

Holland's Human Relations Commission is studying whether that West Michigan city should include sexual orientation and gender identity in

its anti-discrimination ordinance. The commission is expected to make its recommendation to the Holland City Council in the next several months.

Meanwhile, Jackson's City Council in August rejected a proposed ordinance prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation. Some of its Human Relations Commission members have vowed to refine the ordinance and bring it back to the council.

While the increasing number of local ordinances may strike a blow for equality, other signs indicate gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender residents have a long way to go. There is no federal law that consistently protects LGBT individuals from employment discrimination and it remains legal in 29 states to discriminate based on sexual orientation, and in 38 states to do so based on gender identity or expression, according to the Human Rights Campaign.

And even the local ordinances have their weaknesses. Five cities – Saginaw, Flint, Birmingham, Traverse City and Douglas – do not protect gender identity. Detroit, Grand Rapids, Dearborn Heights and Flint do not levy fines for violation of their ordinances and offer dispute resolution instead. Saginaw and Birmingham's ordinances only cover housing. And only one city – Ann Arbor – allows it residents to sue because of discrimination.

Representatives of cities that do provide fines or jail time for violation of their anti-discrimination ordinances say they know of no instances when anyone has been fined or jailed for violating them.

"We don't encourage people to file with us because they can get much more clout at the state or federal level," said Roger Frazier, Ann Arbor's city administrator.

The only problem with that is for gay, lesbian and transgender residents, there is no state or federal laws that protect them. And most cities do not have the funding necessary to follow up on discrimination complaints, Kaplan said.

"I don't think anyone should be fooled into

thinking (city ordinances) are the be all and end all – they will never take the place of a state civil rights law or a federal law," Kaplan added. "Still, the more cities that adopt these ordinances, the more momentum we have to adopt a civil rights law."

The local ordinances do apparently work in discouraging discrimination. A 2007 report on "Sexual Orientation and Housing Discrimination in Michigan," conducted by the state's fair housing centers, indicated housing discrimination takes place far less in cities with ordinances. The fair housing centers performed 120 tests in metropolitan Detroit, Southeast Michigan, Southwest Michigan and West Michigan and found evidence of discrimination in 27 percent of them. In areas where there was an ordinance, only 22 percent of the tests uncovered evidence of discrimination while in areas without an ordinance, 30 percent of the tests uncovered discrimination.

And those who have fought for anti-discrimination ordinances to include sexual orientation and gender identity in their hometowns say it's the message such ordinances provide, not the fines they levy, that make such local laws important.

"You absolutely need (an ordinance) because what it does is keep in mind for everyone that when we say everyone deserves equal protection, we mean everyone," said lesbian activist and founder of FernCare Ann Heler, who was instrumental in getting Ferndale's ordinance passed in 2006. "It says our community doesn't wish ill will on anyone. Everyone can think and say what they want but the right to be free of discrimination – that's American."

Passage of an anti-discrimination ordinance in Ferndale, which City Manager Bob Bruner calls "the most gay-friendly area in the state," was a certainty. So was it in Saugatuck, Douglas and Saugatuck Township, which are also well known as gay-friendly cities.

Passage in Kalamazoo was not so certain.

Michigan Cities with Ordinances

Ann Arbor
Birmingham
Dearborn Heights
Detroit
Douglas
East Lansing
Ferndale
Flint
Grand Ledge
Grand Rapids
Huntington Woods
Kalamazoo
Lansing
Saginaw
Saugatuck
Saugatuck Township
Traverse City
Ypsilanti

Ordinances currently pending

Holland
Jackson

Jim Larkin is a freelance reporter from Holland. To reach him, e-mail editor@pridesource.com.

See Ordinances, page 11

PRIDESOURCE
dot com

Fight back against bullying



Over the past few weeks, the country has been reminded that bullying can be deadly. In Texas, a 13-year old boy killed himself because of homophobic taunts by his classmates. A Rutgers University freshman

took his own life after his roommate posted secretly-recorded video of the young man in a sexual encounter with another man. A 15-year old boy in Minnesota killed himself after enduring anti-gay bullying directed at him because of his sexual orientation. Nationally, there are now more and more reports of LGBT young people committing suicide following homophobic slurs and intimidation directed at them because of their real or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity. In an era when our society is supposedly more tolerant, a large number of young people are finding the opposite to be the case, with fatal consequences.

The national cases of bullying have involved hateful words and actions by young people directed against other young people. Michigan, however, has been in the news recently for bullying from an unlikely source.

Over the past six months, Assistant Attorney General Andrew Shirvell has been harassing the president of the University of Michigan student body, a young man who happens to be gay. Following the election of Christopher Armstrong as

UM student body president last spring, Shirvell established a blog for the sole purpose of attacking Armstrong because of his sexual orientation. His attacks on Armstrong go far beyond the normal limits of civil discourse. Shirvell has even posted a picture of Armstrong with a Nazi swastika covering a rainbow flag photoshopped over his face.

And a few months ago, he protested at Armstrong's home in the middle of the night. It defies belief that an officer of the court and public servant would subject a college student to such vile harassment.

Shirvell claims that he has a First Amendment right to express his opinions on Armstrong, and argues that he has only posted to his blog and protested during his "off" hours. While it may be true that he has a First Amendment right to say what he believes, it is also true that Shirvell draws his salary from the taxpayers of the state of Michigan.

As soon as it became clear what Shirvell was doing, his supervisor and close political associate, Attorney General Mike Cox, should have dismissed him as an employee, as Gov. Granholm said she would have done. Cox has even agreed that Shirvell has engaged in bullying against Armstrong. Yet for some reason, Mr. Cox can't bring himself to fire his subordinate for behavior that few employers would put up with for even a moment.

The Democratic candidate for attorney general, David Leyton, has called on Cox to fire Shirvell. His Republican opponent, Bill Schuette, has remained largely silent on the issue, stating

only that he agrees with Cox that Shirvell's actions are protected rights.

University of Michigan president Mary Sue Coleman has banned Shirvell from the campus, and others at UM have expressed strong support for the student body president. But although Shirvell is on leave from the attorney general's office following the national blow-up of his story, he could still come back to work there.

Now it's time for the Michigan legislature to use this sorry episode to do something right for our state: pass an anti-bullying law. Unbelievably, unlike 44 other states, there is no law in Michigan to punish this sort of destructive behavior.

There is currently a bill in the Michigan legislature, "Matt's Safe School Law," that would require schools to adopt anti-bullying and harassment policies. While this legislation would not eliminate the problem, it would make it clear that our state believes our young people deserve to be protected from harm. This compromise bill passed the state House earlier this year, but is stuck in the more conservative state Senate.

In response to the attacks on Armstrong, Gov. Granholm has called on the Michigan Senate to pass the bill so she can sign it into law.

The fundamentalist community claims that some politicians are exploiting the bullying tragedies for political benefit. In fact, it is the Christian right's own disgusting statements, especially in the midst of the recent tragedies, that create the climate of intolerance and hatred our young people face. It's important that all of us stand up against hatred and for the courageous



Legislative information on HB 4580 ("Matt's Safe School Law"):

<http://tinyurl.com/2g3ftpn>

Contact your state senator and urge him or her to support "Matt's Safe School Law," and send it to Gov. Granholm's desk: www.senate.michigan.gov

Call Attorney General Mike Cox and urge him to fire Andrew Shirvell for violating his duty to protect Michigan citizens: 517-241-7093

young women and men who must endure the venom of haters. Let's send a message that we love our young people and will do everything we can to protect them, now and in the future.

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

► Ordinances

Continued from p. 10

Yet, the Kalamazoo Alliance for Equality was able to secure an overwhelming victory at the polls by stressing the importance of demanding equality for all.

"I don't believe in discrimination," said City Commissioner David Anderson, a married father of four who helped pass the measure. "As a person who believes in fairness, I think it was a good thing for the city. What it did was make a big public statement. It was a confirmation of principle. It was a way for Kalamazoo to say, 'This is what we believe.'"

Still, Anderson admitted that "a lot of nasty things were said" during the election process – a statement echoed by residents who pushed for anti-discrimination ordinances in other towns.

Jim Carruthers, an openly gay Traverse City commissioner, said he became the target of attacks after he requested an anti-discrimination ordinance there. Photos of him wearing a green feather boa, which he put on as a joke after it was given to him at a meeting, were posted on the Internet by a private citizen of the city along with warnings that a gay commissioner was pushing his gay agenda.

"It's been a little nerve-racking," said Carruthers, who nonetheless enjoyed unanimous passage of the ordinance from his fellow commissioners.

Scott Klein, a former Hamtramck city councilman, said the scars from a public vote

that overturned an anti-discrimination ordinance protecting gays and lesbians are so deep that it will be a long, long time before the issue returns in his city. He said he received death threats and children yelled anti-gay epithets and threats near polling places.

"It was ugly and unnerving and way more than people bargained for," said Klein, who lost his re-election bid after supporting the ordinance. "The bad part was I thought, 'If this thing loses I'll be alright, but if it wins what will happen to me?'"

Still, the process can be a positive one for a community. Heler said after human rights ordinances were rejected in Ferndale in the 1990s and in 2000, an effort was made to have open meetings in which gay and lesbian residents would answer any and all questions posed to them – a process she advocates for all cities.

"When gay people started moving here in large numbers, I think many in town loved what happened to the homes and property but weren't so sure about the people living in them," Heler said. "It took a while to turn that around."

"Now we try to open gay bars but we can't because the heterosexuals keep coming to them," she joked.

Anderson said he chaired some of the meetings held in Kalamazoo on the issue and was able to keep the conversation civil and informative.

"It was of extreme value to us because it allowed for some very public discussions," Anderson said. "We looked at the issue, we decided and now we're done with it and can move on."

Ties Like Me to celebrate fifth anniversary

Ties Like Me, a southeast Michigan professional networking group for LGBT and allied businessmen and women, will be celebrating its fifth anniversary with a gathering at Via Nove Restaurant in Ferndale at 5:30 p.m. Oct. 20.

Seven years ago, local gay businessmen Reid Beyerlein and Robert Lalicki met through the Royal Oak Chamber of Commerce and realized that they shared a vision of bringing the LGBT community together to do business with one another, making the community stronger. They came to the conclusion that a group like Ties was needed to make their vision come to fruition.

Their first networking event was on Oct. 19, 2005, at Pronto! restaurant in Royal Oak, and had over 100 people in attendance. That night, Beyerlein and Lalicki knew there was a void in the community being filled.

Word spread from there and now, Ties Like Me has almost 2,000 names on its e-mail distribution list.

Ties Like Me meets consistently every third Wednesday of the month at various locations throughout metro Detroit. Changing the venues monthly is one thing Beyerlein and Lalicki believe makes Ties Like Me so enjoyable. From the annual Business Expo at the Reserve at Big Rock in Birmingham to the annual cultural event at the Opera House in Detroit, Ties members always have something interesting to look forward to.

Razor Law Firm will host the fifth anniversary event, which goes until 8 p.m. and has no cover charge. There will be complimentary appetizers and a cash bar with drinks specials.

For more information on Ties Like Me, find them on Facebook, or visit www.tieslikeme.org.





BTL EDITORIAL

Why we still need safety nets

Sometimes, those of us who live every day of our lives openly forget that this is not the norm. We exist in a bubble where, aside from occasionally wondering if it's OK to kiss our partner or hold hands in a particular public place, we face no outward discrimination, no threats to our safety, no possibilities of losing our jobs.

But for many LGBT people – from the age when they first realize who they are to the day that they die – life is a constant struggle of figuring out when to be honest and when to lie; when to mention their partner and when to bite their tongue; when to be themselves and when to “straighten up.” They walk a tightrope every day.

Years – sometimes decades – ago, a courageous few began to take actions to try to ensure that LGBT people could come out and stay out, wherever they were. They did it through citywide ordinances, through creation of social groups, through company policy, through school boards and executive boards.

For example, in 1978, Ann Arbor became the first city in Michigan – and the first in the U.S. – to pass an ordinance prohibiting anti-LGBT discrimination in areas such as housing and the workplace. Over the years, 17 other cities did the same – some as recently as this month.

And on a smaller level, LGBT employees of General Motors, Chrysler and Ford Motor Company began starting up resource groups within their respective companies in the 1990s to provide social opportunities, support and a vehicle for changing company policy to be more LGBT-inclusive. All three have survived, and are still working today.

Even more specialized is the fact that 25 years ago, a group of gay bowlers got together and decided to start a tournament called the Motown Invitational Classic. This month, they celebrated a milestone anniversary and brought hundreds of LGBT bowlers to Detroit.

But just as with any organization, policy, event or effort, things have changed over the years.

In the case of ordinances, what began as

For many LGBT people, life is a constant struggle of figuring out when to be honest and when to lie; when to mention their partner and when to bite their tongue; when to be themselves and when to “straighten up.” They walk a tightrope every day.

laws necessary to protecting LGBT citizens are now passed by a majority of straight city council members and voters not just because they want to protect their neighbors, but because they want their city to be seen as welcoming, safe and inclusive.

For employee resource groups such as GM Plus, Ford GLOBE and Chrysler People of Diversity, goals have changed as much as membership and leadership. In 2000, they celebrated the passage of same-sex domestic partner benefits by all three of the companies. Today, Ford GLOBE chair calls being openly gay in his workplace a “non-issue.” Instead, they work on expanding, educating and throwing events.

And as for the Motown Invitational Classic, venues, leadership, themes and purpose have all changed throughout the years.

But what doesn't change about these and many other efforts put into place years ago are the fact that they are there to support every LGBT individual in the most necessary ways. In their homes, their workplaces, their social lives. These efforts should be continued, built upon and – hopefully soon – bolstered by statewide and federal laws.

Whether it's a recreational group, a professional organization or a law, all are designed to protect us, nurture us and make our lives happier – even when some of us think we don't need the safety net anymore.

THE GAY MORALIST



The bullies' responsibility – and ours

BY JOHN CORVINO

About 25 years ago, my sister (who was then around 10 years old) decided one day to practice cartwheels in our modestly-sized suburban living room.

Had my parents been around, they would have stopped her. They would have mildly scolded her, and she would have felt mildly guilty.

As it happened, she stopped herself – after her foot met with a perfectly scaled ceramic replica of our house displayed on our coffee table, sending it crashing to the floor. I had spent weeks creating that replica in art club after school, and when I arrived home later that day, my sister met me at the door sobbing with remorse, followed close behind by my infuriated mother.

I forgave my sister the next day, so this column is not about a 25-year grudge.

I recall the story, rather, because it nicely illustrates a concept philosophers call “moral luck”: the paradox that while we think people are morally responsible only for things they control, we often morally judge people (including ourselves) for things that substantially depend on factors beyond their control. Had I not placed my art project on the coffee table, my sister would have been guilty of carelessness, but not destruction.

Or to take another, standard example: Driver A neglects to have his brakes checked, and as a result runs a stop sign (but harms no one). Driver B is exactly like Driver A, except that as he runs the stop sign he fatally strikes a child who happens to be crossing.

In terms of what they control, Driver A and Driver B do the exact same thing. But Driver B seems guilty of a greater crime (and properly feels much greater remorse).

I've been thinking about moral luck as I reflect on the case of Dharun Ravi, the roommate of Rutgers University student Tyler Clementi, and Ravi's friend Molly Wei.

As has been widely reported, Ravi and Wei secretly recorded Clementi's intimate moments with another male and broadcast them on the internet. Days later, Clementi jumped to his death from the George Washington Bridge.

Are Ravi and Wei murderers? Are they guilty (like our hypothetical Driver B) of reckless manslaughter?

Or are they simply awful pranksters, guilty of invasion of privacy (as the state is charging) but in no way responsible for Clementi's death – which involved another free agent (Clementi) and which they surely neither intended nor foresaw?

The case is complicated by several factors. Ravi and Wei are both 18, old enough to know better than to do what they did, young enough that, were it not for Clementi's suicide, few would want to see them behind bars.

Tyler Clementi was also 18, and he is now gone. Because he killed himself, one presumes

I've been thinking about moral luck as I reflect on the case of Dharun Ravi, the roommate of Rutgers University student Tyler Clementi, and Ravi's friend Molly Wei.

that he was in a great deal of pain; because he did it days after the humiliating exposure, one presumes that Ravi's and Wei's actions strongly contributed to that pain. Thus any sympathy for them is likely to be interpreted as lack of sympathy for him.

But sympathy is not a finite resource. Nor is moral responsibility.

There is no contradiction in grieving for Tyler Clementi, while also grieving for two 18-year-olds whose bad act had far worse consequences than anyone would normally anticipate.

Yes, they fucked up. Teenagers sometimes do mean and stupid things. Luckily, such behavior rarely drives their peers to suicide.

There is also no contradiction in holding that Tyler Clementi bears responsibility for ending his life, while also holding that others (especially Ravi and Wei) bear responsibility for making that option more appealing.

Without a God's-eye view, we are ultimately in no position to judge Clementi's conscience, or Ravi's, or Wei's. The mistake, I think, is to focus all our energy on their responsibility without stopping to think about our own.

We live in a world where people are still mocked (or worse) for being lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender, and where some LGBT people find life so unbearable that suicide seems a reasonable option. Tragedies like these should lead each of us to ask: What have we done to contribute to such a world? To allow it? To repair it?

Are people responsible for their own actions? Yes. But the rest of us are also responsible for the pressures we put, or fail to put, on others.

The Clementi suicide and other recent tragedies invite us to reflect on our moral responsibility for creating the better world we seek. How well we achieve that world may depend partly on luck. But it also depends on our deliberate and steadfast effort to make things better.

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.

S/he said

Cupcakes, cissexism and Eddie Long

COMPILED BY HOWARD ISRAEL

"Instead of focusing in on poverty rates, homelessness, the fact that the minimum wage in Minnesota is only \$5.25 an hour, or that there were two million visits to Minnesota food banks last year, the Catholic bishops in Minnesota have decided to spend the money on a DVD to send to every Catholic household in Minnesota, complaining about same-sex marriage. It's hard to see how attacking committed same-sex couples wins these Catholic bishops any broad swath of support."

- Michael A. Jones, in his commentary titled "Hey Minnesota Catholic Bishops: Focus on Poverty, Not Gay Marriage," about the coordinated anti-same-sex marriage campaign initiated by a coalition of Minnesota's Catholic bishops, <http://gayrights.change.org>, Sept. 17.



Eddie Long

"The mindset of the religious sexual predator is markedly different from one operating in a secular context because of the presumption of righteous morals and a higher calling. ... If the culture of compulsory heterosexuality demands that men hew to rigid gender norms, some closeted gay clergy will abuse their power by sexually abusing male parishioners. The heterosexual cult of the exalted pastor is based on the belief that 'real men' should be inscrutable in their exercise of power and authority.

Thus, the religious sexual predator may rationalize his behavior as being 'ordained' by God. God confers him with ultimate authority and moral license."

- Sikivu Hutchinson, in his column titled "I Wanna Be A Macho Man: The Prosperity Gospel According to Eddie Long," about anti-gay Bishop Eddie Long facing four lawsuits by young men alleging that he coerced them into sexual relationship, <http://blackagendareport.com>, Sept. 29.

"We're a family-run business, we have two young, impressionable daughters and we thought maybe it was best not to do that. We have our values, and you know, some things ... for instance, if someone wants a cookie with an obscenity, well, we're not going to do that."

