

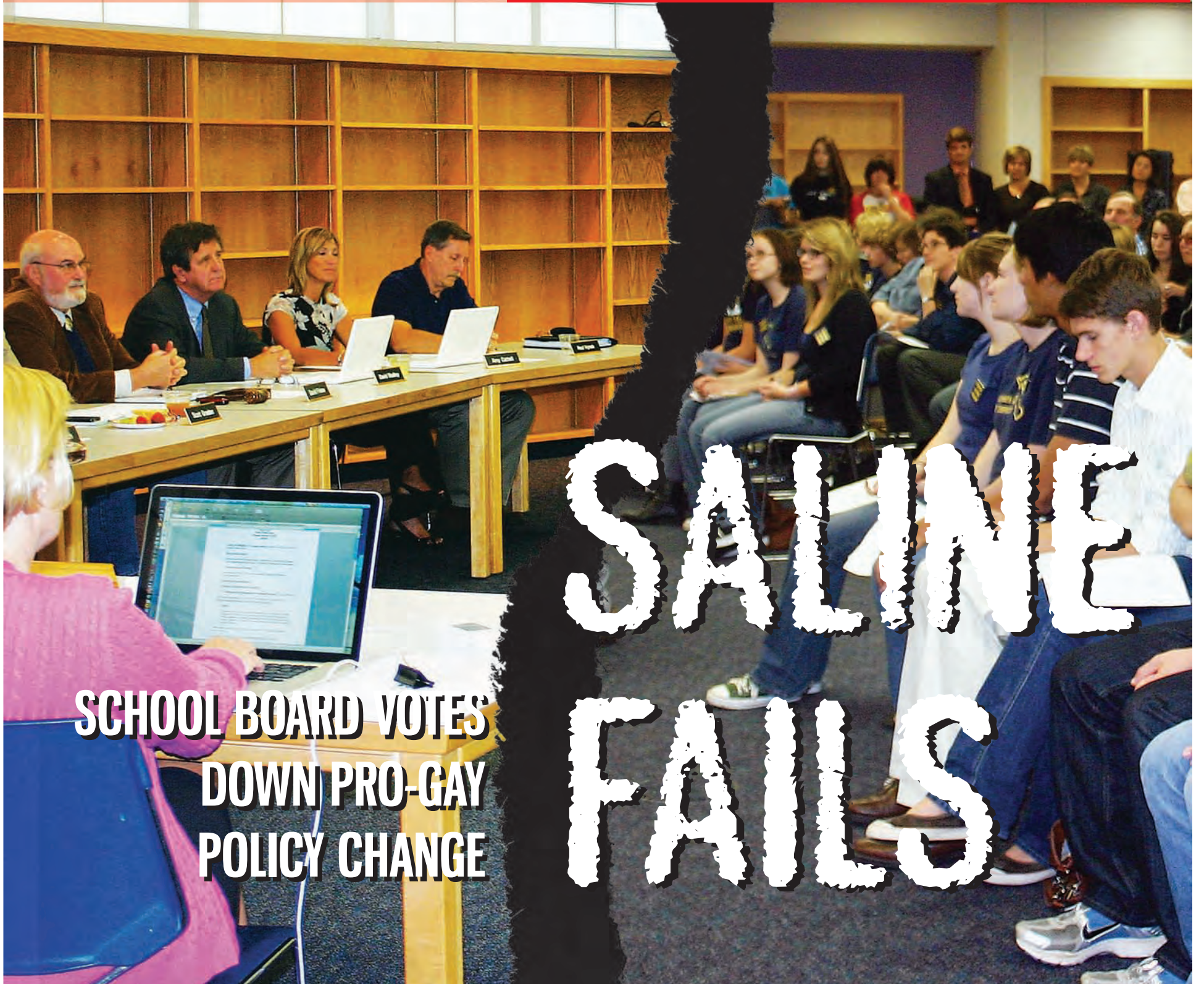
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Associate News Editor

Jessica Carreras

Arts & Theater Editor

Donald V. Calamia

Contributing Writers

Charles Alexander, Paul Berg,
Wayne Besen, D.A. Blackburn,
Dave Brousseau, Michelle E. Brown,
John Corvino, Jack Fertig,
Joan Hilty, Lucy Hough, Lisa Keen,
Jim Larkin, Jason Michael, Anthony Paull,
Crystal Proxmire, Bob Roehr,
Gregg Shapiro, Jody Valley,
D'Anne Witkowski, Imani Williams
Rex Wockner, Dan Woog

Contributing Photographers

Andrew Potter
Emily Locklear

Webmaster & MIS Director

Kevin Bryant

ADVERTISING & SALES

Director of Sales

Jan Stevenson

Sales Representatives

Linda Brincat
Ann Cox

National Advertising

Representative

Rivendell Media, 212.242.6863

Business Office

Diane Smith
Nancy Blankenship

Circulation & Distribution

Diane Smith

CREATIVE

Graphic Designer

David Ano

Pride Source Media Group

11920 Farmington Road
Livonia, Michigan 48150
Phone 734.293.7200
Fax 734.293.7201

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By Jessica Carreras

Gabe Javier works for the University of Michigan's Spectrum Center, which serves the needs of the school's LGBTQ and allied students. An Ann Arbor resident, Javier and his team are working on several upcoming events, as well as addressing the everyday issues of LGBT life on campus.