- David Stockton, owner of Just Cookies in Indianapolis, explaining to a reporter why he refused an order for cupcakes with rainbow-colored frosting from a gay student group at Indiana University-Purdue University, to celebrate National Coming Out Day, www.fox59.com, Sept. 23.



Justin Rosen and Avi Smolen

"While critics of the same-sex announcement couch their argument in terms of Scripture, the newspaper contains numerous elements that can be seen as impious – like ads for non-kosher restaurants. Make no mistake about it. This is homophobia masquerading as religious piety. Pure and simple."

- David Kirshner, rabbi of a Conservative New Jersey congregation, in an article titled "Whiplash Can Follow a Car Crash or a Wedding Announcement," about the uproar

following Avi Smolen and Justin Rosen's same-sex marriage announcement in the New Jersey Jewish Standard newspaper, www.nytimes.com, Oct. 6.



"People are created in God's image. Homosexuality is an identity adopted through societal factors. It's an identity disorder."

- Christine O'Donnell, Tea Party-backed Delaware GOP Senate nominee, in a 2006 Washington Post interview, despite having a lesbian sister, <http://thinkprogress.org>, Sept. 20.

"The (Muskegan news) article profiling this incident is ... actually another example of cissexism masquerading as objectivity. The reporter avoids referring to Oak's very clearly stated gender through pronouns; Oak is constantly referred to either by his first name or as 'the teen'. Alone, this would be troublesome. But especially in conjunction with pained references to Oak's prior name and surgery plans, it betrays a cissexist denial of Oak's gender as truly his on the part of the reporter."

- Rachel McCarthy James, in her blog titled "Trans student not homecoming king because of Mona Shores High School cissexism," about Muskegon teen Oak Reed, who was voted homecoming king but stripped of the title by school administrators because he's registered as a girl, www.deeplyproblematic.com, Sept. 27.



Parting Glances Then & Now

BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

Telling it like it (now) wasn't

There were two newspaper stands in once-busy downtown Detroit in the 1960s – one situated at Grand Circus Park; the other at Campus Martius, across the street from the still-standing 1877 Soldiers and Sailors Monument.

Each month I'd stop at whichever stand was closest, look up and down Woodward Avenue, and wait for the perfect unobserved moment to buy a copy of "Grecian Guild Physique Pictorial."

I kept my visual aphrodisiac in a brown paper bag when traveling home, sneaking a peek between bus stops. (I was once seen over my shoulder by an attractive guy who slipped me his phone number and an unused transfer.)

If I recall correctly, the 6-by-8-inch fuel for my fantasy life (or, was it, more appropriately, 6-by-9-inch?) cost \$1.50. There were no full-front nude images; only suggestive posing pouches, oiled sleek bodies, magnificent outdoor settings. It worked nonetheless. Monumentally so.

Some of the photos carried cryptic markings. I learned later these indicated top (or bottom), straight (or gay), professional photographer's model (or hustler privately available). Not that it did me or my friends any good. But it was camaraderie of a secret shared from straights.

How times have changed! There's so much erotica, porn, and acrobatic, vibratory, cucumber silliness on the Internet, that it constantly borders on being ho-hum boring. (My initial weekly 105 hours of X-rated viewing has dropped to a mere 25, with fewer cold showers in between.)

The Internet, of course, is giving the post office a run for the money. But there was a time – not really that long ago in the 1960s – when magazines like "Physique Pictorial" could not be sent through the mail. Censorship was pervasive. Terrifyingly so.

To send nude photos or suggestive letters could mean arrest. My high school friend Gordon Barnard (aka Rita Hayworth) was a member of the Grecian Guild, a fan club for supposedly discrete networking. The postal authorities steamed open one of his "more suggestively worded epistles," and he was hauled into court, warned, and fined.

Back then – without the convenience of today's www – bars were the only place to meet gay friends and make sexual assignments. (By the way, when was the last time you were assigned in a bar?) The best bars were those with a back entrance. Coming or going incognito was an important plus.

One had to be careful of vice officers. Unless a bar paid off, and a few did, there was a risk of being arrested for looking at an undercover cop a few seconds too long. It was his word against yours, and most of the time your shamefaced explanation didn't count.

The vice officer who entrapped me when I was 23 was attractive. He said he had seen me around. He offered me a lift home. (There was no mention of sex.) When I went to his blue Ford Thunderbird, it was locked. His partner ran on the scene, called me a fairy, yelled dramatically, "You're under arrest!"

You were expected to behave in Detroit's gay bars (there were seven or eight downtown in the 1960s). No touching. No kissing. No holding hands. No dancing. I recall the excitement when a private club – the former Detroit Press Club, located above a burlesque theater – permitted same-sex dancing with its \$25-a-year membership. Woweee!

Today's LGBTs take so much for granted. (Thank the courageous activists of earlier decades!) We all need to be reminded there was a time when we had no newspapers, no churches, no gay centers, no Pride marches, virtually no positive visibility. Nothing but each other. (We made do.)

Friendly tip for living from an oldster: Take nothing – or no one – for granted. Do-do happens when you don't pay attention. Watch your step!

Matt Barber

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

It feels like every time we check the news this month there's a story about yet another young person taking his or her life in order to escape anti-gay bullying. It's heartbreaking. And not just for the gay community.



Matt Barber

Even Matt Barber of the rabidly anti-gay Liberty Counsel expressed his sorrow: "Anyone with a heart grieves deeply over these needless suicides."

Amen to that. Hey, we might not agree on everything, but at least we all have something in common: a heart.

Or do we?

"Unfortunately – though not surprisingly – extremist 'gay' pressure groups, like the incongruously named 'Human Rights Campaign,' Ellen DeGeneres and other liberal activists are shamelessly exploiting these tragedies as a means to achieve their own selfish political ends,"

Barber continues.

Wait, is he saying that gays are actually *happy* about all of this? "It makes me physically ill to watch as the HRC and other 'gay' militants lick their chops and rub their hands together over the tragic

**So let me get this straight (no pun intended):
bloodthirsty gay militants are actually
celebrating the fact that these kids killed
themselves because it's good for the cause?**

suicides of these troubled, sexually confused young men," Barber says. "Before they were even laid to rest, the radical homosexual lobby pounced leveraging these suicides to demand that government codify each of their extremist, social engineering demands."

So let me get this straight (no pun intended): bloodthirsty gay militants are actually celebrating the fact that these kids killed themselves because it's good for the cause?

Oh, I get it – gays don't have hearts. Only human beings have hearts and Barber clearly doesn't see homos that way. Because in his world, gays don't actually exist. They're just "sexually confused young men" who didn't love Jesus enough.

"God's message to young people struggling with same sex temptation or to those who feel the shame that naturally accompanies sexual sin is that suicide is never the way out," Barber offers. "But there is a way out. It comes first through belief in Jesus Christ, and then through confession of sin; finally, repentance."

In other words, Barber's message to gay teens is that they're yucky sinners who simply need to pray real hard to get the gay out of them. Never mind that being gay isn't something you can pray away.

But for folks like Barber it isn't about actual people with hearts. It's about a sinister and faceless "gay agenda." And anyway the real victims of this whole gay suicide mess are Christians.

Ellen DeGeneres recently said, "There are messages everywhere that validate this sort of bullying and taunting and we need to make it stop. We can't let intolerance and ignorance take another kid's life."

Barber is kind enough to translate this "from liberalese to plain English" for us: "Public defense of God's express, self-evident and unequivocal design for human sexuality must be stopped under force of law. Proponents of the Judeo-Christian sexual ethic are murdering 'gay' kids with their words."

Now, I can't speak for DeGeneres... Oh, what the hell, I will: No, she's not. She is not saying that, you paranoid, deluded fuck.

Although now that you mention it, telling a young person who is being bullied for being gay while most of the adults in his life stand idly by that he is broken and should feel ashamed of feelings he cannot control and he pretty much deserves it until he gets right with a god who can't magically "fix" his sexual orientation no matter how hard he prays sounds like a pretty good recipe for suicidal desperation.

And that isn't good for anyone's cause.

Schools, LGBT groups confront bullycide

Talks of how to address bullying legislation and policies brought to forefront again with recent spate of gay teen suicides

BY DAVID CRARY

A spate of teen suicides linked to anti-gay harassment is prompting school officials nationwide to rethink their efforts against bullying – and in the process, risk entanglement in a bitter ideological debate.

The conflict: LGBT-rights supporters insist that any effective anti-bullying program must include specific components addressing harassment of gay youth. But religious conservatives condemn that approach as an unnecessary and manipulative tactic to sway young people's views of homosexuality.

It's a highly emotional topic. Witness the hate mail – from the left and right – directed at Minnesota's Anoka-Hennepin School District while it reviews its anti-bullying strategies in the aftermath of a gay student's suicide.

The invective is "some of the worst I've ever seen," Superintendent Dennis Carlson said. "We may invite the Department of Justice to come in and help us mediate this discussion between people who seem to want to go at each other."

Carlson's district in the northern suburbs of Minneapolis is politically diverse, and there are strong, divided views on how to combat bullying.

"We believe the bullying policy should put the emphasis on the wrong actions of the bullies and not the characteristics of the victims," said Chuck Darrell of the conservative Minnesota Family Council.

That's a wrongheaded, potentially dangerous approach, according to the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network – which tries to improve the school climate for gay students nationwide.

"Policies have to name the problem in order to have an impact," said GLSEN's executive director, Eliza Byard. "Only the ones that name it see an improvement."

Recent tragedies bring up old battles

According to a 2009 GLSEN survey of 7,261 students, only 18 percent said their schools had a comprehensive program addressing anti-gay bullying, while gay students in schools that had such programs were less likely to be victimized and more likely to report problems to staff.

Across the political spectrum, every group weighing in on the issue had deplored the recent deaths – the latest in a long series of suicides over many years by harassed gay teens, but dramatic nonethe-

less because of the high toll in a short span.

The most recent and highest-profile case involved Rutgers University freshman Tyler Clementi, 18, who killed himself by jumping off the George Washington bridge after his roommate secretly recorded him with another male student, then broadcast the video online.

But at least four younger teens have killed themselves since July after being targeted by anti-gay bullying, including Justin Aaberg, 15, of Andover, Minn., who hanged himself in his room in July. His friends told his mother he'd been a frequent target of bullies mocking his sexual orientation.

Five other students in his Anoka-Hennepin school district have killed themselves in the past year, and gay-rights advocates say bullying may have played a role in two of these cases as well.

Carlson, the district superintendent, lost a teenage daughter of his own in a car crash, and says he shares the anguish of the parents bereaved by suicide. He acknowledges that a controversial district policy calling for "neutrality" in classroom discussions of sexual orientation may have created an impression among some teachers, students and outsiders that school staff wouldn't intervene aggressively to combat anti-gay bullying.

The district – Minnesota's largest – serves nearly 40,000 students in 13 towns. The school board adopted the neutrality policy in 2009 as a balancing act, trying not to offend either liberal or conservative families.

Rebecca Dearing, 17, a junior who belongs to the gay-straight alliance at the district's Champlin Park High School, said the neutrality policy caused teachers to shy away from halting anti-gay harassment – sometimes leaving her gay friends feeling vulnerable to the point where they don't come to school.

"This shouldn't be a political issue any more, when it's affecting the lives of our students," she said. "It's a human issue that needs to be dealt with. They can be doing more and they're not."

In August, amid the furor over the suicides, the district clarified its anti-bullying program – saying that it was not governed by the neutrality provision and had always been intended to encourage vigilant, proactive adult intervention to curb anti-gay harassment. Staffers were told failure to intervene would be punished.

Justin Aaberg's mother, Tammy Aaberg, is convinced the broader neutrality policy has been damaging to gay

students and wants it changed. She said she heard belatedly from Justin's friends about instances in past years where he was harassed that she was never notified about even through staff members were aware.

Now she sees signs that the district wants to be more diligent, but isn't fully reassured.

"Most of the teachers and principals, and maybe even now the superintendent, they mean well – they want to intervene," she said. "But the teachers still don't know what they can and can't do."

Nadia Boufous Phelps, the school psychologist at Anoka's Blaine High School, is co-advisor for its gay-straight alliance – to which 27 of the 3,000 students belong. She welcomes the attempt to clarify the stance toward anti-gay bullying.

"In the past, the staff often would not intervene," she said. "Now the district has come out loud and clear, if you hear 'That's so gay,' if you witness anything, you must do something."

Still, she said, "We still have a long way to go."

Carlson says his district, seven years ago, was among the first in the state to implement a comprehensive anti-bullying program. Now he's exasperated by the highly charged, politicized debate that has flared since Aaberg's suicide.

"It's a terribly sensitive situation," he said. "Hurtful statements on either side are not helpful ... and the kids are watching."

Phil Duran, staff attorney for the statewide gay rights group OutFront Minnesota, says Carlson and his colleagues are constrained by school board members who do not want to anger conservative voters in the district.

"They're between a rock and a hard place," he said. "I do think they want to do the right thing – I don't think they know what the right thing is."

National efforts, local compliances

Nationally, the recent suicides have intensified calls on Congress to pass a pending bill, the Safe Schools Improvement Act. It would require schools receiving federal funds to implement bullying prevention programs that specifically address anti-gay harassment.

Supporters of the act say it has bipartisan support, but the likelihood of Democratic losses in the Nov. 2 election cloud its prospects, and it is vehemently

See Bullycide, page 15

Anti-gay torture allegations shake NYC community

Eight suspects arrested, one still at large

BY VERENA DOBNIK AND DAVID B. CARUSO

NEW YORK (AP) – Eight suspects arrested in connection with the brutal torture of two teenage boys and a man in an anti-gay attack last week were expected in court Sunday to face charges including robbery, assault and unlawful imprisonment as hate crimes.

Police said members of a gang that called the Latin King Goonies heard a rumor that one of their new recruits, a 17-year-old, was gay. They found the teen on Oct. 3 and then stripped, beat and sodomized him with a plunger handle until he confessed to having had sex with a 30-year-old man who lives a few blocks away, investigators said.

The group found a second teen they suspected was gay and tortured him, too, police said. Finally, they invited the 30-year-old to the house, telling him they were having a party. When he arrived, they burned, beat and tortured him for hours. The attack included sodomizing him with a miniature baseball bat, police said.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg said he was sickened by the accusations of violence “and saddened by the anti-gay bias.” The attacks followed a string of teen suicides around the country last month that were attributed to anti-gay bullying.

A ninth suspect was still at large. A lawyer representing him had arranged for his client to turn himself in, but the suspect never showed, Police Commissioner Ray-

mond Kelly said.

... they invited the 30-year-old to the house, telling him they were having a party. When he arrived, they burned, beat and tortured him for hours. The attack included sodomizing him with a miniature baseball bat, police said.

mond Kelly said.

Asked if the men had expressed remorse, Kelly said, “I wouldn’t call it remorse.”

Gay men and women live openly in the largely Hispanic Bronx neighborhood, Morris Heights, and while residents were disturbed by some past violent behavior by the suspects, some said they hadn’t previously targeted homosexuals.

A gay 16-year-old who lives in the neighborhood said she was friends with all of the suspects.

“They were chill. There was no beef,” Natty Martinez said. “I had no idea they had no heart.”

Sitting on the steps of the home where the attacks took place, Martinez and three friends said the accused men had frequently partied in an empty apartment on the block. The young men were kind and some even went to church, the girls said. But they added that when the group drank heavily,

their behavior worsened and they had sometimes beat people.

“How can people do something like that?” asked Keith Handsford, 35, an air conditioning repairman who lives in the neighborhood.

He said he has two gay teenage nieces who live in the neighborhood, who have had no problems with serious harassment.

Such violent acts “chip away at the tolerance and equality that have always been the pillars of our great city,” Bloomberg said. “... New Yorkers have always had an answer to acts of prejudice and intolerance, and that is: We reject them. We renounce them.”

City Council Speaker Christine Quinn, who is gay, and other elected officials went to the empty brick townhouse where the attacks took place and passed out leaflets Saturday. “People were very, very clear that they wanted it to be known that the acts of these individuals do not represent their neighborhood,” said Quinn. “They were as stunned as anyone that something so violent, so premeditated ... could happen here.”

The suspects arrested Oct. 7 and 8 were identified as Ildefonso Mendez, 23; David Rivera, 21; four 17-year-olds, Steven Caraballo, Denis Peitars, Nelson Falu and Bryan Almonte; and Brian Cepeda, 16. All face charges including robbery, assault and unlawful imprisonment as hate crimes; Mendez, Rivera and Falu were additionally charged with committing a criminal sex act.

The eighth suspect, Elmer Confresni, 23, of the Bronx, turned himself in Oct. 9.

That’s the town where 13-year-old Seth Walsh, hanged himself outside his home last month after enduring taunts from classmates about being gay. He died after nine days in a coma.

Merteuil-Clark said the teachers who are sympathetic to bullied gay students tend to be cautious, fearing they might antagonize Kern County school administrators who want to “sweep the problem under the rug.”

“Growing up gay in Kern County, you have all this opposition to you,” he said. “It does have an impact on you. When you’re little, you think the rest of the world hates you.”

The debate has proved to be a minefield for the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program, one of the largest in the nation, as it strives to serve schools ranging from progressive to conservative.

“We have to be extremely careful,” said Marlene Snyder, the Olweus development director, describing a community-by-community approach which enables schools to tailor the program as they see fit in regard to anti-gay bullying.

“We’ve worked in all kinds of

schools,” Snyder said. “Some have very much taken on the homophobic situation. Other schools won’t touch it with a 10-foot pole.”

GLSEN sees a mixed picture nationwide – gay-straight alliances continue to spread, numbering more than 4,000 nationwide, yet nine of 10 gay students in its latest survey reported suffering anti-gay harassment.

Asked for an example of an effective program, GLSEN leader Eliza Byard cited New York City’s Respect for All Initiative. The district, which serves 1.1 million students, makes specific mention of sexual orientation in its anti-bullying training for teachers and its materials for students.

Of course, even a highly praised anti-bullying program doesn’t spare New York City from its own share of anti-gay violence. Police charged members of a street gang with brutally beating a recruit they suspected of being gay and torturing him and two other people last week.

“There’s always more to do,” said Elayna Konstan, head of the Office of School and Youth Development. “We’re always trying to do this work better.”

► Bullycide

Continued from p. 14

opposed by many conservatives.

“A lot of these anti-bullying programs are crossing the lines far beyond bullying prevention into adult-oriented material and politics,” said Candi Cushman, education analyst for Focus on the Family. Mission America president Linda Harvey said the act would “incorporate mandatory pro-gay propaganda.”

According to GLSEN, 10 states have anti-bullying laws along the lines of the Safe Schools Act – requiring specific components addressing anti-gay harassment. But gay-rights activists say enforcement and compliance is not uniform.

For example, Dave Reynolds of the Trevor Project, which seeks to combat teen suicides, says many California schools are not in compliance with the state’s 10-year-old law. One problem area, he said, is California’s Central Valley – the source of many calls to the Trevor Project’s suicide hot line.

Jeffrey Merteuil-Clark, 17, is a junior who’s active in the gay-straight alliance at Frontier High School in Bakersfield, a Central Valley city not far from Tehachapi.

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LGBT people in Mexico's Baja California state, where Tijuana is located, are working to block a state constitutional amendment passed by the legislature that would seemingly ban recognition of same-sex marriages. To be valid, the amendment requires ratification by a majority of the state's municipal councils. Same-sex marriage is legal in Mexico City, and the nation's Supreme Court has said that all 31 Mexican states must recognize gay marriages from the capital city. LGBT people and their opponents (pictured) protested inside the Chamber of Deputies the day of the vote. Photo courtesy of Herrera

Battle continues over Baja California marriage amendment

Equality California Executive Director Geoff Kors has joined calls for municipal councils in Mexico's Baja California state to reject a state constitutional amendment that seemingly bans recognition of same-sex marriages.

Meanwhile, local LGBT activists are organizing marches on Oct. 16 in the U.S. border city of Mexicali, the Baja state capital, and on Oct. 24 in the border city of Tecate.

"It is extremely disappointing that there is an effort to amend the state constitution to not allow or recognize same-sex marriages in Baja California," Kors said. "Mexico's Supreme Court has upheld marriage for same-sex couples and further required that legal same-sex marriages from Mexico City be recognized throughout the nation. We call on the municipal councils in Ensenada, Mexicali, Rosarito Beach, Tecate

and Tijuana to reject this discriminatory effort by voting against ratification of the constitutional amendment – and to go on the record in support of marriage equality for same-sex couples."

The unicameral state legislature, the Chamber of Deputies, voted 18-1 on Sept. 29 to amend the state constitution to seemingly prohibit recognition of same-sex marriages, despite the fact that the federal Supreme Court ruled this year that all 31 Mexican states must recognize gay marriages from Mexico City, where they are allowed. The vote came on the final day that the right-leaning National Action Party had control of the legislature. On Oct. 1, the left-leaning Institutional Revolutionary Party took control of a majority of the chamber's seats, following elections that had been held in July.

The only vote cast against the amendment in the Chamber of Deputies came from PRD (Partido de la Revolución Democrática) Deputy Ana María Fuentes.

"It is our conviction that the basis of human happiness is freedom and the recognition of rights, that any restriction imposed by one or various churches or some particular morality that

signifies restriction of rights or persecution of people in the free exercise of their sexual preferences is profoundly wrong and has more to do with the past and nothing to do with the future," she said. "We oppose that the more conservative groups ... want to convert our state into some sort of medieval island with the double morality that comes with that."

Attacks at European Transgender Council

Two Turkish delegates to the Third European Transgender Council in Malmö, Sweden, were attacked as they left a restaurant Sept. 30. They were physically assaulted and pelted with eggs by five to seven attackers, they said.

The individuals said they also were later mistreated by police, who asked them offensive questions, questioned their right to be in Sweden and referred to them with incorrect pronouns. The police interrogations made them feel "intensely violated and humiliated," the activists said.

The conference brought together more than 200 trans activists from 35 nations.

Tatchell gets a blue plaque

Longtime British gay activist Peter Tatchell was honored with a "blue plaque" Sept. 29.

At an on-location ceremony, gay actor and activist Sir Ian McKellen unveiled the plaque on the block of flats in London's Southwark area in which Tatchell has lived since 1978. The address is 62 Arrol House, Rockingham Street, SE1 6QL.

"I have lived in Southwark most of my life and I am very proud to be part of its long, illustrious history of distinguished authors, playwrights,

scientists, inventors and social reformers," Tatchell said. "I dedicate my acceptance of this award to the heroic democracy and human-rights campaigners in Iran, Uganda, Iraq, Russia, Zimbabwe, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and West Papua."

The particular blue-plaque project that honored Tatchell is run by the Borough of Southwark, and recipients are chosen via public nomination and popular vote.

The plaques also are placed on the residences of famous athletes, actors and politicians. Previous Southwark honorees include Charles Dickens, Charlie Chaplin and Michael Caine.

Russian court says Pride ban illegal

For the first time, after five years of lawsuits by gay activists, a Russian court has declared a governmental ban of a gay Pride parade to have been illegal.

The Lenin District Court in St. Petersburg will issue its full opinion at a later date. Activists had argued that a city ban of this year's St. Petersburg Pride parade violated constitutional guarantees of freedom of assembly along with protections guaranteed by the European Convention on Human Rights.

"(This is) unprecedented for Russia," said leading gay activist Nikolai Alekseev, adding that while the decision could be reversed on appeal it is nonetheless "the first one we can be proud of."

"We are happy because for the first time, we get rewarded for five years of court actions, five years of arrests, of lost trials, of hits, of insults, of being followed or intimidated by officials, hooligans or individuals," he said. "We demonstrated that in Russia, a country of which many are saying that it is useless to go in the streets because nothing will ever change, even here the impossible can become possible."

Rioters, police clash at Serbian Pride

BY JOVANA GEC AND DUSAN STOJANOVIC

BELGRADE, Serbia (AP) – Serbian riot police fought running battles on Oct. 10 with hundreds of far-right supporters who hurled Molotov cocktails and stun grenades to try disrupt a gay pride march in downtown Belgrade. Over 120 people were hurt and nearly 190 were arrested, officials said.

Thousands of police officers sealed off the streets in the capital where the march took place, repeatedly clashing at several locations with rioters who were trying to burst through security cordons.

Several parked cars were set on fire or damaged, shop windows were broken, garbage containers were overturned and streets signs destroyed. Several shops were looted before police restored peace late afternoon.

The anti-gay rioters also fired shots and threw Molotov cocktails at the headquarters of the ruling pro-Western Democratic Party, setting the garage of the building on fire. The state TV building and other political parties headquarters were also attacked, with many of the house windows shattered by stones.

The protesters, chanting "death to homosexuals!" hurled bricks, stones, glass bottles and stun grenades at riot police. Police responded by

firing tear gas and deploying armored vehicles to disperse the charging protesters in the heart of the capital even after the brief pride march ended.

The Pride march was viewed as a major test for Serbia's government, which has launched pro-Western reforms and pledged to protect human rights as it seeks European Union membership.

Right-wing groups broke up a gay march in 2001 and forced the cancelation of last year's event.

"This was undoubtedly a political message, an attempt to destabilize the country and this government," said prominent political analyst Miljenko Dereta. "The rioters had political support."

He said Serbia's pro-European government still faces strong opposition from the conservative and nationalist forces opposed to the modernization and reform of the country ravaged by the wars in the Balkans in the 1990s.

The protesters hijacked a bus, ordered all of its passengers and the driver out, and pushed it down a steep street before it hit an electric pole on a main Belgrade square.

A gay-rights activist, Lazar Pavlovic, said that staging of the Pride march was a "historic event." He condemned the violence and noted that the incidents and immense security measures

illustrate the dangers the gay people in Serbia are facing.

Serbia's Health Ministry said over 120 people were injured. Police said 188 people were detained, 77 of whom remain in custody, suspected of violent behavior.

Serbian President Boris Tadic condemned the "vandalism" on Belgrade streets and pledged that the extremists will be arrested and punished. "Serbia will guarantee human rights for all its citizens, regardless of the differences among them, and no attempts to revoke these freedoms with violence will be allowed," Tadic said.

Belgrade mayor Dragan Djilas said that the damage was estimated at more than one million euros (\$1.39 million).

Right-wing groups say the gay events are contrary to Serbian family and religious values. Most of the rioters Sunday were young football fans whose groups have been infiltrated by neo-Nazi and other extremist organizations.

"These riots obviously have nothing to do with the gay parade or any moral values," said Democratic Party spokeswoman Jelana Trivan. "These are hooligan gangs which must be punished severely."

Defense Minister Dragan Sutanovac, vice president of the Democratic Party, said a part of the party's archive, warehouse and phone lines

at the building were destroyed and shots were also fired at the building. "It is high time that we deal in a very democratic way, through the courts, with those who call themselves members of the patriotic organizations," Sutanovac said. "Is this Belgrade or the wild West?"

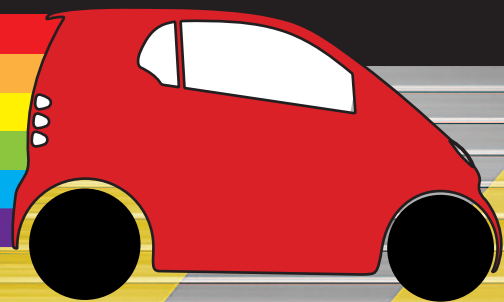
Senior Justice Ministry official Slobodan Homen said that the state response will be "fierce." He said that the city center is covered with surveillance cameras and that the rioters have been identified and many already detained. He said they could face up to eight years in prison.

Vincent Degert, the head of the EU mission in Serbia, addressed around 1,000 gay activists and their supporters who gathered at a park in downtown Belgrade which was surrounded by riot police, including armored vehicles.

"We are here to celebrate this very important day ... to celebrate the values of tolerance, freedom of expression and assembly," Degert told the crowd waving rainbow flags.

The same right-wing group set the U.S. Embassy on fire during riots in 2008 to protest U.S. support for Kosovo's independence.

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton plans to visit Belgrade in coming days as part of a Balkan tour.



Auto Guide

INSIDE

- 2010's Top Gay Cars
- Guys and their rides
- My car and me



Ford GLOBE members took time this year to paint both Ruth's House and the Ruth Ellis Center's drop-in building. Photos courtesy of Joe Hejl.



Diversity in transition

As car companies regroup and restructure following financial crisis, LGBT employee groups work to reinvent themselves

BY JESSICA CARRERAS

When major companies go through an economic crisis, the entire business is affected – from the highest CEO to the hourly employees. So it goes for employee resource groups, too, and as Ford, General Motors and Chrysler struggle to rebuild and redefine themselves following massive monetary breakdowns, each company's LGBT resource group has done the same.

The past few years have been tough on GM Plus (People Like Us), Chrysler POD (People of Diversity) and Ford GLOBE (Gay, Lesbian or Bisexual Employees). Loss of membership, the strain of less employees handling more work and a shift of focus away from each company's philanthropic efforts have left the groups in limbo for some time: unable to accomplish much, to make strides toward acceptance and equal rights, to secure funding for the causes they care about.

But now, say leaders from all three groups, things are starting to look up. Plans for events, grants and growth are all underway and the future looks promising for LGBT employees at the Big Three.

One of the biggest goals lately has been educating new leadership.

"We're adjusting to the new organization, trying to figure out who's where and who does what," explains GM Associate Director of Competitor Intelligence and GM Plus Chair Adam Bernard. "Internally, one of the main things we've been able to do – because it's free – is a lot of the educational presentations. We've been going to a number of executive staff meetings at the top levels of the company to do a 15-minute pitch about who we are, these are the key issues with our constituency and here are some ways we can help from a business standpoint."

But more than just educating new executives, adds Chrysler POD Co-Chair and Head of Parts Technical Development Arana Long, it has been about reaching out to employees and building membership. "POD is in a 'rebuilding' phase after losing so many people to retirements and voluntary terminations," she says. "We just attended the annual Out and Equal Workplace Summit and have quite a few ideas and options that we are investigating for next year. We also attended this year's OUT for Work Career Fair held in Washington D.C. in September to recruit LGBT college seniors for various open positions we have

See Auto Groups, page 25

My car and me: a love story

An activist's affair with her beloved Bentley

BY SAMANTHA WHITE

"It was just meant to be" is how June Washington describes her relationship with her Bentley. The gorgeous silver-grayish antique, with lots of attitude and a decadent exterior, and its owner have been inseparable ever since they met just over a decade ago.

In 1999, when Washington was in the market for an antique car, her friend told her about a private owner in Portland, Ore., who was selling a Bentley. When she took the vehicle for its first spin after purchasing it, she and the car immediately clicked. "The initial feeling I had when I first sat in the car was surreal," she recalls.

Washington, a longtime community activist, had never even heard of the Bentley when she came across it 11 years ago. In fact, she was in the market for an antique vehicle, but leaned toward an antique Packard. But when she saw the Bentley, it was love at first sight.

"It has a sensuality and elegance to it that no other cars have," she says.

Not to mention vanity lights, foot rests, a sun roof and little picnic tables in the back – all things Washington's fond of in her beloved car.

She affectionately named it "Rubi B.," a combination of her mother and granddaughter's names. "Rubi B." is in her original condition, and

Washington hasn't altered her in any way so to retain its original essence.

"I've only done restorations to it, like giving the car new fuel pumps and buying a new exhaust system for her," she says.

Restoring a classic Bentley can be arduous and expensive, which is why Washington only owns one antique vehicle. She laughs, "She's enough on her own!"

She's a precious little thing, and two miles is usually the longest distance that Washington drives her car – much to her mechanic Dan Mitchell's dismay. Even cars need exercise, he tells her.

Mitchell's a luxury vehicle connoisseur and has been taking care of "Rubi B." for the last few years. He's even entered the restored beauty into the Ferndale Classic Vehicle Show and the local Multi-Lakes Cruise.

But her soulmate doesn't need a car show to be seen. Washington says she gets compliments on "Rubi B." all the time: "People are constantly asking me to roll down the window and wave when I drive by. I just feel like I am driving a regular car. I forget that I am driving a Bentley."

It's probably because of how well the car suits her. But the affection and adoration works both ways. Washington's first car as a teenager was a beige Impala. She loved the car, but it



hasn't left the same impression that "Rubi B." has.

It's obviously a mutual feeling: "Every time I put the 'for sale' sign in the window something goes wrong," she says. "I am thinking about

moving to Martha's Vineyard so I made a few attempts to sell the car, but every time I try to she acts up."

Apparently, Washington isn't the only one who thinks that they were "meant to be."



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Guys and their rides

Detroit's Lambda Car Club shows us their prized possessions

1. Adam Bernard with his 1972 Austin Mini
2. Bret Scott and Bob Andersen next to their 1981 Volkswagen Scirocco
3. David Struck and his 1968 Chrysler Newport
4. John Forster with his 1936 Lincoln LeBaron Coupe
5. Scott Armstrong and Steve Payer and their 1962 Oldsmobile Super 88



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Top Gay Cars of 2010

Eight of the best rides this year

BY RAMON JOHNSON
ABOUT.COM GAY LIFE GUIDE

I love the spirit of automobiles. With each exterior line, curve, interior appointment, color and technological wonder shines a unique personality that tells its own story. At first look, a car seems no more than basic metal, plastic and appointments, but a ride in the driver's seat reveals a machine of distinction, purpose and personality.

Cars tell stories about their owner, but can a car be gay or make someone gay? Of course not, yet the style of a car model can match certain styles and personalities.

In 2006, while browsing the North American International Auto Show, I decided to meld the visual and performance characteristics of automobiles with the diverse personalities of gay men. The result was a list of top cars that fit unique gay styles. Four years later, I introduce my top picks for 2010:



Best Car for the Employed Gay: 2010 Acura ZDX

Honda vehicles, although sturdy and dependable, have been predictable when it comes to style the last few generations. Sedans, SUVs and trucks were ultra reliable but far from youth-inspiring or adult sexy. That is, until Accord Coupe changed the face of conservative brand. And then came the Accord Crosstour last year, badged as a "fresh take on the utility." Fresh styling, indeed.

And now, with the Acura ZDX, the sexier, more refined sister of the Crosstour, the company has updated its portfolio with an impressive crossover in an environment where the vehicle, like the professional driving it, can't afford complacency.

But, can your sister-in-law's baby carrier brand really inspire performance and style? It would seem so. The ZDX boasts a 300-hp, 3.7-liter, VTEC V-6 powertrain that demands a more aerodynamic fascia design that makes sense of Acura's ridiculous front end. Our kid with braces finally has a grill to be proud of.



Best Green Queen: 2010 Audi A3 TDI

In December 2009, the Audi A3 TDI was named Green Car Journal's 2010 Green Car of the Year. A great honor, but that's not why the A3 leads our list of enviro-friendly rollers.

So, why the A3 TDI? Namely, Audi didn't use any special powers or trekkie contraptions to reduce their footprint. They merely refined what they already had: banging diesel technology. Us car geeks already know diesel emissions seem dirty from the outside, but trump gas clangers when it comes to environmental impact.

Today's gay also stays true to his identity and believes in his own impact – despite public perception – proving that beauty will shine even in clouds of smoke.



Top Retro Flagship: 2010 Chevy Camaro

The Chevy Camaro takes concept styling to the showroom with a throwback aesthetic that soothes and excites the senses. The Camaro is the American Apparel of vehicle styling—a contemporary take on a tried classic that despite faults will always command attention.

The Camaro's rewards are endless. Exterior styling is sure to turn heads, but GM's standard 3.6L V6 engine (6.2L V8 in the SS) increases your drag potential with 304 HP. If you didn't feel butch

before, you will after gripping the standard manual and blasting the Boston Acoustics sound package.



Best Gay Teen Machine: 2011 Ford Fiesta

This past summer, Ford launched a redux of an old entry just in time for school breaks. The 2011 Fiesta is one of the most highly anticipated Fords in years. Ironically, the previous Fiesta was almost single handily responsible for Ford's tarnishing Found-On-The-Road-Dead jokeline. Oh, how times have changed.

Once unsure, like the gay teen, Ford has found its voice sans bailout money, becoming one of the most solid brands out there. The Fiesta is confident, secure, label-defying, and sure to liven up any expressway.

At 13K base, the Fiesta's entry price is almost as attractive as its presence and the projected 30/40 mpg leaves more cash for iPad apps. The Fiesta is versatile with both sedan and hatch options and has a cool array of colors like Lime Squeeze Metallic and Yellow Blaze Metallic. It's here, it's queer. So what!



Hipster Hyperdrive: 2010 Subaru Outback

What's carrying Subaru's dirty backpack? A versatile sports sedan confident enough to hit the trail then carry on to dinner. Rugged-refined is what the small brand has become as it realizes that a strong eco-heritage and solid engineering attracts more than than plaid-wearing loyalists. Gay hipsters rejoice. Like you, the Outback can broaden its range and maintain a true sense of originality.

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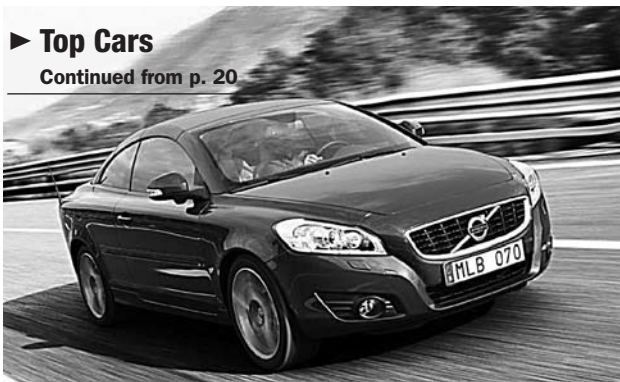
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► Top Cars

Continued from p. 20



Top Topless Go-Go: 2011 Volvo C70

Volvo brands the next generation C70 as an all-in-one versatile cruiser. The C70 is an experienced go-go that knows when to take it off and when to leave it on. Feel like a cool breeze on your, uh, forehead? Retract the hard top and in 30 seconds you're exposed to the elements. Looking to be more discreet? The C70 puts its top back on for striking coupe appeal.

And no go-go is complete without club sound. Wind noise has met its match with the C70's 12 speaker system powered by a 900-watt digital amp.

Volvo's are known for safety innovation that has historically trumped their focus on styling. But while the C70 continues with expected Volvo safety technology, exterior design no longer blends with the rush hour crowd.



Best Comeback Canon: 2011 Jaguar XJ

Jag enthusiasts cheered when Tata Motors of India rescued the ailing cat from Ford choke hold. Why such excitement? Well, the Tata family is full of Jaguar enthusiasts and have a long history of owning Jaguar vehicles. So, expect each new Jag to feel like a Jag.