1 How does working at U of M impact your ability to participate in activism?

My work is activism! Even though it might seem that I would be constricted as to the messages I am able to send and what I am "allowed" to say, the essence of the work that we at the Spectrum Center do is about helping students navigate a complex world full of labels and misperceptions. We challenge and support students, pushing them toward finding their most authentic selves. Even in today's world, this is a radical idea!



We challenge and support students, pushing them toward finding their most authentic selves. Even in today's world, this is a radical idea!

2 What are some of the problems LGBT students come to the Spectrum Center about?

What is great about the Spectrum Center is the wide range of work that we get to do. Being the oldest center in the nation, we might readily say, "We've seen it all," but we know that we haven't. We continue to push forward to address issues in the LGBTQ community that are new and complex, like the intersection of identity, the fluidity of identity, the role of religious institutions, the changing political climate.

But we also know that our work has some very foundational roots that continue to be absolutely essential. We will always be a resource for people coming out, we will always be asked to talk to parents about their gay child, and – unfortunately – we will continue to have a lot of work addressing hate, bias and discrimination that has roots in heterosexism.

Most recently, we have had many people both within the campus community and outside asking how they can be an active partners in addressing and ending the bullying of LGBTQ people. I think that people see the Spectrum Center as a place where they can ask honest questions, hear powerful stories and learn about an out, vibrant LGBTQ community.

3 What exactly do you do for the Spectrum Center?

All the center staff work as a team, but right now I am advising an amazing group of students who are planning the Midwest Bisexual Lesbian Gay Transgender Ally College Conference, being held at U of M Feb. 25-27, 2011. This is the nation's largest LGBTQ student-planned, student-focused conference and also the first time

that the University of Michigan has hosted it. We expect about 1,800 students from across the Midwest and the student planing team is dedicated to make the conference absolutely fabulous (www.mblgtacc2011.org).

The other special project that we are all working on is the 40th anniversary of the Spectrum Center. We will kickoff a year-long celebration starting in January.

Day to day, I am often meeting with student groups about educational collaborations, designing publications on behalf of the center and serving as the co-chair of the Consortium of Higher Education LGBT Resource Professionals, the professional organization of LGBT resource professionals. I'm often accessed by many of our partners across campus for consultation regarding LGBTQ and social justice issues. The

Spectrum Center also just started a really exciting project with the Ann Arbor teen center, the Neutral Zone, that will connect queer and allied college students with queer and allied youth for mentorship opportunities.

4 What is your take on the Chris Armstrong/Andrew Shirvell situation?

I think Chris has taken on this challenge with great integrity and we are all very proud of him. The community, too, has really come out in support of Chris and sent a clear message that we as individuals and a community expect respect. That said, I think that we will all breathe a sigh of relief when this particular situation is resolved, but there is still heterosexism out there that we have to address.

5 What events or issues to tackle does the Spectrum Center have coming up?

The recent publicity around gay youth being bullied and gay youth suicide has really energized the community to be out, proud supporters for teens who are struggling with aspects of their identities. We will continue to find ways to challenge this energy in productive ways and really hope to do that during MBLGTAC and throughout our 40th anniversary celebrations.

Next month, we will celebrate Transgender Awareness Week and the Transgender Day of Remembrance.

Learn more at <http://spectrumcenter.umich.edu>, or follow the center on Twitter.

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Saline board strikes out on discrimination policy change

Vote against LGBT-specific language prompts ex-school board trustee to run for seat

BY JESSICA CARRERAS

SALINE – Moving speeches, hundreds of supporters wearing pins reading “Six words + action = change” and the pleading eyes of numerous LGBT and allied high school students were not enough to, as they say, change the hearts and minds of the majority of the Saline School Board at their Oct. 12 meeting.

There, two hours of public comment and several presentations concluded with a 4-3 vote by the board on the issue of whether to add the words “sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression” to the district’s anti-discrimination policy. The policy already includes height, weight, religion, sex, race, national origin, color and marital status as traits that cannot be used to deny students educational opportunities.

Trustees Lisa Slawson, David Medly and Board President David Friese voted in favor of the change, while Trustees Amy Cattell, Chuck Lesch, Paul Hynek and Craig Hoeft voted against it.

Most opponents of the change, both on the board and in the audience last Tuesday, claimed that their resistance stemmed from the fact that the real issue needing to be addressed was bullying, not discrimination.

Saline area schools already have a bullying policy in place, but making the change to the discrimination policy would have ensured that LGBT students could not, for example, be cut from a sports team or treated unfairly by teachers because of their perceived or actual identity or orientation.

“It’s obvious that our anti-bullying policy needs to be stepped up, and we need to come together as a community and a school system to incorporate in our daily lives, the school and the community that we will have zero tolerance of bullying of any students,” Trustee Cattell said just before the vote. “This is a call to change and ... (to) use the policy we have in place and make a more concerted effort as a community to raise awareness about all diversity and all students.”