The Tata story rings of the rich kid that buys the toy factory, but we can all benefit from this glut. Since the buy, Jaguar has been refocused as a brand new fans can salivate over and long time loyals can adore.

The XJ sprints with 385 hp, pumped by a third generation direct injection 5.0L AJ-V8 naturally aspired engine locked to a six-speed automatic trans. This baby purrs!



Top Gadget God: 2010 Infiniti M

For the gay man that wants it all, the 2011 Infiniti M is overflowing with tech treats. Besides being, well, an Infinity, the new M pampers driver and passengers with the industry's first 360 view cam, lane departure prevention to keep you on a gayly forward path, blind spot prevention, distance monitor, lights that automatically illuminate as you approach and old-school favorite 4-wheel turn assist that reduces the radius of right turns.

Few people grow up wanting to drive an Infiniti, but once they do, most owners regret not turning the key sooner. Infiniti has an indisputable reputation for clean, classic sport design, impressive power and sleek gadgetry. And while the flagship M's styling isn't the most striking, it's consistently been a standard-setting rocket of driving experience. The M delivers well beyond what's expected, especially for the gay man that wants it all.

Ramon Johnson, a Detroit native, is the Gay Life Guide for About.com (<http://gaylife.about.com>), where this piece originally appeared.

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Auto Guide



From left to right: GM Plus members Soren Bech, Joe LaMuraglia, Sabine Blake, Karen Rafferty and Monique Brentley at A Night Out with Cadillac, held in New York earlier this year. Photo courtesy of GM Plus.

► Auto Groups

Continued from p. 17

at Chrysler.”

For Ford GLOBE, that effort has included reaching out to hourly employees at the plants as well, many of whom face longer workdays and are thus less able to be involved in volunteer employee groups. “Our hourly board member just stepped down because she found it very difficult because of the work schedules and so on to make it to the board meetings,” says GLOBE Chair and Ford Global Health and Safety Director Greg Stone. “That created a gap for us, so we’ll have to try some different strategies to focus on the hourly workforce.”

And, adds Stone, GLOBE is also trying to expand to other countries, encouraging Ford offices in South America, Mexico and beyond to not only extend same-sex domestic partner benefits to their employees, but to start GLOBE chapters there as well. Currently, there are four GLOBE chapters: in southeast Michigan and Florida, plus British and German contingents.

All three groups are focusing on building their membership and boards at a local level – a difficult task when most auto employees already have their hands full.

“I think with all the groups, it’s more of a challenge (to recruit employees),” says Bernard. “Those of us who are here now are doing more work with fewer people, so there’s a slightly higher stress level because we’re doing more with our day jobs while trying to do some diversity stuff as well.”

Adds Stone, “We’re there because we’re very committed, but it’s not easy.”

But one obstacle that is thankfully not standing in the way as much as it used to, they agree, is the ability for employees to come out without fear of losing their jobs.

Though Michigan currently has no law protecting LGBT workers from being fired, all three of the Big Three have policies in place preventing just that. Still, says Bernard, auto executives are shocked to hear that LGBT discrimination in the workplace is legal in the state.

“For us, the big ‘ah-ha’ moment is when we tell leadership that in the state of Michigan, you can be fired not just for being GLBT, but for

being perceived as being GLBT and you have no legal recourse,” he says. “Jaws drop when they hear that.”

Stone adds, however, that for hourly workers, coming out is still tougher than for salaried employees.

“It’s something we’ve had some conversations with the UAW Diversity Office on and it’s something we’ll continue to try to outreach to hourly people and try to make that situation better,” he says of the issue. “I mean, there’s nothing overtly negative, but it just seems much more difficult at the plant-level on a day-to-day basis.”

Beyond getting more employees to join, each of the groups hopes to reintroduce their philanthropic efforts within the next year, which had been mostly dormant since the automotive economic crisis.

In the past, the Big Three had been known to donate as much as \$250,000 per year to Affirmations. Now, both GM and Chrysler have all but stopped donations, while Ford has been barely holding on with contributions of \$25,000 per year to the Ferndale-based LGBT community center.

But that stands to change.

“We’re interested in recommitting to Affirmations, we just haven’t done it yet,” says Bernard. “We were disappointed we weren’t able to do that recently, but there were extraordinary circumstances. It’s certainly not from a lack of interest, but a lack of funds.”

And all three groups have continued to make contributions to their communities through such efforts as volunteering with Steppin’ Out or the Ruth Ellis Center, or making donations to causes like breast cancer, HIV/AIDS and PFLAG.

Now that they have survived the worst storm, each group plans to build, grow and become prominent once again.

“I believe we have many opportunities over the next few years,” Long says hopefully. “Our current plan focuses on helping marketing with their initiatives in the LGBT community and increasing LGBT awareness thru internal education.”

Adds Bernard, “This has been a year of transition, and we’re hoping to ramp things up a bit more next year. I think we’re going to be reinvented, I think we’re going to build on the momentum we’ve got.”

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Life as he knows it



Katherine Heigl and Josh Duhamel in "Life as We Know It," now playing in theaters. (Right) Director Greg Berlanti, left, on set. Photos: Warner Bros.

Out filmmaker Greg Berlanti on directing Katherine Heigl and Josh Duhamel's recently released romantic-comedy

BY GREGG SHAPIRO

After making TV a priority, director Greg Berlanti is moving back into movies with "Life as We Know It," the new Katherine Heigl and Josh Duhamel romantic-comedy. It's the out creator's first turn as director since gay favorite "The Broken Hearts Club," released 10 years ago. But Berlanti, who also executive produces ABC's drama "Brothers & Sisters," won't stop there; he's continuing his film streak as writer/producer of the Ryan Reynolds-starring comic book flick "Green Lantern," releasing next year. "If the last 10 years were about running TV shows," he says, "I would very much like the next 10 years to be about making movies."

Berlanti, 38, also spoke with Between

The Lines about getting Duhamel down to his skivvies for "Life as We Know It," casting a gay couple for the movie, and why he finally moved back to films.

What was it about the screenplay for "Life as We Know It" that made you want to direct the movie?

First of all, I got to page 20, 25 of it and the parents died. I thought, Wow! So many times these days romantic comedies don't go to these places. I really loved, right off the bat, that it wasn't afraid to go to all these different places. It wasn't afraid to blend tones, and that was really appealing to me.

It's been 10 years since "The Broken Hearts Club," your film directorial debut. Since then, you've been very busy with various television projects, like "Broth-

ers & Sisters" and the new series, "No Ordinary Family." No one would ever accuse you of slacking off, but did you miss working in the cinematic realm?

Definitely. I finished with "Broken Hearts," and in addition to taking over the duties for "Dawson's (Creek)," I created my first show with "Everwood," and that really filled me up. For me, the primary thing that I enjoy the most about this business is creating an emotional experience for the audience. I was able to do that every week.

About three years ago I started to get run-down by the pace of television and said, "OK, I want to make my way back into features where I know it's crazy in a whole different way. But you have more time to do something great. More time to cast it, more time to shoot it, more time to edit it." That's what was appealing about that to me.

The movie begins when Holly (Heigl) and Messer (Duhamel) meet on a blind date

that goes wrong. Have you had any luck when it comes to blind dates?

I've been on a few blind dates. They're almost always bad (laughs).

There is a famous quote attributed to comedian/writer W.C. Fields about never working with children or animals.

Yes! He was a smart man. There was actually a lost part of that quote that goes, "especially triplets." That's what I tell everybody.

Right, because the Claggett triplets play baby Sophie.

It was crazy, but it was a lot of fun. It was a logistical nightmare in terms of planning their eating and sleeping schedules and how to shoot them in and out of a scene. Having to drop shots all the time and figure out a way to pick them back up.

See Berlanti, page 29

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Hay... ride?

Annual(ish) fall festivity returns to Menjo's

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

That a "petting zoo" is part of the Hot & Horny Hayride calls into question what kind. So founder Jimmy Stewart, the owner of afterhours club Innuendo in Detroit, clarifies: "There are actual barnyard animals!"

No kidding: Every year since 1992, when Stewart launched the festive fall event as a gay bar changeup, piglets are always feeding off their mama.

"So there's actual cute stuff to do," he says. "And then most of the other queers wonder off to the woods and do their own little piglet stuff—you know what I mean?"

Ohhh yeah, we know. And you will, too, if you grab a \$35 ticket to the Hot & Horny Hayride, which leaves from Menjo's Complex at 6 p.m. (be there at 5) and heads to Oxford's Upland Hills Farm until midnight. There, aside from the petting zoo (with barnyard animals), expect dance music and booze of all sorts: jello shots, Jäger, a beer keg and, as Stewart says, "other crazy-ass shit to drink."

"It's a real deal," he adds.

The hayride, which covers the woody, 20-acre farm, lasts about a half-hour and, per usual for these types of wagon whirls, "they drive like crazy and scare the crap out of people."

Things heat up after — at the bonfire, of course, where hot dogs (edible ones, too) and s'mores will be on hand, and also in the woods, where the *other* petting zoo's been known to occur.

Stewart's fingers are crossed for a meaty turnout; he's hoping for a record-breaking four buses and at least 200 people.

So far, so good: "Ticket sales seem to be going pretty well, considering we started selling them before October. Normally I'd just sell them two weeks in advance."

When the bar owner conceived the idea almost 20 years ago, it came out of bar-hopping monotony — one night it was club so-and-so; same with the next. The routine got old.

"We thought of doing a hayride because somebody mentioned to us one night while we were all partying, 'We should go on a hayride!'" he says. "I'm like, 'No — we should *throw* a hayride event and make money!'"

What's interesting is that there's not much of a profit at all, he says, because organizers continually put in more than they reap. That might explain why last year, during economic turmoil, there was no Hot & Horny Hayride: "Everyone was so broke they didn't seem like they had any interest in it, and even though people are still broke now, they still want to do something."

And Stewart's all about coming up with fun little adventures; there's been ski trips, and visits to Frankenmuth and Cedar Point. "I started doing it back then as just a thing to do to get people out of the bar, to do something a little bit different," he says. "When I bought Innuendo, we'd been doing it out of here until we got a little bit of a bad reputation."

Problems at his establishment, particularly safety issues, kept patrons away (Innuendo now, he says, caters mostly to black women — many of whom have also been purchasing tickets to the hayride). That bad rap hurt the turnout for Hot & Horny Hayride, which only attracted about



The Hot & Horny Hayride

5 p.m. Oct. 26

Menjo's Complex

928 W. McNichols, Detroit

Tickets are available at Menjo's, Innuendo, Just 4 Us and Five15

www.menjoscomplex.com

50 people in its last year at Innuendo. When the event shifted locations and landed at Menjo's, more gays showed up. A lot more, in fact — three buses with 56 people in each holds the record for most Hot & Horny Hayriders.

And other highlights?

"I don't know," Stewart says. "By the end of the hayride, I barely remember coming back!"

Nuff said.

white people. We've got to change this up somehow and make it more normal for someone like me, (and represent) the way I think families and neighborhoods are changing. We included this couple and they're not there for any more comic relief than any of the other couples, but they just happen to be gay.

Also, as we can see on the poster, gay viewers will also appreciate...

Josh's physique (laughs). He's very unassuming about his looks and very dedicated to acting. I always like when the characters make the jokes that you know the audience is thinking. There were shots of him running with his shirt off and things like that and he said, "That's gratuitous. I don't want to do that. I only want to do stuff that feels like what Messer would be doing in the moment." I said, "Fine."

So the day came when we were doing

shots of the baby walking around the house in her diaper and one of my friends was there and said, "Why don't you see if Josh will imitate the baby and be in his sneakers and underwear, walking around with the bottle (of beer)?" I went over to him and said, "You're never going to want to do this, because you didn't want to run without your shirt on, but will you walk like the baby?" He was so game. He goes, "That's really funny. I'm going to do it." While he was doing it, I said there's a chance that this will be on the poster and it will be marketed this way and it will be in the trailer, and sure enough it was.

It will bring in the gays.

We hope!

Editor's Note: Additional reporting by Chris Azzopardi.



Fashion in Detroit launches Oct. 22

Twelve runway shows to be featured during annual event

DETROIT — Michigan's premier annual fashion event, Fashion In Detroit, will put a style spotlight on Michigan from Oct. 22-23 at MotorCity Casino Hotel.

Fashion In Detroit is a two-day fashion event co-founded by Joe Faris of "Project Runway," along with Karen Buscemi, K'Kio Hardin, Lians Jadan and Leslie Ann Pilling, to create a venue that fills the needs of many locally based designers and the Michigan fashion community.

The event includes 12 runway shows by a collection of local and national designers (see the list below), designer trunk shows/meet and greets, "Cheers Michigan" product displays, a VIP private reception and an Afterglow bash. Each day's admission ticket includes six fashion shows, gift bags, a souvenir guidebook/lookbook, entrance to the trunk shows and eligibility for high-end giveaways.

Fashion In Detroit will feature top models showcasing the best designs of Spring/Summer 2011. The spacious seating arrangements allow room for 700 buyers, fashion industry insiders, VIP guests and fashion lovers each day.

Tickets are on sale now via Ticketmaster and range from \$35-\$125 for each day's runway shows/trunk shows and \$50 for the Afterglow party. MotorCity Casino Hotel is also offering a discounted room rate of \$119 per night so fashionistas can check in for the weekend, bring their wardrobes and not miss a moment of the annual high-end event.

For more information, visit www.fashionindetroit.com, call 248-677-1769 or e-mail info@fashionindetroit.com.

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6. Peter Hidalgo

Day 2, Oct. 23

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2. Christiane LaRue by Bonnie Foley
3. Moosejaw
4. Heike Jarick
5. Prophetik by Jeff Garner
6. Motor City Denim Co. by Joe Faris

► Berlanti

Continued from p. 27

Obviously, they alter the mood of everyone on the set. I say it was a lot like having a drunk lead actor wandering around, because you never know what mood they're going to be in. They're happy all of a sudden and then everybody else is happy — and then they're screaming. It was a little nuts.

GLBT audiences will probably like the inclusion of gay neighbors Ted (Rob Huebel) and Gary (Bill Brochtrup) in "Life As We Know It."

They were not in the original script. But then none of the neighbors were in the original script. I wanted to add a group of neighbors who acted as a Greek chorus, watching these people.

For me, I didn't just want six straight,

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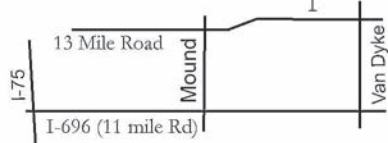


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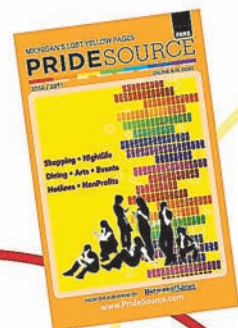
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by Chris Azzopardi

Elton John teams with longtime idol on wonderful 'Union.' Plus: Liza acts her age on covers CD



Elton John and Leon Russell, 'The Union'

In his illustrious four-decade career, Elton John's done it all: cut classics, inspired generations of performers and been one of the greatest gay icons ever. For so long, though, the legend's admiration for Leon Russell, a roots-country crooner, went untouched – until now, as the two marry their musical geniuses into a masterfully written, produced (cut live by tunesmith T Bone Burnett, no less) and performed duets LP. Trademark Elton sneaks in on the boisterous kiss-off "Monkey Suit," heartfelt ballad "The Best Part of the Day" and snarling, piano-licked "Hey Ahab," perhaps due in part to longtime co-writer Bernie Taupin's contributions. But the Rocket Man is still far removed from his signature classic-rock days, falling closer in line with Russell's '70s Americana records. On "The Union," craft ranks over mainstream consumption, and it pays off remarkably with the sarcastic lead-off "If It Wasn't for Bad," a jaunty, nuanced number; "Gone to Shiloh," a moving Civil War narrative, with Neil Young bringing an added ache; and quiet gospel closer "In the Hands of Angels," a song that Elton lets his idol have at alone. It's a testimony to the brotherhood felt throughout, where both artists extract each other's individual best and together, as Elton smoothes out the ruggedness of Russell's drawl, sound like each other's yin and yang. Their "Union" isn't simply a great story of enduring friendship, but one of the best albums of the year. (Out Oct. 19) *Grade: A-*



Liza Minnelli, 'Confessions'

Even Liza Minnelli knew her decision to embarrass herself, and her legendary career, with a "Single Ladies (Put a Ring on It)" remake earlier this year was a bad move – she sounded grossly awful, like she was hobbling to the finish line. Instead of pushing the idea of older-diva-does-youngdiva through to this studio album, her first since 1996's "Gently," she embraces every day of her 64 years of age with a classy covers collection that plays to her strengths and avoids emphasizing her weaknesses. Her voice, more jeans than spandex these days, doesn't go for flash, but is understated and expertly suited for the quiet intimacy that producer and longtime collaborator Bruce Roberts is fetching. The 14 standards are scaled back, never giving Liza's now-husky alto more than it can handle – no orchestras, no showstoppers – with its jazzy, dinner party arrangements. "Confession," originally from "The Band Wagon" and opening the set, perfectly complements her personality, but even with better-known favorites like Frank Sinatra's "All the Way" and Etta James' "At Last," she holds her own, reaching more for the song's soul and less for its vocal cartwheels. The soft-sounding ease of it all could use more oomph, even

with the zing of "You Fascinate Me So," and is sometimes tediously muddled, but "Confessions" is still a mature and dignified way to keep Liza's 60-year career rolling. Hell, we'd put a ring on it. *Grade: B*

Also Out



Lizz Wright, 'Fellowship'

Lizz Wright's got some voice – a supple, rich contralto that, on her new "secular gospel" offering, could trigger chills through non-believers. After submerging it into jazz and blues, Wright honors her Georgia roots with emotionally stirring results – impressing with the glorious "God Specializes," Eric Clapton's "Presence of the Lord" and "Amazing Grace," made into a minimalistic mover. With help from Sweet Honey in the Rock's Bernice Reagon, and daughter Toshi, Wright's fourth album is a transcendent journey of life, spirituality and deeply felt feeling.



Shontelle, 'No Gravity'

Whoever Shontelle is seems irrelevant on much of her sophomore set, where she's a pop singer left to imitate rather than initiate. Rihanna comparisons – especially on the dancefloor punch of "Take Ova" – are inevitable, but the Barbadian 23-year-old's also doing her best Estelle impression on "DJ Made Me Do It." Even then, and even with a talented production team, she can't find a way to make her own. Shontelle sounds mostly outdated, cheap and lyrically shallow, but the lead single, "Impossible," shows she may still have a shot at defying "Gravity."

Reach Chris Azzopardi at chris@pridesource.com.

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Stormfield launches 'Among Friends'

BY BRIDGETTE M. REDMAN

Often it is the smallest actions that can reveal the most about a person's character – but not always in the way it might first appear.

In its first fully staged production, Stormfield Theatre meshes three highly talented actors with "Among Friends," a script written by its artistic director, Kristine Thatcher.

William Bannon, Aral Gribble and John Lepard create believable connections for three long-term friends. They effortlessly produce all the right tensions and attitudes with a comfort level that immediately provides the backdrop against which all the action takes place.

The easy banter begins around the poker table, where it doesn't take long for each man to establish his place in the pecking order. Dan (Lepard) and Will (Bannon) are the competing alpha males with Dan most often coming out on top. Matt (Gribble) is content to play second fiddle to both, providing comic relief when things get tense and mediating between the two brothers-in-law.

The crux of the play occurs early when Will catches Dan cheating at poker, but doesn't immediately confront him. Instead, he lets his anger at his friend's dishonesty stew until it boils over to besmirch his view of everything that Dan does. In an instant,



John Lepard stars in Stormfield Theatre's first fully staged production, "Among Friends." Photo: Sandra Debnar

the friendship chills, though it takes weeks for Dan and Will to get it all out in the open, each using Matt as his sounding board.

Lepard is skillful in this presentation of Dan, subtly playing him so that the audience is left to wonder whether he truly is a schmuck who puts on a good act or whether he lives up to his reputation as humanitarian of the year.

While the exploration of friendship, forgiveness, jealousy and long-standing resentments is fraught with tensions and

REVIEW

'Among Friends'

Stormfield Theatre, 201 Morgan Lane, Lansing. Thursday-Sunday through Oct. 31. \$25. 517-372-0945. www.stormfieldtheatre.org

some heavy revelations, it is balanced by the gentle humor and easy laughter that good friends share.

There were some problems with sight-lines, particularly when the action is limited to a poker table. The middle section has a perfect view, but for those sitting on the side, there were prolonged periods where all that could be seen was one actor's side and the other actor's back – which was blocking off sight to the third actor. It also required a fair amount of craning to be able to see all three of the characters.

The set easily accommodated the need to portray three different rooms, with furnishings staying in place and props being used to identify which person's house the set currently represents.

With "Among Friends," Stormfield sends its audiences out from its new home well-entertained and with a doggy bag of questions about whether our flaws define us or are the exception that proves the rule of our character.

'West Side Story' offers surprises

BY MARTIN F. KOHN

"West Side Story" is about belonging – to another person, to a group, to a culture, to America itself – and its opposite: being left out. Without that connection, as Tony sings to Maria, "the world was just an address, a place for me to live in, no better than alright."

Amid other themes, "West Side Story" has always been about inclusion, but Arthur Laurents brings this idea front and center in his illuminating production whose national tour was officially launched Wednesday at the Fisher Theatre. Laurents, who wrote the book for the 1957 original – music and lyrics by Leonard Bernstein and Stephen Sondheim, respectively – amplifies the concept to give a landmark American musical new vitality.

To be sure, everything enduring about "West Side Story" remains intact: the Romeo-and-Juliet tale reset among rival gangs, the "American" Jets and the Puerto Rican Sharks; choreography, fluid and intense, that could tell the story by itself if there weren't any words; songs that became classics in what seemed like an instant: "Tonight," "I Feel Pretty," "Somewhere," "Something's Coming," "America," "Maria." All of it performed by a cast of mostly triple-threat (act/dance/sing) artists led by Kyle Harris as Tony and Ai Ewoldt as Maria.

The biggest innovation that Laurents brought to his still-running 2009 Broadway revival which the current tour (directed by



"West Side Story" is heating up the Fisher Theatre through Oct. 16. Photo: Joan Marcus

David Saint) replicates is having the Puerto Rican characters speak and sing in Spanish, not just English. Non-Spanish speakers (like me) will easily grasp what's going on, even if they don't understand every word and even if they've never seen "West Side Story" before. If you feel a little left out, welcome to the Sharks' experience in English-speaking New York.

It brings a little more evenhandedness to a show that's already balanced remarkably well. Musicals tend to be front-loaded, but both the first and second act of "West Side Story" have great songs and high drama. Each faction gets its delicious comic number: "America" for Anita (Michelle Aravena) and the Shark Girls; "Gee, Of-

REVIEW

'West Side Story'

Fisher Theatre, 3011 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit. Tuesday-Sunday through Oct. 16. \$39-\$89 (includes parking and facility fees). 1-800-982-2787. www.broadwayindetroit.com.

ficer Krupke" for the Jets. Both Tony and Anita reluctantly try to be peacekeepers, with disastrous results.

While the added Spanish has garnered the most attention, the most brilliant innovation suggests that inclusion means everybody – and Anybods.

Anybods is a would-be Jet, a girl who looks, dresses and acts like one of the boys. The boys regard her as an oddity, not quite female, not really one of them. Today we would understand her as a transgender person. Who better, then, to begin singing "There's a place for us, somewhere a place for us" in the dream scene that envisions a better world? Sung by Alexandra Frohlinger as Anybods, the moment registers with astonishing power.

Making great impressions, too, are the set change from the neighborhood to the rumble under the highway and some raunchy, hilarious sight gags that spice up "Gee, Officer Krupke."

As the new incarnation of "West Side Story" begins life on the road, I feel pretty good about its chances.

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Sean Coyne

Safe athletes at Bucknell

were always gay “jokes,” with track athletes putting each other down as “fags” or “homos.”

But Coyne was not a quitter. He told himself he was better than the teammates making unsuspecting comments. He stayed, and ran.

That spring he came out to his best friend, a fellow hurdler. It was inadvertent—the teammate had seen an IM on Coyne’s computer—but he felt less anxious when his friend supported him fully. Slowly, Coyne came out to more teammates. Yet, the anti-gay locker room comments continued, and he felt powerless to stop them.

As a junior, he grew more comfortable. He told two captains that their homophobic language perpetuated a negative team culture. They understood. Almost instantly, the slurs stopped.

Emboldened, Coyne joined a club associated with Bucknell’s Office of LGBT Awareness. He became a speaker in the “Safe Space” peer education program, presenting LGBT issues to fraternities and sororities. But he was not part of the Greek system, so when he was offered the chance to work with the athletic department he shifted his focus.

He tailored his presentation to the athletic issues he was so familiar

with. For example, he described the difficulty of cooperating on the field while feeling marginalized off it, and discussed the effect anti-gay comments have on recruits who may be gay—or have gay relatives or friends.

Some coaches supported the effort. Others dragged their feet. They were in the middle of their season, they said, or they wanted to wait until the following year, when new freshmen arrived.

The first team Coyne addressed was his own. Both the men’s and women’s track squads soon voted—unanimously—to make their teams “Safe Spaces.”

In the 2009-10 school year, Coyne presented to 10 teams. Besides the track squads, five others—women’s lacrosse, men’s and women’s swimming and diving, women’s field hockey and women’s crew—voted unanimously to be “Safe Spaces.”

Forty men’s lacrosse players favored the idea. Two dissented.

“The idea really hits home,” Coyne says. “You figure, ‘Why shouldn’t we be a safe space?’ Everyone might not agree 100 percent, or be a big ally, but they get it. And it’s huge for them that the message comes from a fellow athlete.”

Despite the dissenting votes,

men’s lacrosse “got it” more than most other teams. One night last fall, Coyne took guest speaker Brian Sims—an attorney who as an out captain in 2000 led his Bloomsburg University team to the NCAA Division II national championship—to a bar. The lax stars were there. A heartfelt discussion followed—leading soon after to the gay dance party they attended and enjoyed.

Last spring, Coyne graduated with a degree in animal behavior. He’s now at the University of Chicago, working toward his masters in human development. His goal is to earn a Ph.D.

Though he’s gone, Bucknell’s “Safe Space” athletic program is in good hands. Coyne’s former roommate—a gay track athlete—is taking the program over, with two females. One is a lesbian water polo player. The other is a soccer player—and straight.

Who better to speak to athletes about homophobia than fellow competitors who care about the issue? And who cares if they’re gay or straight? They just have to shoot straight.

Dan Woog is a journalist and author of the “Jocks” series of books on gay male athletes. Visit his website at www.danwoog.com. Reach him care of this publication or at OutField@qsyndicate.com.

Men’s lacrosse was the last team Sean Coyne thought he’d see at Bucknell University’s gay dance party.

But that’s where they were last spring. They came not to mock the event, but to have a good time. Later, several players thanked Coyne for inviting them.

He was a fellow athlete—a track star—but the gulf between Coyne and the laxmen loomed large just a few months earlier. The atmosphere on the lacrosse team was far from gay-friendly.

It wasn’t much better on the track squad, surprisingly, when Coyne arrived in 2006. A highly recruited runner and hurdler from Freehold, N.J., he picked the prestigious liberal arts school for its stellar academics

and gorgeous campus, plus the good vibe he got from fellow track recruits.

Coyne had known he was “different” since Catholic grammar school (though he did not have a name for it then). At his public high school he realized “this was real.” But to avoid dealing with the reality of being gay, he submerged himself in activities. Coyne took AP classes, was active in the National Honor Society, joined the Latin Club and had a part-time job.

“I kept as busy as possible so I wouldn’t have to explain why I wasn’t seeing someone,” he explains. It was a classic—and literal—case of running away.

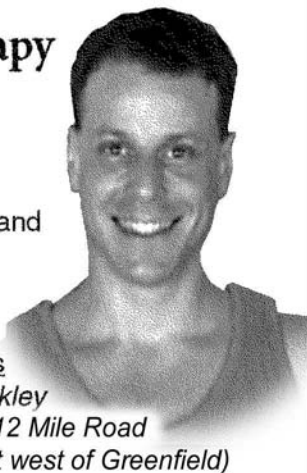
When he got to Bucknell, he stayed in the closet. The locker room door seemed firmly shut to gays. The team environment was crude. There

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'Evil Dead: The Musical' – the gory story

BY JOHN QUINN

If I may take a page from the playbook of Supreme Court Justice Potter Stewart, I shall not today attempt further to define "camp" - but I know it when I see it, and the musical involved in this review is definitely that. On a personal note: I like camp when I see it. "Evil Dead: The Musical" is a raucous, raunchy utterly hilarious homage to writer and director Sam Raimi's '80s trilogy of slasher films. Successfully produced last year by Who Wants Cake? at the Ringwald Theatre in Ferndale, the "dead" have staggered down Woodward to haunt the larger space of the City Theatre.

Ash Williams and his kid sister Cheryl, Ash's girlfriend Linda, his best friend Scott and his girl Shelly take off for a spring break at a desolate mountain cabin. Prying through the cabin owner's belongings, they turn up an ancient Book of the Dead and unwittingly awaken an evil force dormant in the woods. If you're up to date on your basic bloody horror film, you already know the drill. Nice young people turned into evil Candarian demons; murder, blood, gore, corpses reanimated to continue the carnage - just your typical late-night double feature picture show.

"Evil Dead: The Musical" skewers the genre and all its stereotypes, roasts it and serves it up like shish-kabob on a splattered platter. It has been described as the only musical with a "splatter zone." Indeed. The first three rows are reserved for the brave (or foolhardy) willing to risk the torrents of blood spewing from the stage. Please note, though, that some five rows of seats have been slip-covered in Hefty Bags and dress accordingly. Sharpen your "CSI" skills and guess if you're getting hit by weapon castoff, gravitational staining or arterial spurting.

It should come as no surprise that the show has picked up a cult following, and there will be patrons who know the



Mitchell Koory repeats his 2010 Wilde Award-winning role of as Ash in "Evil Dead: The Musical," playing at The City Theatre. Photo: Colleen Scribner.

show better than you do. In fact, in classic "Rocky Horror" fashion, the dedicated "Deadites" will chorus some of the catch phrases. Even if you're seeing it for the first time, it's like going to a party not knowing anybody and ending up feeling right at home.

The book and lyrics by George Reinblatt are never subtle, frequently profane and consistently funny. Marrying a musical score to slash-and-stab horror seems "a tad inconsistent," but when it works, it works well. The play is, however, a technical nightmare and it is remarkable how all involved make it look so slick. "Sleight of hand" is an appropriate description here in more ways than one, but "losing one's head" is only done for our enjoyment. Director Joe Plambeck, who has kept this bloody show on course for both area productions, is the successful mastermind

REVIEW

'Evil Dead: The Musical'

Who Wants Cake? at City Theatre, 2301 Woodward Ave, Detroit. Friday-Sunday through Oct. 31. \$30 general admission; \$35 reserved "splatter" seats. 1-800-745-3000. www.whowantscaketheatre.com.

of this mayhem.

Also returning this season is Mitchell Koory, winner of the 2010 Wilde Award for Best Actor in a Musical for his first turn as our hero, Ash. An actor taking this role needs to be singer/dancer/actor/athlete, and Koory scores in every category. Also returning is Christa Coulter as Cheryl, an audience favorite. Since Cheryl is the first character doomed to Candarian demonhood, Coulter has first crack at shedding niceness and showing us what evil's all about. She makes the most of her advantage. In addition, Cheryl's one liners are so bad they can only be described as - evil.

Rounding out the cast are Allyson Ortwein as Linda, Tim Kay as the sex-crazed Scott, Leah Victoria in the dual role of Shelly and Anne, Jeff Bobick as Anne's boyfriend Ed and "good old reliable Jake" David Schoen. Don't blink or you will miss David Woitulewicz as Professor Knowby. These are great voices all in solos and duets, less so in chorus - they're a little muddled in parts due to the nature of the theater and Jerry Haines vigorous choreography. If you think singing and dancing at the same time isn't hard, you've got another thing coming.

Here's a thought! "Evil Dead: The Musical" and other shows might become like "A Christmas Carol" for Halloween! I've always wanted to take a chain saw to that Tiny Tim kid.

Hope, promise pass through 'Blue Door'

BY BRIDGETTE M. REDMAN

There is a place insomniacs visit that is more vivid than reality and more grotesque than any nightmare. It is a barren, lonely vista where time no longer exists and the past tumbles together with the present in an attempt to determine the future.

At Williamston Theatre, the cast and crew of "Blue Door" capture the late-night clarity of an insomniac's struggle in their incisive and haunting production of Tanya Barfield's play. Lewis, a mathematics professor whose wife has just left him, is seeking solace in a bottle while trying to make sense of his loneliness and loss. His careful, analytic approach gets interrupted by his dead brother, Rex, who storms into his head and demands that he look to his heritage for the answers to his woes.

Like all Williamston shows, "Blue Door" sends its audiences home with much to ponder and discuss. While Lewis' heritage and the oppression that shaped it are

REVIEW

'Blue Door'

Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam Rd., Williamston. Thursday-Sunday through Oct. 17. \$15-\$24. 517-655-7469. www.williamstontheatre.org.

uniquely a part of the African-American experience, the themes are ones that people of any race can relate to. For "Blue Door" asks us to contemplate whether fleeing from our heritage is a form of self-loathing, and challenges us to find a way to understand the effect that the past has on our present and come to peace with it.

Rico Bruce Wade infuses Lewis with dignified self-denial, an escape artist who deals with issues of race, self-identity and personal crisis by compartmentalizing and ignoring. He hasn't made peace with his past; he's avoided it and pretends he is

unaffected by it. His skilled acting keeps Lewis' inner monologue from becoming self-indulgent and bars any dishonesty from his denial. Instead, he slowly reveals himself, believably taking the audience on a journey through four generations.

Lewis is a man who believes he has risen above his past and that its horrors can no longer touch him. He shuts out his family from his memories, not noticing that he is isolating himself from those still inhabiting his life.

When Julian Gant's Rex confronts him and accuses him of ignoring his race and washing his hands of his identity, Lewis fights back aggressively claiming he wants no part of the "black mafia" that accuses African-Americans of not being black enough.

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

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The world according to Isaac

BY MICHAEL H. MARGOLIN

The Jewish Ensemble Theatre opened its 2010-11 season Saturday night with a big joke - well, actually a series of them, in James Sherman's "The God of Isaac."

Sherman, best known for his play, "Beau Jest", has a nice ear for dialogue and a store of popular Jewish humor that goes back to Lenny Bruce, Shelly Berman and the famous Borscht Belt resorts in the Catskills, in upper New York state where many uber-talents of Jewish humordom had their start in the last century.

But wait, I am ahead of myself: The play takes place around 1977 and ends in 1982, in and around Chicago and suburban Skokie, and in two acts. The central character, Isaac Adams, is a small "j" jew who sets off on a quest to become a big "J" Jew - or at least one who knows what it means to be Jewish, not just born to a

R E V I E W

'The God of Isaac'

Jewish Ensemble Theatre at the Aaron DeRoy Theatre, 6600 West Maple Rd., West Bloomfield. Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday & Sunday through Oct. 31. \$32-\$41. 248-788-2900. www.jettheatre.org



Arthur Beer as Dad and Michael Brian Ogden as Isaac in "The God of Isaac." Photo: The Jewish Ensemble Theatre Company

Jewish mother.

As Isaac, Michael Brian Ogden, who is in nearly every scene, plays the addled, confused, angry, young man - I make him to be about 30 - pitch perfectly. Just watching him transition from one scene to another, in and out of the narrator role and into his character is a pleasure I point out because it looks so seamless one might not notice.

This is how the play works: He tells

us that he is playing a character and mentions that his mother is in the audience. Indeed, Henrietta Hermelin-Weinberg, who plays his mother, is actually seated in the audience and has a small, circular light which embraces her for her dialogue interchanges.

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

'Dracula' bites (but in a very fun way!)

BY DONALD V. CALAMIA

To call Meadow Brook Theatre's season-opening production of "Dracula, A Rock Opera" a monstrous undertaking is both an understatement and a bad pun. But only moments into the show - as a stagecoach comes rolling onto the stage thanks to a constantly used turntable built into the floor - it quickly becomes apparent that the 45th anniversary season is starting with one of the theater's most tech-heavy shows in recent memory (or may be ever). And with nary an obvious flaw in its execution, "Dracula" - if nothing else - is one of the most ambitious and technologically impressive shows in an already exciting new season of theater across the state.

The question, then, becomes this: Will theatergoers - used to a rather traditional slate of comedies, mysteries and musicals at the venerable theater - enjoy a rather seductive version of this classic

R E V I E W

'Dracula, A Rock Opera'

Meadow Brook Theatre, 220 N. Squirrel Rd., Rochester. Wednesday-Sunday through Oct. 31. \$30-\$39. 248-377-3300. www.mbtheatre.com



Andrea Mellos as Wilhelmina and Billy Konsoer as Dracula. Photo: Rick Smith

vampire tale, especially since the story unfolds without a word of dialogue? (Yes, you read that correctly: "Dracula" - as the complete title accurately identifies - is indeed a rock opera, which means every line delivered by the actors is sung, not spoken.)

Based on the slick and very entertaining opening night performance (and if the responses overheard during intermission and after the performance are any indication) - the answer should be a resounding "yes!"

The adaptation by John R. Briggs (with music and lyrics by Briggs and Dennis West) brings to life the 1897 novel by Bram Stoker. British solicitor Jonathan Harker (Eric Gutman) arrives in Transylvania on business and finds the townsfolk rather superstitious after they learn the reason for his visit - to see the nefarious Count Dracula (Billy Konsoer).

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

The Encore's 'Damn Yankees' has heart

BY DONALD V. CALAMIA

In an era of angst-filled, opera-like musicals, it's a treat to occasionally revisit a once-popular, Tony Award-winning classic that hearkens back to simpler times - an era when "love conquers all" is enough of a moral to satisfy theatergoers who then return home feeling thoroughly entertained. And that's pretty much the case with "Damn Yankees," the devilishly delightful musical now on stage at The Encore Musical Theatre in Dexter.