Public opinion

Students and many supporters, however, disagreed that bullying protections were enough. Several stated that the two go hand in hand to create a supportive atmosphere for LGBT students.

Ann Arbor-based activist Jim Toy, who founded the University of Michigan LGBT student office called the Spectrum Center, told the story of Laramie, Wyo., youth Matthew Shepard, who was murdered in a brutal anti-gay hate crime in 1998. “If we had more inclusive, supportive and implemented discrimination policies,” Toy told the school board, “that would go far to create a climate both local, statewide and national in which Matthew Shepard and our children dead by assault or by their own hand would be alive



Close to 300 people attended the Oct. 12 Saline School Board meeting. There, over two hours of public comment led to a 4-3 vote opposing changing the district’s anti-discrimination policy to include the words “sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression.” BTL photo by Jessica Carreras

and well today.”

Despite the fact that the issue being debated was an anti-discrimination policy, many speakers, who likened the two issues as interconnected, discussed the topic of bullying as well. Several students from Saline and other districts came forward to discuss both their friends’ and their own experiences with bullying and harassment.

“When we walk down the halls holding another girl’s hand, they scream remarks at us,” said Anna Mayne, a senior at Ann Arbor’s Pioneer High School and co-president of their gay-straight alliance, in a tear-filled testimony. “But we decided to fight and that’s why we’re here today – to tell you that we are people, too.”

“A hundred years from now, these words for these kids at this school will mean more than you know,” she continued. “These kids will feel comfortable going to school, knowing that even if they are gay, people won’t throw them into a locker, call them fag; they’ll know that no matter what, their teachers will be there for them and their students will be there for them.”

A fair amount of speakers were former or current educators, who contended that protecting students from all types of discrimination was essential to ensuring that they received the best

years. “They are sitting there trying to protect themselves.

“They’re not hearing what the teachers are saying, they’re not hearing the homework assignments, they’re not sharing, because ... education is not the most important thing in their life,” she said. “So they don’t think when they get to college-age, ‘What do I do next?’ The only thing they can think of is, ‘Get me out of here.’”

But all the impassioned testimony was not enough to convince several board members that the policy needed to be changed.

Next steps

Members of Spectrum, the Saline High School GSA, who first brought the issue up to the Saline School Board, promised that the fight was not over. “This is not the end of this,” Spectrum leader Emma Upham told AnnArbor.com. “We are disappointed but not disheartened. We will continue until the climate is better at our school.”

The failed policy change also served as a catalyst for a former trustee to run for a seat on the board in the Nov. 2 election. Marian Faupel will run as a write-in candidate against current trustee Paul Hynek and candidate Todd Carter.

Both Carter and Hynek were opposed to the anti-discrimination policy change – Hynek by vote and Carter in a speech given at the Oct. 12 meeting.

Carter proposed rephrasing all discrimination policies in the district to read, “Saline area schools will not tolerate discrimination or any form of intimidation,” suggesting that “pitting group against group” was not the answer.

Faupel also addressed the board before the policy vote, talking about her experience holding a seat and dealing with affirmative action. “(Students) should be able to come here and be Chinese or Muslim or gay or straight or whatever,” she said of the district. “The world expects you to let these kids develop their talent and go out into the world and contribute to the world. I just hope that tonight, you show as much leadership as these kids here.”

“They should be learning it from you, not teaching it to you.”

However, the board did not agree with Faupel’s support, and she announced shortly after that she had decided to run for a seat.

Faupel’s platform, announced on her Facebook page last week, directly addressed the anti-discrimination policy issue: “Anti-discrimination policies and anti-bullying policies are cousins. Discrimination is the withholding of opportunity from people with little power in society. Bullying is the intentional infliction of emotional distress and/or physical pain on people with little power in society. One is a subtle. One is overt. Both are cowardly and wrong.”



Former Saline School Board Trustee Marian Faupel will be running as a write-in candidate for a seat on the board. Her decision to run was spurred by last Tuesday’s vote.

education possible.

“If somebody does not feel safe in your classroom, they are not learning,” said Gail Wolkoff, a former Ann Arbor teacher for 26

Affirmations' changing face

LGBT center adjusts to new leadership, staff and purpose

CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

FERNDALE – The recent retirement of CEO Leslie Thompson and the hiring of Interim CEO Kevin Howley are just two of the changes taking place at Ferndale-based LGBT community center Affirmations. The organization has seen many new faces in the staff, the management, the board and even the clientele in the past year or two. They have also struggled to grow into their new 18,000-square-foot building in the wake of a failing regional economy.

No one seems to know what that means for the future of the center, but Communications Manager Cass Varner says they are determined to figure it out and come up with a plan.

Affirmations has hired an interim CEO known for his ability to transition organizations through short-term leadership and evaluation. Howley, who will begin the job Nov. 1, said that he's not in the position to speculate what direction the center might take.

"I am looking forward to my work with Affirmations," he said. "As an interim CEO, I'm simply there to work with the board and the stakeholders as they shape their goals for the future. I bring no particular agenda or views to the table other than a focus on good governance and quality operational management."

Since retiring from a successful business career in 2003, Howley has dedicated his time and efforts toward working with nonprofits in transition. Rather than serving as a consultant, he takes over the leadership of an organization for a limited period of time, not intending to take on a permanent role.