Based on the novel "The Year the Yankees Lost the Pennant" and first staged on Broadway in 1955, "Damn Yankees" is most remembered today for its songs ("Heart," "Shoeless Joe from Hannibal, Mo." and "Whatever Lola Wants, Lola Gets") than anything else - and very few theaters in the area have staged it in recent years. But there's a reason for that: While the tunes by Richard Adler and Jerry Ross

R E V I E W

'Damn Yankees'

The Encore Musical Theatre Company, 3126 Broad St., Dexter. Thursday-Sunday through Oct. 24. \$28. 734-268-6200. <http://theencoretheatre.org>



Steve DeBruyne and Sonja Marquis in "Damn Yankees." Photo: The Encore Musical Theatre Company.

will stick with you for hours or days after you see the show, the script by George Abbott and Douglass Wallop - although sweet and uplifting - is fairly pedestrian. And the ending is telegraphed very early in the first act.

The challenge for any director, then, is to populate the production with performers who not only can sing and dance well, but who can take their often sketchy roles and fill them with life, energy and personality. And that's precisely what

director Dan Cooney has accomplished with his production.

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

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EDITOR'S PICK

The Michigan Gay Officers' Action League will present a talk with producer and public speaker Greg R. Baird at 7 p.m. Oct. 22 at Edgewood United Church in East Lansing.

Baird, a Michigan native, is the executive producer of "Matthew Shepard & Laramie, WY, Twelve Years Later," a documentary that explores the long-lasting effects of the 1998 anti-gay hate crime that left Shepard dead and the nation shocked. The discussion about his work will be held in honor of LGBT History Month, and will focus on the education efforts for youth, hate crimes legislation and the impact of Shepard's murder.

The discussion is free, although donations to MI-GOAL are appreciated. To learn more, e-mail goalmi@aol.com, or visit www.edgewooducc.org.

OUTINGS

Thursday, Oct. 14

LGBT Michigan Artists Invitational Exhibition, 9 a.m. Held in honor of Joann A. Downing, wish works by local LGBT artists. Greater Flint Arts Council Gallery, 816 S. Saginaw, Flint. 810-238-ARTS. www.greaterflintartscouncil.org

Coming Out Day, 10 a.m. A day of information and discussion about LGBT issues. Hosted by Out 'n About. Grand Valley State University, Allendale. outabout@mail.gvsu.edu

Meet 'n Greet, 7 p.m. A meeting for LGBT and allied people ages 18-33 for dinner, drinks and conversation. Hosted by the 20 Somethings. Ferndale Public Library, 222 E. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. www.the20somethings.org

Friday, Oct. 15

MSU GLBT Homecoming Reception, 6:30 p.m. Meets in the Cornishe Room following the parade, with dinner, cash bar, music and more. Tickets: \$20. Hosted by the MSU Alumni Association. Kellogg Center, Michigan State University, East Lansing.

Saturday, Oct. 16

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. Lansing Association for Human Rights, 1712 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 517-410-9494. www.lahronline.org

Flu Shot Clinic, 11 a.m. Provided in collaboration with Rite Aid Pharmacy. Without insurance, prices range from \$20-25. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org

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

Homocoming, 7 p.m. The annual dance for LGBT youth with snacks, live DJ and Homocoming court. Tickets: \$5. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org

Monday, Oct. 18

Ally Dinner Gala, 6 p.m. A black tie, three-course meal in honor of National Allies Week, with a performance by the Detroit Together Men's Chorus. Suggested donation: \$10. Hosted by OUT! at LTU. Taubman Building, Lawrence Tech University, Southfield. outatltu@gmail.com

Lecture by historian Tim Retzlaff, 6 p.m. Join Retzlaff as he shares some of his research on the history of Michigan's LGBT community. Hosted by the Gender and Sexuality Alliance. University Center, University of Michigan-Dearborn, Dearborn. bmjenkin@umd.umich.edu. <http://gsa.umd.umich.edu>

Wednesday, Oct. 20

Queer the Quad, 11 a.m. With information booths from local LGBT groups and businesses. Hosted by OUT! at LTU. The Quad, Lawrence Tech University, Southfield. outatltu@gmail.com

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. Lansing Association for Human Rights, 1712 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 517-410-9494. www.lahronline.org

Ties Like Me Fifth Anniversary, 5:30 p.m. A fifth anniversary celebration for the LGBT professional networking group. No cover. Ties Like Me, 345 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. www.tieslikeme.org

Candidates Night, 7 p.m. A chance to meet local candidates and hear their stances on important issues. Michigan NOW, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. www.michnow.org

The Legacy of Matthew Shepard, 7 p.m. A discussion with Judy Shepard on ending hate. Hosted by OUT! at LTU. Ridler Field House, Lawrence Tech University, Southfield. outatltu@gmail.com

Thursday, Oct. 21

Kicked Out the Jams, 6 p.m. A benefit for Ozone House, which supports homeless or at-risk LGBT youth, with performances by Drag King Rebellion, Nervous But Excited and Just Jill. Tickets: \$7. Corner Brewery, 720 Norris Street, Ypsilanti. www.ozonehouse.org

Friday, Oct. 22

Blue Devil Drag Show, 6 p.m. A talent show with professional and amateur drag queens and kings. Cover: \$2 for non-students/faculty/staff. Hosted by OUT! at LTU. Science Building, Lawrence Tech University, Southfield. outatltu@gmail.com

An Evening with Greg R. Baird, 7 p.m. A talk with the producer of a documentary about Matthew Shepard. Free, but donations suggested to support the Michigan Gay Officers' Action League. Edgewood United Church, 469 N. Hagadorn, East Lansing. goalmi@aol.com. www.edgewooducc.org

Saturday, Oct. 23

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. Lansing Association for Human Rights, 1712 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 517-410-9494. www.lahronline.org

Membership Appreciation and Drive Party, 5 p.m. Drinks, games, fun and brotherhood. Non-members \$10, or become a member for \$30 and it's free. Black and White Men Together, TBA, 248-219-0772. bwmtdetroit@sbcglobal.net

Michigan Pride Red Party, 7 p.m. A four-venue party and fundraiser for Michigan Pride with live entertainment, dancing and more. Wristbands: \$10. Michigan Pride, 1247 Center Street, Lansing. www.michiganpride.org

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BENEFITS/SOCIAL EVENTS

Detroit Red Wings "Steppin' Out Red Wings Fundraiser" A chance to see the Red Wings play the Anaheim Ducks and raise funds for Steppin' Out. Tickets: \$35, which includes food voucher. Joe Louis Arena, 600 Civic Center Drive, Detroit. 7 p.m. Oct. 23. 313-394-7157. www.aidswalkdetroit.org

EMU Varsity Diving Team "Diving Stunt Show" A fundraiser for the diving team, with longest dive, six-person dive and more. Admission: \$7 adults, \$5 students. Jones Natatorium, Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti. 3 p.m. Oct. 16.

Fashion In Detroit LLC "Fashion In Detroit" With designers including Peter Hidalgo, Familia Couture, Motor City Denim and more. Tickets: \$35-125. \$50 for afterglow parties. MotorCity Casino, 2901 Grand River Ave., Detroit. 1 p.m. Oct. 22, 1 p.m. Oct. 23. 248-677-1769. www.fashionindetroit.com

Friends for the Dearborn Animal Shelter "Black Tie & Tails" The 10th anniversary, with the theme "Rescues are Diamonds in the Rough." Includes appetizers, dinner, drinks and entertainment. Tickets: \$175.

The Dearborn Inn, 20301 Oakwood Blvd., Dearborn. 7 p.m. Oct. 22. www.dearbornanimals.org

Gallery U "Ladies' Night Out" A trunk show and handmade jewelry exhibit for women. Gallery U, 310 Fourth Street, Royal Oak. 6 p.m. Oct. 14. 248-399-7322. <http://gallery-u.blogspot.com>

Grace Centers of Hope "Giggles for Grace" A charity fundraiser with lots of laughs. Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle, 310 S. Troy, Royal Oak. 6 p.m. Oct. 19. 248-334-2178. www.gracecentersofhope.org

HAVEN "Witch's Brew" A costume party and fundraiser for HAVEN, which works toward ending domestic violence. Tickets: \$25. Leon & Lulu, 96 W. 14 Mile Road, Clawson. 7 p.m. Oct. 22. 248-288-3600. www.haven-oakland.org

Scarab Club "Primary Colors" A masquerade ball fundraiser, with entertainment, food and a silent auction. Tickets: \$65 in advance, \$75 at the door. Scarab Club, 217 Farnsworth, Detroit. 7:30 p.m. Oct. 16. 313-831-1250. www.scarabclub.org

The Henry Ford "Hallowe'en" With trick-or-treating, walk through "Sleepy Hollow" and dinner packages available. Tickets: \$12.75 members, \$15 non-members. Greenfield Village, 20900 Oakwood, Dearborn. Oct. 8 - Oct. 24. 313-982-6001. www.thehenryford.org

Wayne County "Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration" A dinner celebrating Latino educational empowerment and achievement, with keynote speaker Dr. Carlos Lopez. Free. El Kiosko Banquet Hall, 2721 Dix Street, Detroit. 6 p.m. Oct. 14. 313-833-3438.

CLASSICAL

Jewish Community Center of Metro Detroit "Anastasia Rizikov Performance" A performance by the child prodigy pianist. Tickets: \$10. Jewish Community Center, 15110 W. 10 Mile Road, Oak Park. 3 p.m. Oct. 17. 248-967-4030. www.jccdet.org

Lansing Symphony Orchestra "Cirque de la Symphonie" Featuring live acrobatics accompanied by the "greatest hits" of the orchestral repertoire. Tickets: \$12-40. Wharton Center, Michigan State University, East Lansing. 8 p.m. Oct. 15. 517-487-5001. www.lansingsymphony.org

MSU College of Music "Symphony Orchestra" Performing works by Beethoven, Lorenz and Ravel. Tickets: \$10 adults, \$8 seniors, free for students. Wharton Center, Michigan State University, East Lansing. 8 p.m. Oct. 22. 517-432-2000. www.music.msu.edu

Pro Musica Society of Detroit "ETA3" The opening of Pro Musica's 84th season. Tickets: \$45. Music Box at Orchestra Hall, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 8:30 p.m. Oct. 15. 313-886-9074. www.promusicadetroit.org

University Musical Society "Schubert Song Cycle Concert" A performance by the Takacs Quartet. Tickets start at \$24. Rackham Auditorium, 915 E. Washington, Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Oct. 14. www.ums.org

University Musical Society "Takacs Quartet" With pianist Jeffrey Kahane, performing works by Schubert. Tickets start at \$24. Rackham Auditorium, 915 E. Washington, Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Oct. 14. www.ums.org

Wayne State University College of Engineering "The Music of Engineering" Engineering faculty and staff will show off their musical talents in a program of Haydn, Mozart and a brand new piece written by Keith Buckner specifically for the college. Danto Engineering Development Center, 5050 Anthony Wayne Drive, Detroit. 6 p.m. Oct. 22. 313-964-5090.

CONCERTS

City of Farmington Hills "Three Men and a Tenor" A performance by the hilarious group. Tickets: \$19 adults, \$17 students and seniors. Farmington Players Barn Theatre, 3232 W. 12 Mile Road, Farmington Hills. 7:30 p.m. Oct. 22, 7:30 p.m. Oct. 23. 248-473-1848.

Kerrytown Concert House "Mikolaj Trzaska Duo" With Steve Swell on trombone. Tickets: \$5-25. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Oct. 14. 734-769-2999. www.kerrytownconcerthouse.com

Kerrytown Concert House "Tamir Hendelman Trio" A jazz concert with the award-winning pianist. Tickets: \$15-30. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Oct. 15. 734-769-2999. www.kerrytownconcerthouse.com

Lager House "All-Girl Boys Choir" With special guests Peeland Z and The Birthday Suits. Lager House, 1254 Michigan Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. Oct. 15. www.pjslagerhouse.com

Olympia Entertainment "Godsmack" With special guests Drowning Pool and Five Finger Death Punch. Tickets: \$25-45. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 7:30 p.m. Oct. 16. www.ticketmaster.com

Olympia Entertainment "Mary J. Blige" With Jazmine Sullivan, and special guests El DeBarge and Miguel. Tickets: \$59.75-99.75. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 7:30 p.m. Oct. 15. www.ticketmaster.com

Olympia Entertainment "Championship of Hip Hop" An old school vs. new school face-off, with Snoop Dogg, Ice Cube, Young Jeezy, Plies, Fat Joe, Yo-Yo, The Game and Trina. Tickets: \$58-98. Joe Louis Arena, 600 Civic Center Drive, Detroit. 7 p.m. Oct. 16. www.ticketmaster.com

The Magic Bag "Alejandro Escovedo" With his band, The Sensitive Boys. Tickets: \$20. The Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. 8 p.m. Oct. 14. 248-544-1991. www.themagicbag.com

University Musical Society "Jerusalem Quartet" Performing works by Mendelssohn, Kopytman and Brahms. Tickets: \$20. Rackham Auditorium, 915 E. Washington, Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Oct. 21. www.ums.org

DANCE

Eisenhower Dance Ensemble "On The Move" The kickoff of the 20th

anniversary season. Tickets: \$17 adults, \$9 students. Varner Recital Hall, 2200 N. Squirrel Road, Rochester. 8 p.m. Oct. 23, 2 p.m. Oct. 24. 248-370-3013. www.ede-dance.org

Olympia Entertainment "So You Think You Can Dance Live" With performances by last season's favorites. Tickets: \$37.50-55. Joe Louis Arena, 600 Civic Center Drive, Detroit. 6:30 p.m. Oct. 20. www.ticketmaster.com

University Musical Society "Resonance From Far Away" A performance by dance company Sankai Juku. Tickets start at \$18. Power Center, 121 Fletcher, Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Oct. 23, 2 p.m. Oct. 24. www.ums.org

FILM & VIDEO

Friends of the Penn "The Invisible Man" Part of the Shocktober Thursday Classics series. Tickets: \$3. Penn Theatre, 760 Penniman Ave., Plymouth. 7 p.m. Oct. 14. 734-453-0870. www.penntheatre.com

Friends of the Penn "The Wolf Man" Part of the Shocktober Thursday Classics series. Tickets: \$3. Penn Theatre, 760 Penniman Ave., Plymouth. 7 p.m. Oct. 21. 734-453-0870. www.penntheatre.com

Kresge Art Museum "Contemporary Days" A film on the designs of Lucienne and Robin Day. Shown in Room W449. MSU Mail Library, Michigan State University, East Lansing. 7 p.m. Oct. 21. 517-884-0659. www.artmuseum.msu.edu

Michigan Theater "Grease Sing-Along" With costume parade, goodie bags, on-screen lyrics and more. Tickets: \$12 adults, \$10 students, seniors and veterans. Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor. 7:30 p.m. Oct. 14, 5 p.m. Oct. 17. www.michtheater.org

Michigan Theater "Beetle Queen Conquers Tokyo" A special showing of this Japanese documentary. Tickets: \$9 adults, \$7 students, seniors and veterans. Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor. 7 p.m. Oct. 19. www.michtheater.org

WOTHER

Ann Arbor Antiques Market "Ann Arbor Antiques Market" Reuse, recycle, buy vintage! Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor-Saline Road, Ann Arbor. 7 a.m. Oct. 16. 734-662-0496. www.annaborantiquesmarket.com

Dawn Farm "Alcoholics Anonymous Panel Discussion" A slide show, history of AA and lively discussion. St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, 5305 Elliott Drive, Ypsilanti. 7:30 p.m. Oct. 19. 734-485-8725. www.dawnfarm.org

Everybody Reads "Book Reading with Scott Southard" The Lansing author will be sharing from his books "My Problem With Doors" and "Megan." Free. Everybody Reads Bookstore, 2019 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 6 p.m. Oct. 21. www.becauseeverybodyreads.com

Everybody Reads "Ted McClelland Discussion" The debut of the Lansing native's latest book, "Young Mr. Obama." Everybody Reads Bookstore, 2019 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 12 p.m. Oct. 23. www.becauseeverybodyreads.com



EDITOR'S PICK

Supporters of HIV/AIDS advocacy nonprofit Steppin' Out can now raise funds for the organization while getting a chance to see the legendary Detroit Red Wings take on the Anaheim Ducks.

The game, which takes place 7 p.m. Oct. 23 at Joe Louis Arena, has group tickets available for purchase with a portion of proceeds going to Steppin' Out, which provides financial support to HIV/AIDS direct care service agencies in the state. Tickets are \$35, which includes both a seat at the game and a food voucher for a hot dog and small soda. Plus, \$5 from every ticket will go to Steppin' Out.

Tickets can be purchased via phone or fax. To order tickets, call Annie Moore at 313-294-7157 or e-mail her at annie.moore@hockeytown.com. To learn more about Steppin' Out, visit www.aidswalkdetroit.org.

PRIDESOURCE

Enter events any time online

Events will appear online within 24 hours

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

United Health Organization "Project Healthy Living" A day of free and low-cost health care services. Registration recommended. Macomb Mall, 32233 Gratoit Ave., Roseville. Sep. 16 - Oct. 16. 313-531-9108. www.projecthealthyliving.net

Universalist Unitarian Church of Farmington "Lifelong Learning Forum" A series of free adult education classes on such topics as hypnosis, Illuminati, aging and more. Universalist Unitarian Church of Farmington, 25301 Halsted, Farmington Hills. Oct. 14 - Nov. 18. 248-478-7272. www.uufarmington.org

Women's Center of Greater Lansing "The 16 Steps of Discovery and Empowerment" A program of recovery as based on "Many Roads, One Journey: Moving Beyond the 12 Steps" by Charlotte Kasl, Ph.D. Women's Center of Greater Lansing, 1712 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 7:30 p.m. Oct. 19. 517-980-3439.