He served in this role at several organizations in Pennsylvania, including needle-exchange program Prevention Point Philadelphia and the city's Hispanic center, Centro Nuevo Creacion.

Howley came to Michigan in 2008 to serve a similar purpose at the Ruth Ellis Center. Since then, the center has hired a new executive director, Laura Hughes, as well as secured several grants to continue to grow its outreach to at-risk and homeless LGBTQ youth.

Howley then went on to serve as head of Friends School of Detroit in October 2009, where he helped them restructure financially.

His job at Affirmations will be similar. "Howley's job will be to really look at the organization and do a thorough assessment of the organization to make recommendations so when we do hire a permanent CEO they can have a good, fresh start," Varner said.

A search committee, which has been meeting since Oct. 1, will work to find a permanent CEO while Howley delves into the various parts of Affirmations that work together to keep the center function-



ing, such as the staff, volunteers, board, donors, members and other supporters.

The Affirmations Board of Directors is another area that is seeing new faces. Mary Rose McMillan moved to the position of president at the beginning of summer after serving on the board for less than three years. Vice President Brandon Jones joined the board earlier this year. Two longtime board members and supporters of the center, George Westerman and Nancy Katz, also resigned within the past year.

"A lot of board members were long standing," Varner said. "We've had high turnover, mainly because of a lot of personal issues happening at once. But now we've got a whole new set of ideas, opinions and areas of expertise. We're excited on staff to see what their areas of interest are."

McMillan said she is looking forward to working with Howley during the transition. "Kevin brings a tremendous amount of experience in nonprofit management with him which will allow Affirmations to remain strong through this transition," she said. "His financial and operational expertise will support the organization while we search for a permanent CEO."

The center has also seen changes and reductions in staff, even though the number of people who use the services continues to grow. Affirmations has reduced hours of operation and relies heavily on volunteers to keep the building clean, the helpline answered, and the various classes, workshops and social events going. Yet despite the struggles, they have seen programs flourish simply from the care and passion of the volunteers and staff.

Varner is particularly proud of the Youth Enrichment Program. "It encourages the youth not only to be participants, but to be involved," she explained. "There is a membership program with lots of opportunity for leadership. They can do facilitating groups and trainings or become a junior staff member."

The youth make up just a part of the ever-changing flow of volunteers and clients who come in to use Affirmations'



Affirmations Interim CEO Kevin Howley. BTL photo by Andrew Potter

services and programs. Those programs also happen to fall under the purview of Affirmations' newest staff member, Kim Phillips-Knope, who has been the director of programs since spring. Varner said that providing services has always been a focus of Affirmations, noting that they have maintained programming by reducing staff and hours.

Affirmations moved into their current location three years ago, which has been more blessing than curse for the most part, although there have been some growing pains.

"I don't think anyone understood the gamut of challenges we faced moving into a new, bigger space," Varner said. "There are building maintenance issues we didn't foresee, code issues, staffing issues and things like that. But the new space is great. The best part is its accessibility. It's nice to see so many people come in who just couldn't get to us before."

"We ultimately want people to know we're here for them and feel it's an open place."

The center is always looking for volunteers, and there are open seats on the board. For more information on how to get involved, go to www.goaffirmations.org.

MCRC condemns assistant AG conduct

Group calls for passage of hate crime, bullying bills

BY JESSICA CARRERAS

LANSING – The Michigan Civil Rights Commission has condemned the conduct of an assistant state attorney general accused of harassing the openly gay student assembly president at the University of Michigan.

The commission said in a statement released Oct. 12 that Andrew Shirvell's "conduct should not be tolerated from anyone, let alone a public official responsible for representing all people equally."

"The commission is also concerned about the scope and nature of the involvement of this individual in the execution of the work of the office of the attorney general," they added.

Shirvell started a blog in April that regularly lambasted 21-year-old Chris Armstrong as a racist with a "radical homosexual agenda." Shirvell is on personal leave after the matter exploded in national media and caused widespread calls from both private citizens and politicians, such as Gov. Jennifer Granholm and Democratic attorney general candidate David Leyton, for AG Mike Cox to fire Shirvell.

The MCRC resolution noted that taking a stance on the issue – something their organization rarely does in such a public way – was necessary given the spate of anti-gay bullying and subsequent suicides reported across the U.S. in September. "The commission stands with all individuals, and particularly young individuals, as they face the trauma of bullying and other dangerous abuse," the resolution read. "The commission acknowledges the unnecessary tragedies that such harassment causes."

The MCRC also called upon Cox's office to publicly disclose Shirvell's roles in the office "as it relates to the evaluation, execution and/or disposition of pending legislation, amicus briefs, and/or all other matters within the jurisdiction of the office of the attorney general, including but not limited to the issues of hate crime ... bullying and Elliott Larsen civil rights protections."

Armstrong on Sept. 13 requested a personal protection order against Shirvell, claiming the 30-year-old lawyer frequently harassed him over a five-month period, including videotaping and lurking outside the student's home at 1:30 a.m.

An Oct. 4 hearing was originally set in the Washtenaw County Trial Court by Judge Nancy Francis after she denied Armstrong's request to issue the PPO order immediately. The hearing was pushed back due to paperwork issues and is currently set for 1:30 p.m. Oct. 25.

Emergency food and shelter program announced

Foundations step up to area challenge

DETROIT – On Oct. 13, The Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan, in partnership with the Max M. & Marjorie S. Fisher Foundation, announced the creation and launch of a year-long program designed to help provide increased operating funds to emergency food and shelter organizations and help build the capacity of those organizations to secure gifts from individuals.

"Many emergency food and shelter organizations in our community are struggling to meet the increased demand for their services caused by high unemployment and the continuing foreclosure

See Shelters, page 17



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The safety and effectiveness of ISENTRESS in children has not been studied.

It is important that you remain under your doctor's care.

ISENTRESS will NOT cure HIV infection or reduce your chance of passing HIV to others through sexual contact, sharing needles, or being exposed to your blood.

IMPORTANT RISK INFORMATION

A condition called Immune Reconstitution Syndrome can happen in some patients with advanced HIV infection (AIDS) when anti-HIV treatment is started. Signs and symptoms of inflammation from opportunistic infections may occur as the medicines work to treat the HIV infection and strengthen the immune system. Call your doctor right away if you notice any signs or symptoms of an infection after starting ISENTRESS.

Contact your doctor immediately if you experience unexplained muscle pain, tenderness, or weakness while taking ISENTRESS. This is because on rare occasions muscle problems can be serious and can lead to kidney damage.

When ISENTRESS has been given with other anti-HIV drugs, side effects included nausea, headache, tiredness, weakness, trouble sleeping, stomach pain, dizziness, depression, and suicidal thoughts and actions.

Rash occurred more often in patients taking ISENTRESS and darunavir together than with either drug separately, but was generally mild.

I am outgoing. I am on the go. I am a newlywed. I am HIV positive.

You are special, unique, and different from anyone else. And so is your path to managing HIV. When you're ready to start HIV therapy, talk to your doctor about a medication that may fit your needs and lifestyle.

In clinical studies lasting 96 weeks, patients being treated with HIV medication for the first time who took ISENTRESS plus *Truvada*:

- ◆ Had a low rate of side effects
 - The most common side effect of moderate to severe intensity (that interfered with or kept patients from performing daily activities) was trouble sleeping
 - This side effect occurred more often in patients taking ISENTRESS plus *Truvada* (4%) versus *Sustiva* plus *Truvada* (3%)
- ◆ Experienced less effect on LDL cholesterol ("bad" cholesterol)
 - Cholesterol increased an average of 7 mg/dL with ISENTRESS plus *Truvada* versus 21 mg/dL with *Sustiva* plus *Truvada*

Ask your doctor about ISENTRESS.

Not sure where to start? Visit isentress.com/questions

People taking ISENTRESS may still develop infections, including opportunistic infections or other conditions that occur with HIV infection.

Tell your doctor about all of your medical conditions, including if you have any allergies, are pregnant or plan to become pregnant, or are breast-feeding or plan to breast-feed. ISENTRESS is not recommended for use during pregnancy. Women with HIV should not breast-feed because their babies could be infected with HIV through their breast milk.

Tell your doctor about all the medicines you take, including prescription medicines like rifampin (a medicine used to treat infections such as tuberculosis), non-prescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements.

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

For more information about ISENTRESS, please read the Patient Information on the following page.

Need help paying for ISENTRESS? Call 1-866-350-9232

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ISENTRESS
raltegravir tablets

Patient Information
ISENTRRESS® (eye sen tris)
(raltegravir) Tablets



Read the patient information that comes with ISENTRESS[®] before you start taking it and each time you get a refill. There may be new information. This leaflet is a summary of the information for patients. Your doctor or pharmacist can give you additional information. This leaflet does not take the place of talking with your doctor about your medical condition or your treatment.

What is ISENTRESS?

- ISENTRESS is an anti-HIV (antiretroviral) medicine used for the treatment of HIV. The term HIV stands for Human Immunodeficiency Virus. It is the virus that causes AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome). ISENTRESS is used along with other anti-HIV medicines. ISENTRESS will NOT cure HIV infection.
- People taking ISENTRESS may still develop infections, including opportunistic infections or other conditions that happen with HIV infection.
- Stay under the care of your doctor during treatment with ISENTRESS.
- The safety and effectiveness of ISENTRESS in children has not been studied.

ISENTRRESS must be used with other anti-HIV medicines.

How does ISENTRESS work?

- ISENTRESS blocks an enzyme which the virus (HIV) needs in order to make more virus. The enzyme that ISENTRESS blocks is called HIV integrase.
- When used with other anti-HIV medicines, ISENTRESS may do two things:
 1. Reduce the amount of HIV in your blood. This is called your "viral load".
 2. Increase the number of white blood cells called CD4 (T) cells.
- ISENTRESS may not have these effects in all patients.

Does ISENTRESS lower the chance of passing HIV to other people?

No. ISENTRESS does not reduce the chance of passing HIV to others through sexual contact, sharing needles, or being exposed to your blood.