THEATER

CIVIC/COMMUNITY THEATER

84 Charing Cross Road \$12. SRO Productions at SRO Theater, 26060 Berg Rd., Southfield. Through Oct. 17. 248-796-4645. www.srotheater.org

A Night in the Theatre \$12. Ann Arbor Civic Theatre at Ann Arbor Civic Studio Theatre, 322 W. Ann St., Ann Arbor. Oct. 15 - 24. 734-971-2228. www.a2ct.com

Arcadia Contains adult content and situations. \$14. Stagecrafters, Baldwin Theatre, 415 S. Lafayette, Royal Oak. Oct. 15 - 24. 248-541-6430. www.stagecrafters.org

Dividing the Estate \$18. Redbud Productions, Riverside Arts Center, 76 North Huron Street, Ypsilanti. Oct. 21 - 24. 734-663-7167. www.redbudproductions.com

Hairspray! \$3 - \$12 reserved. Warren Civic Theatre, Warren Community Center, 5460 Arden, Warren. Oct. 22 - 31. 586-268-8400. www.warrencivic.org

I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change \$20. St. Dunstan's Theatre Guild of Cranbrook, 400 Lone Pine Road, Bloomfield Hills. Oct. 15 - 30. 2487373587. www.stdunstanstheatre.com

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

Mindgame \$16. Barefoot Productions, Barefoot Productions Theatre, 240 North Main St., Plymouth. Through Oct. 24. 734-560-1493. www.justgobarefoot.com

Revival at Possum Kingdom Community Church: \$20. Saugatuck Center for the Arts, 400 Culver St., Saugatuck. Oct. 22 - 24. 269-857-2399. www.sc4a.org

Tartuffe \$18-\$22. Kalamazoo Civic Theatre, Parish Theatre, 426 S. Park St., Kalamazoo. Through Oct. 23. 269-343-1313. www.kazoocivic.com

The Farnsworth Invention \$14. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. Oct. 21 - 31. 313-482-5700. www.riverwalktheatre.com

The Great American Songbook from Tin Pan Alley and Beyond \$15. Spotlight Players, The Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Rd., Canton. Oct. 15 - . 734-394-5300. www.canton-mi.org/villageheater

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY THEATER

Company \$17. Oakland University Dept. of Music, Theatre and Dance, Varner Studio Theatre, 2200 N. Squirrel Rd., Rochester. Through Oct. 17. 248-370-3013. www.oakland.edu/mt

Evil Dead: The Musical \$20. Michigan State University Department of Theatre at Pasant Theatre, 1 Wharton Center Dr., East Lansing. Oct. 15 - 24. 1-800-942-7866. www.whartoncenter.com

Getting Out \$12. Wayne State University at Maggie Allesee Studio Theatre, 480 W. Hancock St., Suite 3317., Detroit. Oct. 21 - 30. 313-577-2972. www.wsushows.com

Hamlet \$15. Eastern Michigan University Theatre at Quirk Theatre, East Circle Dr. and Best Hall, Ypsilanti. Oct. 22 - 30. 734-487-2282. www.emutix.com

Into the Woods \$18 - \$24. U-M Department of Theatre & Drama at Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre, 911 N. University, Ann Arbor. Oct. 14 - 24. 734-764-2538. www.music.umich.edu

Pentecost \$24. U-M Department of Theatre & Drama at Arthur Miller Theatre, 1226 Murfin Ave., Ann Arbor. Through Oct. 16. 734-764-2538. www.music.umich.edu

Take Me Out \$20. The University Theatre at Gilmore Theatre Complex's Williams Theatre, 2200 Auditorium Dr., Kalamazoo. Through Oct. 17. 269-387-6222.

The Caucasian Chalk Circle \$15. Bonstelle Theatre, 3424 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Oct. 15 - 24. 313-577-2972. www.Bonstelle.com

PROFESSIONAL

A Midsummer Night's Dream \$12. The Pigeon Creek Shakespeare Company at Dog Story Theater, 7 Jefferson Ave. SE, Grand Rapids. Oct. 15 - 17. www.dogstorytheater.com

A Midsummer Night's Dream The Pigeon Creek Shakespeare Company at Rogers High School Media Center, 1350 Prairie Pkwy SW, Wyoming. Oct. 22 - 24. www.pcshakespeare.com

Among Friends \$25. Stormfield Theatre, 201 Morgan Ln., Lansing. Through Oct. 31. 517-372-0945. www.stormfieldtheatre.org

Best of Friends Previews Oct. 20-21 (\$20-\$30.) \$25-\$40. The Purple Rose Theatre Company, 137 Park St., Chelsea. Oct. 14 - Dec. 18. 734-433-7673. www.purplerosetheatre.org

Blue Door \$15-\$24. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam Rd., Williamston. Through Oct. 17. 517-655-7469. www.williamstontheatre.org

boom \$20. Breathe Art Theatre Project, The Furniture Factory, 4126 Third St., Detroit. Through Oct. 17. 248-982-4121. www.breathearttheatre.com

boom \$20. Breathe Art Theatre Project, Mackenzie Hall, 3277 Sandwich St., Windsor. Oct. 22 - 23. 519-255-7600. www.breathearttheatre.com

Cat on a Hot Tin Roof \$15. Matrix Theatre Company, YMCA Boll Family Theatre, 1401 Broadway, Detroit. Oct.

15 - Nov. 14. 313-967-0599. www.matrixtheatre.org

Damn Yankees \$28. The Encore Musical Theatre Company, The Encore Musical Theatre, 3126 Broad St., Dexter. Through Oct. 24. 734-268-6200. http://theencoretheatre.org

Don't Be Cruel - The Life and Times of the King \$25-\$35; Dinner and show packages available Wednesday, Thursday & Sunday for \$69.95 per couple. Andiamo Novi Theatre, 42705 Grand River Ave., Novi. Through Nov. 28. 248-348-4448.

Dracula: A Rock Opera \$30-\$39. Meadow Brook Theatre, 220 N. Squirrel Rd., Rochester. Through Oct. 31. 248-377-3300. www.mbtheatre.com

Escanaba in da Moonlight \$26. Tibbits Opera House, 14 S. Hanchett St., Coldwater. Oct. 15 - 16. 517-278-6029. www.tibbits.org

Evil Dead: The Musical \$30 general admission; \$35 reserved "splatter" seats. Who Wants Cake Theatre at City Theatre, 2301 Woodward Ave, Detroit. Through Oct. 31. 1-800-745-3000. www.whowantscaketheatre.com

Farragut North A staged reading. \$5. Flint Youth Theatre, 1220 E. Kearsley St., Flint. 6 p.m. Oct. 17. 810-237-1530. www.flintyouththeatre.org

FAT Bottoms Up \$10. Crawlspace Eviction, Farmers Alley Theatre, 211 Farmers Alley, Kalamazoo. Oct. 15 - 16. 269-599-7390. www.crawlspacecetheatre.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

Hedwig and the Angry Inch \$10 advance, \$15 at the door. Circus Earth Productions at The Crofoot Ballroom, 1 S. Saginaw, Pontiac. 9 p.m. Oct. 15. 248-858-9333. www.thecrofoot.com

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

Legally Blonde The Musical \$25-\$53. Miller Auditorium, 2200 Auditorium Dr., Kalamazoo. Oct. 14 - 15. 269-387-2300. www.millerauditorium.com

Legally Blonde The Musical \$45 - \$50. Macomb Center for the Performing Arts, 44575 Garfield Road, Clinton Township. Oct. 16. 586-286-2222. www.MacombCenter.com

Monty Python's Spamalot \$23 - \$67. The Whiting, 1241 E. Kearsley, Flint. Oct. 21 - 22. 810-237-7333. www.TheWhiting.com

Nightmare Box Previews Oct. 14 (\$10). \$20; discounts for students and seniors. Planet Ant Theatre, 2357 Caniff St., Hamtramck. Oct. 14 - Nov. 6. 313.365.4948. www.planetant.com

Of Mice and Men Plays in rotating repertory. \$25 - \$30. Hilberry Theatre, 4743 Cass Ave., Detroit. Oct. 22 - Feb. 5. 313-577-2972. www.wsushows.com

Play It Again, Sam \$18. Magenta Giraffe Theatre Company at 1515 Broadway, 1515 Broadway St., Detroit. Through Oct. 17. 313-408-7269. www.magentagiraffe.org

Sherlock Holmes Is Coming To Dinner \$16, \$14 for Opening Night. Dennis Wickline Productions, Inc., Broadway Onstage Live Theatre, 21517 Kelly Rd., Eastpointe. Oct. 22 - Nov. 20. 586-771-6333. www.broadwayonstage.com

Shining City \$10-\$20. Who Wants Cake, The Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Oct. 16 - Nov. 8. 248-545-5545. www.whowantscaketheatre.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

The Diary of Anne Frank \$30. Macomb

EDITOR'S PICK



Center for the Performing Arts, 44757 Garfield Rd., Clinton Township. 3 p.m. Oct. 17. 586-286-2222. www.MacombCenter.com

The God of Isaac \$32-\$41. Jewish Ensemble Theatre, Aaron DeRoy Theatre, 6600 West Maple Rd., West Bloomfield. Through Oct. 31. 248-788-2900. www.jettheatre.org

The Great Game Show Fiasco \$19; \$36 for Oct. 23 performance (includes buffet dinner served at 6:30 p.m.). Van Buren Street Theatre, 701 N Van Buren St., Bay City. Through Oct. 30. 989-893-9399. www.vanburenstreettheatre.com

The Mikado \$29-\$121. Michigan Opera Theatre at The Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway, Detroit. Oct. 16 - 24. 313-237-7464. www.michiganopera.org

The Who's Tommy \$20. The Bon Ton Room, 3017 Wildwood Ave., Jackson. Oct. 14 - 30. 517-787-6733. http://bontonroom.com

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

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

West Side Story \$39-\$89 (includes parking and facility fees). Fisher Theatre, 3011 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit. Through 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. www.blackbirdtheatre.org

THEATER FOR YOUNG AUDIENCES

Alice in Wonderland Jr., the Musical! \$15. Spotlight on Youth at The Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Rd., Canton. Oct. 21 - 24. 734-394-5300. www.canton-mi.org/villageheater

Amber Brown is Not a Crayon \$14. Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. 1:30 p.m. Oct. 17. 734-668-8397. www.ticketmaster.com

Banana for Turtle \$10 adult, \$5 child. PuppetART, Detroit Puppet Theatre, 25 E Grand River Ave., Detroit. Through Oct. 23. 313-961-7777. www.puppetart.org

Beyond a Child \$16-\$18 adult, \$14-\$16 teen & senior, \$12-\$14 child. Flint Youth Theatre, 1220 E. Kearsley St., Flint. Through Oct. 23. 810-237-1530. www.flintyouththeatre.org

Disney on Ice presents Disney Classics Tickets begin at \$15. The Palace of Auburn Hills, 6 Championship Drive, Auburn Hills. Through Oct. 17. 1-800-734-5000. www.ticketmaster.com

Laugh Out Loud with Magician Jim Carmody \$10 for adults and \$7 for children under 16. Performance Network

The University of Michigan Department of Musical Theatre will present the Tony Award-winning musical "Into the Woods" in celebration of Stephen Sondheim's 80th birthday. "Into the Woods" plays for two weekends at the Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre in Ann Arbor: 7:30 p.m. Oct. 14 and 21; 8 p.m. Oct. 15, 16, 22 and 23; and 2 p.m. Oct. 17 and 24.

"Into the Woods" weaves together characters from Grimm's "Fairy Tales." A childless baker and his wife, cursed by the witch next door, set into the woods in pursuit of four items to break the spell. Along their way, the couple intertwines with fairy tale favorites Cinderella, Little Red Riding Hood, Jack (of Beanstalk fame) and Rapunzel - all on their own search for the perfect fairy-tale ending.

Tickets for "Into the Woods" are \$24 and \$18 reserved seating (students: \$10 with ID). Order by phone at 734-764-2538.

Theatre, 120 East Huron St., Ann Arbor. 1 p.m. Oct. 23. 734-663-0681. www.performancenetwork.org

Wiley and the Hairy Man \$12 adults and senior citizens; \$10 for children age 5-16. Tipping Point Theatre, 361 E. Cady St., Northville. Oct. 23 - 31. 248-347-0003. www.tippingpointtheatre.com

AUDITIONS, CLASSES & NEWS:

ANN ARBOR CIVIC THEATRE - auditions for "God Bless You, Mr. Rosewater," Oct. 30-Nov. 1, 734-971-2228; **FLINT YOUTH THEATRE** - auditions for "The Homecoming," grades 3-12, Oct. 19, 810-237-1530.

ART 'N' AROUND

323East Gallery "RIDGID" An exhibit by cPOP founder Tom Thewes. 323East Gallery, 323 E. Fourth Street, Royal Oak. Oct. 9 - Nov. 4. 248-246-9544. www.323east.com

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

Detroit Institute of Arts "In Your Dreams" 500 years of imaginary prints from Europe and America. Museum admission: \$8 adults, \$6 seniors, \$4 youth. Detroit Institute of Arts, 5200 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Sept. 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. Sept. 13 - Oct. 15. 586-945-4620. 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. Sept. 8 - Oct. 17. 734-997-7012. www.thegalleryproject.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.holocaustcenter.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 "Cycles" An exhibition of works by multi-media artist McCabe Ash. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. Sept. 27 - Oct. 25. 734-769-2999. www.kerrytownconcerthouse.com

Kresge Art Museum "The Power of Design" An exhibition of Chinese textiles, costumes and accessories. Free. Kresge Art Museum, Michigan State University, East Lansing. Oct. 9 - Dec. 17. 517-884-0659. www.artmuseum.msu.edu

Kresge Art Museum "Designing Women of Postwar Britain" Their art and the modern interior. Free. Kresge Art Museum, Michigan State University, East Lansing. Oct. 16 - Dec. 17. 517-884-0659. www.artmuseum.msu.edu

Lawrence Street Gallery "Glenn 'Fuzz' Corey and Gary Van Gorp" An exhibition of new works by the resident artists, including drawings and paintings. Lawrence Street Gallery, 22620 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Sept. 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

Riverside Arts Center "On the Wild Side - Art of Nature" Presenting the artwork of Lisa Ramlow, Marie Rust and Lori Taylor. Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron, Ypsilanti. Sept. 30 - Oct. 30. www.riversidearts.org

University of Michigan Museum of Art "On Beauty and the Everyday" The prints of American artist James McNeill Whistler. University of Michigan Museum of Art, 525 S. State, Ann Arbor. Aug. 21 - Nov. 28. 734-763-UMMA. www.umma.umich.edu

www.ENCORE MICHIGAN.com
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Rear View

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Confused - and teased

Q: I am 19 years old and queer - or maybe "questioning." Mostly I think that I love women, but every so often a sexy guy comes into the picture and I feel turned on. I've tried not to feel this way but I can't seem to help myself. When I tell my college roommate and our friends that this is the way I feel, they all just laugh, saying that they think I am a wannabe queer.

It seems that I am just a big joke to everyone. They don't understand that I really am confused. All of them know who they are and don't have any doubts about their sexuality. I don't tell them that they are insulting me by their laughter (at the time I laugh along with them), but sometimes I go home and cry because no one seems to understand or have the same problem that I do. I know I should just ignore them or not tell them what is going on with me, but I am a person that shares who I am and my feelings, so it just doesn't work to be quiet about it. I've tried to keep it all to myself but eventually the whole thing just starts blurring out of me and pretty soon I've told it all.

I guess my question to you is: How do I get my friends to be more sensitive to my needs, instead of making fun of me?

No Joke

A: You laugh along with your friends when they make fun of you, so how would they know that their reaction is upsetting to you? I would guess that they think that you agree that the confusion around your sexuality is funny, and it is OK to makes jokes about it.

Start making changes by not laughing when something is hurtful or upsetting to you; you don't get your needs met that way. Next, tell one or two friends, whom you trust, that this is upsetting to you. Let them know that you need their support when the topic comes up again with the group. Then, when you are in the group situation, let them know that your sexual orientation dilemma is painful to you. (Don't be angry with them about their past laughter; you encouraged it by laughing along, so how were they supposed to know?)

In the future, I suggest that you discuss this issue only with those that are respectful, good listeners

and understanding. Generally, it is not a good idea to tell everyone everything you are thinking and feeling. Some folks just aren't trustworthy.

Most colleges have an LGBT student organization. One of their many functions is to support individuals who wish to explore their sexual orientation or gender identity. You might want to get involved with a group like this so you can talk to people who are open and affirming in your search for your identity.

Cancer scare?

Q: I have a small lump on my chest, near my nipple. I noticed it about two months ago and it doesn't seem like it has grown any. I am 21, a male and I am afraid to go to the doctor, but I know I should go. I am afraid it might be cancer and I am also embarrassed that I have a lump on my chest; that seems like a female thing. I am also afraid if they do surgery I will be disfigured. So those are all the reasons I don't go. How do I make myself go see the doctor? Every time I try to call, I just can't do it.

Scared

A: I understand your fears, but you need to go to the doctor as soon as possible. Tell a friend, whom you trust, what is going on with you. Ask the friend to make the appointment for you, as well as go with you to the appointment. Have your friend go into the appointment with you to take notes because it's easy to forget what the doctor says when you are upset. Be sure to let the doctor know your fears and concerns so he/she can address them.

Good luck, and let me know how you are doing. I care.

I'd love to hear from you. Visit Facebook/Dear Jody Valley; see what's happening, and check out the "discussion" groups. 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. Letters may be edited for clarity and length.

Here's how to play BTL's Fake Ad Contest

1. Search this issue of *Between The Lines* for the one ad that is the fake ad. Here's a clue: the fake ad will include the line "between the sheets" somewhere within the text of the ad.
2. Go online at www.Pridesource.com and click where it says "Click here to win!"
3. Scroll down to the entry form for the fake ad contest and enter your name, etc.
4. In the notes field, put the date of the BTL issue, page number where you found the fake ad and the name of the fake advertiser.

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Between The Lines
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Have fun searching, and good luck!

FIND THE FAKE AD CONTEST



by Jack Fertig

Listen between the lines, Gemini!

Mercury and the Sun lining up in Libra bring focus on relationships, but as they oppose Eris, a competitive streak comes out. Mars in Scorpio is the unlikely point of resolution, challenging you to make small adjustments that can lead to deep inner changes.

ARIES (March 20 – April 19): Sex doesn't solve all the problems in a relationship, but now it offers an interesting perspective on whatever the real problems are. Any secrets, resentments, unfulfilled wishes? Share yours and invite your partner to open up!

TAURUS (April 20 – May 20): Your partner and colleagues are obstructing whatever you want to do. Or is that really it? Be responsible for your own accomplishments. While your partner's feedback won't make you happy, it will help you find answers.

GEMINI (May 21- June 20): Trying too hard to promote your own plans can provoke problems with colleagues. If you're sensing hidden agendas, it may be due to your own pushiness. Have a good talk. Listen between the lines, but double-check any suspicions.

CANCER (June 21- July 22): Keep the wicked fun at home where it belongs. Your creative challenge at work is to keep it clean, or at least appropriate. One step out of line will put you into somebody's firing range.

LEO (July 23 – August 22): Rude remarks about your family may be just thoughtless, not meant to offend. Don't let them lure you into senseless arguments. Simple straightforward pride in who you are and where you come from doesn't depend on what others think. Consider the source!

VIRGO (August 23 – September 22): Can you keep a secret? Please do! While it may seem that openness can save you some money or get you a romantic adventure, letting kitty out of the bag can cost you a lot on both counts.

LIBRA (September 23 – October 22): Be completely honest with your partner about finances. It will create some challenges, but those little problems are just necessary steps to solving big ones. Keeping up with the Joneses is just another jones. Take pride in your values, not your belongings.

SCORPIO (October 23 – November 21): Worrying about your health is the biggest danger to your health, but getting a check-up "won't hurt a bit." (Oh, just spread 'em and breathe!) Your colleagues should be teammates, not competitors. Still, being alert for skulduggery isn't necessarily paranoia.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 – December 20): Worries and doubts inhibit your efforts at self-expression. Take that as a creative challenge to articulate the problems and dig deeper at what's behind them. Friends' insights are helpful. Even when they're wrong, use the input as a springboard.

CAPRICORN (December 21 – January 19): Friends getting on your nerves are hitting buttons about frustrated ambitions, perhaps echoing parental expectations that have long jarred against your own real aims. Discuss that with your annoying pals to get clearer about what you really want to do.

AQUARIUS (January 20 – February 18): Wanting to show off your brilliance, or prove that you're right, is the surest way to get into trouble. Any argument should be an invitation to investigate the facts. That is ultimately the best way to get it right!

PISCES (February 19 – March 19): Everybody wants a taste of you, but what and who do you really want? Think that one through, and don't accept the first offer too quickly. Better yet, why wait to be asked? Have an open conversation with the one you desire.