- Continue to practice safer sex.
- Use latex or polyurethane condoms or other barrier methods to lower the chance of sexual contact with any body fluids. This includes semen from a man, vaginal secretions from a woman, or blood.
- Never re-use or share needles.

Ask your doctor if you have any questions about safer sex or how to prevent passing HIV to other people.

What should I tell my doctor before and during treatment with ISENTRESS?

Tell your doctor about all of your medical conditions. Include any of the following that applies to you:

- You have any allergies.
- You are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.
 - ISENTRESS is not recommended for use during pregnancy. ISENTRESS has not been studied in pregnant women. If you take ISENTRESS while you are pregnant, talk to your doctor about how you can be included in the Antiretroviral Pregnancy Registry.
- You are breast-feeding or plan to breast-feed.
 - It is recommended that HIV-infected women should not breast-feed their infants. This is because their babies could be infected with HIV through their breast milk.
 - Talk with your doctor about the best way to feed your baby.

Tell your doctor about all the medicines you take. Include the following:

- prescription medicines, including rifampin (a medicine used to treat some infections such as tuberculosis)
- non-prescription medicines
- vitamins
- herbal supplements

Know the medicines you take.

- Keep a list of your medicines. Show the list to your doctor and pharmacist when you get a new medicine.

How should I take ISENTRESS?

Take ISENTRESS exactly as your doctor has prescribed. The recommended dose is as follows:

- Take only one 400-mg tablet at a time.
- Take it twice a day.
- Take it by mouth.
- Take it with or without food.

Do not change your dose or stop taking ISENTRESS or your other anti-HIV medicines without first talking with your doctor.

IMPORTANT: Take ISENTRESS exactly as your doctor prescribed and at the right times of day because if you don't:

- The amount of virus (HIV) in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short period of time.
- The virus may develop resistance to ISENTRESS and become harder to treat.
- Your medicines may stop working to fight HIV.
- The activity of ISENTRESS may be reduced (due to resistance).

If you fail to take ISENTRESS the way you should, here's what to do:

- If you miss a dose, take it as soon as you remember. If you do not remember until it is time for your next dose, skip the missed dose and go back to your regular schedule. Do NOT take two tablets of ISENTRESS at the same time. In other words, do NOT take a double dose.
- If you take too much ISENTRESS, call your doctor or local Poison Control Center.

Be sure to keep a supply of your anti-HIV medicines.

- When your ISENTRESS supply starts to run low, get more from your doctor or pharmacy.
- Do not wait until your medicine runs out to get more.

What are the possible side effects of ISENTRESS?

When ISENTRESS has been given with other anti-HIV drugs, side effects included:

- nausea
- headache
- tiredness
- weakness
- trouble sleeping
- stomach pain
- dizziness
- depression
- suicidal thoughts and actions

Other side effects include rash, severe skin reactions, feeling anxious, paranoia, low blood platelet count.

A condition called Immune Reconstitution Syndrome can happen in some patients with advanced HIV infection (AIDS) when combination antiretroviral treatment is started. Signs and symptoms of inflammation from opportunistic infections that a person has or had may occur as the medicines work to treat the HIV infection and help to strengthen the immune system. Call your doctor right away if you notice any signs or symptoms of an infection after starting ISENTRESS with other anti-HIV medicines.

Contact your doctor promptly if you experience unexplained muscle pain, tenderness, or weakness while taking ISENTRESS. This is because on rare occasions, muscle problems can be serious and can lead to kidney damage.

Rash occurred more often in patients taking ISENTRESS and darunavir together than with either drug separately, but was generally mild.

Tell your doctor if you have any side effects that bother you.

These are not all the side effects of ISENTRESS. For more information, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

How should I store ISENTRESS?

- Store ISENTRESS at room temperature (68 to 77°F).
- **Keep ISENTRESS and all medicines out of the reach of children.**

General information about the use of ISENTRESS

Medicines are sometimes prescribed for conditions that are not mentioned in patient information leaflets.

- Do not use ISENTRESS for a condition for which it was not prescribed.
- Do not give ISENTRESS to other people, even if they have the same symptoms you have. It may harm them.

This leaflet gives you the most important information about ISENTRESS.

- If you would like to know more, talk with your doctor.
- You can ask your doctor or pharmacist for additional information about ISENTRESS that is written for health professionals.
- For more information go to www.ISENTRESS.com or call 1-800-622-4477.

What are the ingredients in ISENTRESS?

Active ingredient: Each film-coated tablet contains 400 mg of raltegravir.

Inactive ingredients: Microcrystalline cellulose, lactose monohydrate, calcium phosphate dibasic anhydrous, hypromellose 2208, poloxamer 407 (contains 0.01% butylated hydroxytoluene as antioxidant), sodium stearyl fumarate, magnesium stearate. In addition, the film coating contains the following inactive ingredients: polyvinyl alcohol, titanium dioxide, polyethylene glycol 3350, talc, red iron oxide and black iron oxide.

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A place to call home

Transgender Michigan celebrates opening of org's first office

BY JESSICA CARRERAS

FERNDALE – The small office located on the second floor of Ferndale's Community Pride Building may not look like much, but to Transgender Michigan founders and board members, it's a 13-year-long dream finally come true.

The statewide but southeastern-focused trans support and equal rights group held an open house Oct. 13 commemorating the opening of their first-ever official office. Attended by both TGM members and community supporters, the open house highlighted some of the group's current needs, as well as encouraged visitors to become donors. It also provided a chance for founder and Executive Director Rachel Crandall to talk about some of the organization's upcoming goals.

"We're going to be adding resources and we're going to have any resource anyone would want for being trans," she revealed. "Besides Transgender Michigan, this will also be called the Michigan Transgender Resource Center. We'll have books and information about training shelters regarding trans issues – all kinds of stuff."

Of course, the group still needs donations, too, including office supplies and furniture, trans-focused books and funds to pay insurance, phone and other bills.

The group will be opening a hotline, and hopes to establish a speakers' bureau in the near

future. A longer-term goal is to create a statewide coalition of transgender leaders that will include representation from all corners of the state's trans community. "We want to have all the trans leaders from all over Michigan," Crandall said. "We want to have leaders from up in the U.P., we want to have group leaders, we want to have everyone."

And, she added, the plans aren't just day-dreams, either: Transgender Michigan is currently talking with a "major donor who wants to give us some money."

"I can't tell you who," she teased, "but hopefully you'll be hearing about it eventually. We met with them and they are very excited about us."

TGM Board Member Vanessa Emma Goldman is just excited to see an organization she cares about deeply expand and progress.

"I thought it was wonderful," she said of the decision to open up the office. "As a board member, I think it's a good thing that we have a space here to work out of and to plan our events and things that we're going to do and things for the community – people who need some courage and some help to come out and be themselves."

It's a service that Goldman can help with now that she is out, too. Originally from Wyandotte, the trans activist lives in Flint and works as a librarian at the city's University of Michigan



Transgender Michigan founder and Executive Director Rachel Crandall at the organization's Oct. 13 open house celebrating their first-ever office. BTL photo by Jessica Carreras

satellite campus.

Goldman came out as transgender five years ago, and became involved with TGM shortly after. "It was not an easy thing to come out," she recalled. "When I was growing up in the downriver suburbs of Detroit, you just didn't talk about being gay or lesbian or transgender or anything like that, so it was only recently that I felt comfortable admitting even to myself who I am."

Goldman says she'd like to see Transgender Michigan continue to grow and expand its services throughout the state.

"I'd like us to get more members and get more of a presence around the state," she shared. "Recently I've seen e-mails from people who are way up north that are wanting to find help and it's

really hard because there's not as many (LGBT) people up there, there's no place like Affirmations or like this or like the college LGBT centers.

"I'd like to get more help for people, get more of a presence, not just in the obvious places like Ann Arbor or Ferndale, but everywhere."

Crandall adds that she hopes the organization will eventually have more than just an office to work out of. "We've been working on this ever since we started Transgender Michigan 13 years ago," she says of opening the office. "We're going to be expanding in the future and who knows? Maybe one day in the far future, we'll have our own building."

National survey shows widespread bias

Transgender Michigan founder weighs in on issues from local perspective

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

Transgender and gender non-conforming people face rampant discrimination in health care settings and are regularly denied needed care, according to a report released jointly Oct. 13 by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and the National Center for Transgender Equality.

The National Transgender Discrimination Survey: Report on Health and Health Care compiled data received by 6,450 respondents from all 50 states. It is, according to the two agencies, the most extensive survey of transgender discrimination ever undertaken. And the results are harrowing.

"It is outrageous that basic health care is being denied to transgender and gender non-conforming people and that so much additional trauma is being caused by doctors instead of being resolved by doctors," said Task Force Executive Director Rea Carey. "The medical profession must take these data seriously and ensure that everyone in the medical care system knows how to provide transgender-sensitive medical care."

Most discouraging is the fact that nearly one in five respondents reported being refused care outright because they were transgender or gender non-conforming.

"I know a person who told their story to a physician and the physician said, 'You have 30 seconds to get out of my office before I call the police.'"

- Transgender Michigan Executive Director and founder Rachel Crandall

Transgender Michigan Executive Director and founder Rachel Crandall confirmed the findings. "I know a person who told their story to a physician and the physician said, 'You have 30 seconds to get out of my office before I call the police,'" she said.

Crandall, who is a psychotherapist and gender identity specialist, weighed in on key findings of the national report, including the fact that 50 percent of respondents reported a significant lack of provider knowledge and said that they actually had to teach their providers about transgender care.

"Actually, I think the number of people who

have had to educate their health care provider is much higher," Crandall said. "Almost every transgender person I work with has had to do that."

"In med school, there is absolutely nothing taught regarding the trans community," Crandall continued. "That's a problem right from the start. People are learning absolutely nothing in med school, so how can we expect they'll know anything when they get out of med school? I think there has to be transgender-related health care taught ... in every med school. I think that's the only way it will really change."

The report also showed that 28 percent of those who participated were subjected to harassment in medical settings; 25 percent misused drugs or alcohol specifically to cope with the discrimination they faced due to their gender identity or expression; and 41 percent reported attempting suicide – compared with 1.6 of the general population.