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

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Solution to puzzle from page 42

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N	O	L	O	T	A	B	O	O	S	B	A	D	E		
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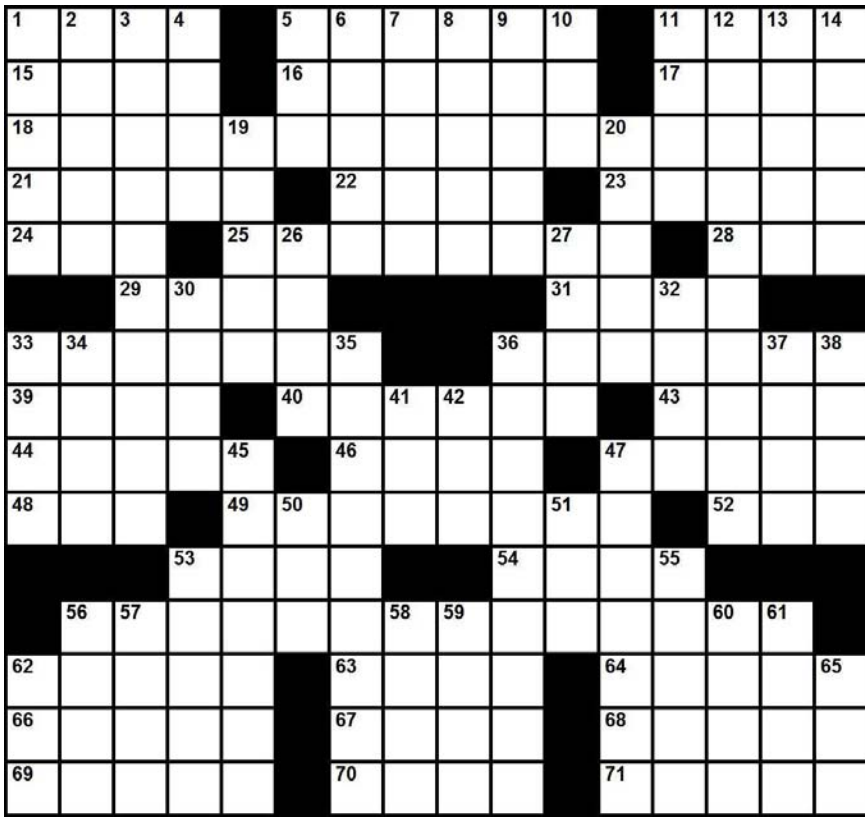
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Solution on 41

Q U I Z P U Z Z L E

Tru Character

Across

- 1 Dry as a bone
- 5 Orgasms, e.g.
- 11 Islamic leader
- 15 Publisher of same-sex couples' legal guide
- 16 Forbidden fruits
- 17 Expressed, as farewell
- 18 Possible model for 56-Across
- 21 Number of deadly sins
- 22 Birthright seller
- 23 Mary Tyler Moore's co-star Ed
- 24 Prufrock poet's monogram
- 25 Hans Christian of fairy tales
- 28 Early man's opening
- 29 Rainbow flag site
- 31 Osso ____ (veal dish)
- 33 Oona, who was a possible model for 56-Across
- 36 Audrey, who played 56-Across
- 39 Old Italian coin
- 40 Understated

Down

- 43 Buffalo's lake
- 44 St. Teresa's town
- 46 Police incursion at Stone-wall
- 47 Brian of figure skating
- 48 Horror maven Craven
- 49 Where some major arteries go
- 52 Split one in the locker room
- 53 "You bet!"
- 54 Trivia
- 56 "Breakfast at Tiffany's" heroine
- 62 "West Side Story" girl
- 63 Fateful day
- 64 Use a rubber
- 66 Atlas enlargement
- 67 "Is so!" rebuttal
- 68 Pyle of Jim Nabors
- 69 Be nuts over
- 70 Untouchable head
- 71 Type of queen

Down

- 1 Existential woe
- 2 Edna and Arnold, to Harvey
- 3 Cole Porter classic
- 4 Starting scale notes, for Maria
- 5 RR terminal
- 6 Like the hard way
- 7 Put down
- 8 Whale finder
- 9 ____ operandi
- 10 U-turn from NNW
- 11 Peters out
- 12 Principal presentation for Stephen Pyles
- 13 One who screws around
- 14 Like bell-bottom jeans
- 19 As a whole
- 20 Accumulated, as debts
- 26 Producer Meron
- 27 Heed a master
- 30 Milk-colored gem
- 32 Good buddy
- 33 Leave marks on the back
- 34 Center of activity
- 35 Edvard Grieg, for one

- 36 Pleasure seekers
- 37 Love, to Amelie Mauresmo
- 38 Uncool sort
- 41 Like a pale face
- 42 Hobby-shop purchase
- 45 Slobber all over, so to speak
- 47 Like busy folks
- 50 Direct ending
- 51 Drag queen's accessory
- 53 More cunning than a cunning linguist?
- 55 Leather band
- 56 Backup date?
- 57 Estimate ending
- 58 Garfield's pal
- 59 Part of Mapplethorpe's equipment
- 60 Liberace fabric
- 61 River of the Singing Nun's country
- 62 Jenny portrayer on "The L Word"
- 65 The Gay '90s, for one

Pet of the Week:

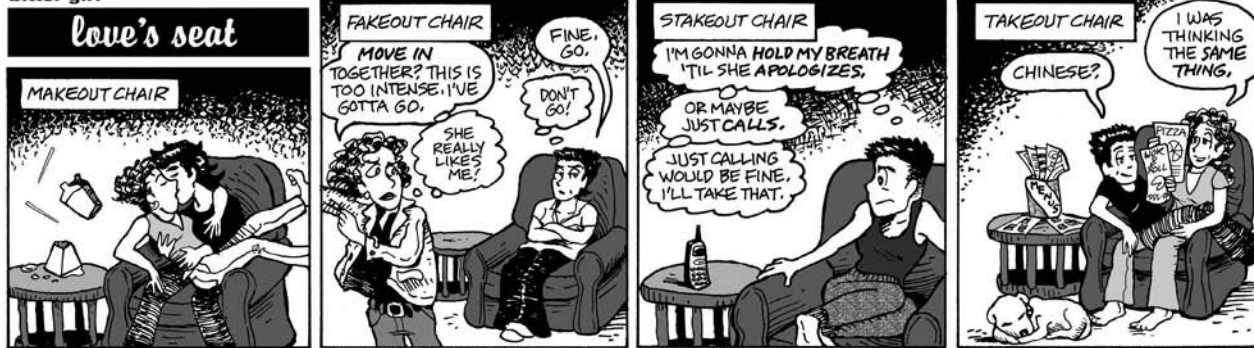


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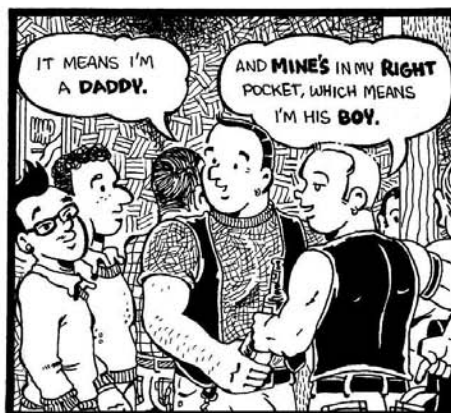
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309 EMPLOYMENT - PROFESSIONAL

Marketing and Editorial Interns

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Associate News Editor

Looking for a challenging job that will put you in the heart of Michigan's social justice movement? Between The Lines, a weekly news-magazine serving the state's LGBT community, seeks a qualified individual to serve as Associate News Editor.

Job Description: Updating calendar for print and online. Editing news and opinions content. Compiling and writing Local News Briefs. Writing several articles weekly, along with obtaining or taking photos/graphics. Assigning articles and photo assignments to freelancer reporters and photographers. Flexible hours; will include some 9-5 days and some night/weekend hours for event coverage. Getting to know key players, issues and areas, including Kalamazoo, Lansing, Ferndale, Royal Oak, Detroit and Northern Michigan. Occasional Facebook/Twitter updating, plus online article posting

Desired qualifications: Bachelor's degree in communications, English, journalism or a related subject. Passion for and knowledge of LGBT causes, especially in Michigan. Willingness to get involved in the community, not just write about it. Impeccable grammar and editing skills and knowledge of AP Style. At least one year of experience working for a publication. Ability to take photos to supplement articles. Managerial abilities. Strong writing skills. Web CMS, InDesign and video editing experience a plus. Passion for highly localized investigative journalism. Reliable transportation. Demonstrated ability to set and keep personal deadlines. Ability to work independently

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Everything you need to know to vote on Tuesday Nov. 2, 2010.



Fantasy Football

Big things happen to those who wait! Yes! That's what my friends tell me when they call, and I inform them that I haven't met or talked to anyone on a romantic level in six months.

Others, like my dad,

think I'm lying, that I'm a closet whore who has slumber parties with indie rockers when I get done shooting and interviewing them for the paper. Yes, I'm such a legend, except my penis isn't speaking to me out of spite – and last night, my asshole declared a holy war. Basically, from what I can tell, the hole is threatening to, ahem, close up.

Funny, I never knew my butt was religious, but I think it's learned helplessness in the last few days, and now, it's threatening to open a mosque near Ground Zero. Yeah, I know; my ass is famous. That was my butt in the news, stealing all the press when I'm in the midst of a depression. And I know, I know, "But we're in a recession, and everyone is depressed."

Yeah...try telling that to my butt. The selfish thing – it just wants attention.

Therefore, to silence it, I have been going out, kind of. There's this sexy bar with a great foreign beer selection and a fire pit in the middle of the star-canopied backyard, and when I'm frisky I slice up a shirt and stick on a really, really tight pair of skinny jeans, and, voila, I'm a slut!

Well, not really. I mean, my dad would love

that, because he thinks gay men just go gay to be sluts, but I'm more of a prude. Well, I guess I'd be more of a tease if I were actually teasing anyone. But for the most part, everyone is (snore, snore, snore) straight, and I just can't compete with pussy. It always wins. Well, except when the wrong guy is in the right kind of mood due to the beer in his belly.

Tonight, he comes in the too heavenly form of a tall, wiry hipster who finds Pabst Blue Ribbon hip because he thinks it's the cheapest way to get me drunk.

Like I need to be drunk to be a slut. Hello, college is over! I've evolved.

Besides, I'm a lightweight. I can get drunk on Sprite if it's been lying out too long. "Awesome, then you'll be a cheap date," Mr. Hipster jokes, scratching his black mustache. "Not that I've ever dated a guy. But for you, I'd think about it. Seriously, I don't know what the fuck I am."

"Well, buy me an expensive beer, and I'll help you figure it out," I inform him.

Yes, I'm so brave, for a second, and then I flee, run-walking to the other side of the unlit fire pit, where a group of college kids compare tattoos. Avoiding Mr. Hipster, I snap pictures of a skinny music trio, wearing superhero capes and football pads on a wood plank of a stage. The leader, wrapped in Christmas lights, sings a torch song about someone teaching him how to die. I think of giving him instructions, seeing as lately, I feel like a pro.

That's the thing about ending a long-term relationship – every breath is a tiny death unless you're ready to seal the coffin. Unfortunately, I

That's the thing about ending a long-term relationship – every breath is a tiny death unless you're ready to seal the coffin. Unfortunately, I like to think there's life left with my ex; even if we're just friends, how do we make it through to the other side alive? How do I handle seeing him with someone else? How will he see me? How do I pretend not to care?

like to think there's life left with my ex; even if we're just friends, how do we make it through to the other side alive? How do I handle seeing him with someone else? How will he see me? How do I pretend not to care?

"You ask too many questions," Mr. Hipster tells me. Later, drunk and brazen, he surprises me with the beer I requested, plopping down beside me on a picnic bench, where he toys with my camera.

"Wrong, I asked you one question," I correct him. "And I'll ask again: Why do you keep following me?"

"Because you think I'm cute," he slurs, being ever so clever. And true, he is cute, but

I'm not willing to admit that because he's not willing to admit he likes guys. When I grill him about it, he just laughs and then gets really serious. "Look, don't judge me, man. I don't know what I like, but I like talking to you, OK?" He makes it so simple.

Still, I find no rhyme, no reason to this encounter, other than the words of advice I recently received from a friend. "Quit thinking every guy you meet has to be Mr. Right. You attract the kind of man your soul needs. Right now, your soul has a hole, so repair it before you meet the right one. You had Mr. Right. You might need Mr. Right Now or Mr. Wrong. He might be what your soul is calling..."

Hence, I'm writing this in a brave attempt to be all right with feeling all wrong all the time. In fact, I'm naming it Fantasy Football, so it will get in the wrong search engine so the wrong people will read it, because I'm that punk rock, and I'm that fucked up.

The truth is, I've been playing it safe too long, so worried what my friends, my ex and my family will think that I haven't been thinking for myself. I'm sick of shape-shifting, afraid of the stigma attached to being single. True, I'm lost, but I'm determined to love it, because I'm not ready to love anyone else. But I can like someone.

"So wait, uh...dude, will you give you me your digits?" Mr. Hipster nervously asks, chasing me down in the parking lot after last call.

And yes, it feels wrong, totally wrong, YES! But I guess that's why I give him the right number.

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Jodie Foster. Photo: Fox Walden

Foster and Winslet team for Polanski's 'Carnage'

Lesbian icon Jodie Foster is becoming the go-to gal for working with Hollywood pariahs. She's still trying to get her latest directorial effort, "The Beaver," into theaters, despite the fact that it stars Mr. Voicemail himself, Mel Gibson. And now she's signed on to work with Roman Polanski, whose recent evasion of extradition over his statutory rape case in the 1970s didn't exactly garner him a lot of goodwill. Foster will star opposite Kate Winslet in Polanski's "God of Carnage," about a playground conflict between two boys that escalates into a war between their parents. Once again, Polanski has assembled an impressive array of talent, with Oscar-winner Christoph Waltz playing one of the husbands and Tony-winner Yasmina Reza adapting her own play. Reza generally writes in

French – Christopher Hampton wrote the English translation of "Carnage" that played London and Broadway – but with Matt Dillon also in the cast, one assumes the film will be in English when it starts shooting in early 2011.

Dominic Cooper says 'Hello Darkness'

Romeo is, admittedly, starting to feel vampire fatigue, but that doesn't mean that interesting filmmakers can't find a fresh way to bring blood-suckers to the screen. Bill Condon may wind up redeeming the whole dull "Twilight" franchise by directing the final installments, and now

"Quinceañera" directors (and gay couple) Richard Glatzer and Wash Westmoreland could give the genre a new twist with "Hello Darkness." This look at the world of the undead introduces a class element – Dominic Cooper ("Mamma Mia!," "The History Boys") stars as a working-class, blue-collar sort of vamp who finds himself falling for a wealthy student, played by Imogen Poots. (Poots, recently seen in "Centurion," is becoming something of a vampire pin-up – she's also in the upcoming "Fright Night" remake.) With Julie Christie in front of the camera and producer Todd Haynes behind it, it wouldn't come as a shock if "Hello Darkness" earns warm greetings when it opens in 2011.

Kimberly Peirce's 'Wicked Lovely' faeries

It's always been frustrating that we don't hear about more major projects from Hollywood's cooler lesbian filmmakers. Maybe they're just pickier? Whatever the reason, it's at least a bit of good news that "Boys Don't Cry" and "Stop-Loss" director Kimberley Peirce is working on something new with the potential to be pretty huge. "Wicked Lovely" is the name of her new feature and it's based on a popular series of novels by Melissa Marr that concern a teenage girl who can see the faery world. When the faeries find out they have an observer it transforms both parties for better and for worse,

apparently including some unwelcome overtures from the faery king to his new human friend. Vince Vaughn is producing and casting is still up in the air. Calling Elle Fanning...

Lesbian 'Lip Service' for the BBC

American audiences who watched and fell in love with the original British version of "Queer As Folk" were just happy the series even existed; they didn't think too much about the fact that it was populated by cast of relatively unknown actors. Well here comes the lesbian remix, as "Lip Service" hits the BBC for a six-episode run. Starring up-and-comers Laura Fraser, Ruta Gedmintas and Fiona Button, the series will explore the lives and loves of a group of twentysomething lesbians in Glasgow, Scotland. You can safely expect a lot of regional differences (and most likely a firmer grasp on reality) from the glamorous soap that was "The L Word," not the least of which are sure to be accents that require subtitles. And though there's no stateside air dates scheduled, it's a pretty safe bet this will find its way to BBC America. For now, the series debuts in October in the U.K.

Romeo San Vicente would most like to come back as a Chapstick lesbian because the clothes are more comfortable and there'd be no leg shaving involved. He can be reached care of this publication or at DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com.

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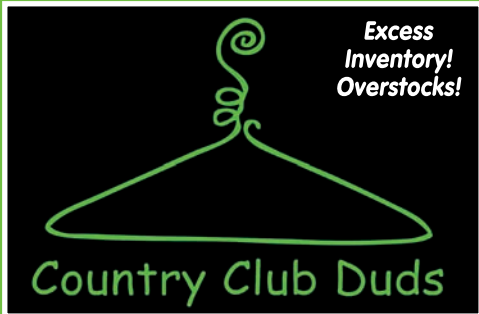
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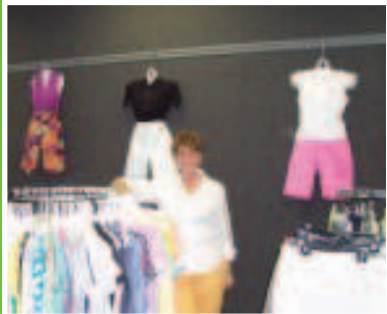
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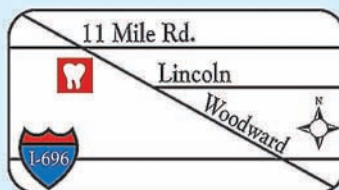
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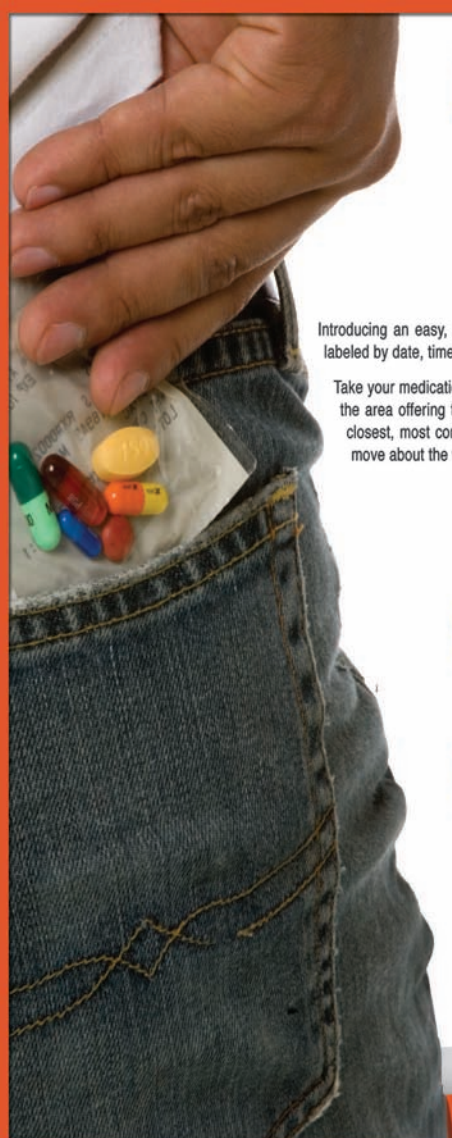
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