"It really infuriates me that trans people are getting such poor health care," said Crandall. "It really doesn't surprise me, but it really infuriates me."

So what of the Hippocratic Oath? The doctor's pledge to do no harm?

"I think some doctors think the Hippocratic Oath applies to only treating people like them-

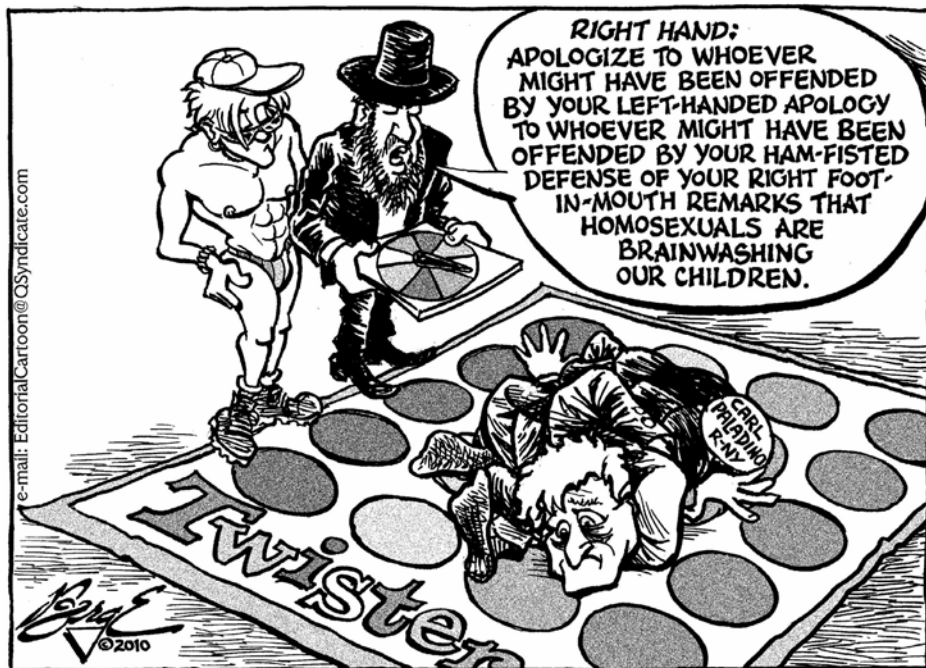
selves, and that's really frightening," Crandall commented. "But I think that's the way it's been interpreted: 'I'll serve normal people but I won't serve freaks.' And, unfortunately, that's the way a lot of doctors view all members of the LGBT community."

Crandall has her own health care horror story.

"When I just beginning to come out, I told my doctor that I was trans and his response was, 'No, you're not.' He said, 'You're not trans. It is normal for men to question their masculinity and that's what's going on with you, but you are definitely not trans,'" she recalled. "Now, that was after I had been seeing a social worker about it for five years. This doctor really did not want to treat me for anything related to transgender issues, so he kept on trying to talk me out of it."

Now, Crandall advises the transgender community to only see physicians with experience treating transgender men and women. Transgender Michigan maintains a list of trans-friendly and -experienced doctors on their website, www.transgendermichigan.org.

To read more about the *Transgender Discrimination Survey: Report on Health and Health Care*, or to download it, visit www.thetaskforce.org.



BTL EDITORIAL

Making excuses

On Oct. 12 at a meeting for the Saline School Board, dozens of people spoke passionately for over two hours about the need to protect LGBTQ students in every way possible, from bullying to anti-discrimination policies. Some of them cried, others drew thunderous applause and some spoke silently, but persuasively, about why adding “sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression” to the Saline school district’s student discrimination policy was necessary and, in fact, shouldn’t even be up for debate, but a no-brainer.

But in 30 seconds, with four opposing and only three affirming votes from board trustees, all those words and emotions and tears turned to dust.

It is truly amazing how far prejudice can go. How could any person – let alone four of them – look over 100 youth in the eyes and say to them, “You do not deserve to be protected”?

This is how: by making excuses. Here’s a look at some of them.

Excuse No. 1: “There are no cases of discrimination in Saline schools.”

Just because no one reports discrimination doesn’t mean that it doesn’t happen. In fact, an unnamed teacher even sent a letter during the weeks of debate on the issue intending to intimidate school board members into opposing the measure. A teacher that some of those kids may have to face, unable to defend themselves if that teacher chooses to single them out for being LGBT.

Excuse No. 2: “Why should LGBT kids get special protections?”

Why kids of different races, religions and ethnicities? Why protect against sex discrimination? Because these are things that people are specifically targeted for, and anyone who tries to argue that LGBT kids don’t face bias from peers and adults in their lives is willingly blind. It isn’t about special protections; it’s about equal protections.

Excuse No. 3: “Our state and federal laws don’t provide discrimination protections, so to

Good laws start with school districts and cities and towns and businesses and slowly, as communities change, states and regions and countries begin to change. The Saline School Board is simply a sheep following an ill-informed and anti-gay herd.

defy those laws in our policies would be illegal.”

Good laws don’t usually start at federal or even state levels. They start with school districts and cities and towns and businesses and slowly, as communities change, states and regions and countries begin to change. The Saline School Board is simply a sheep following an ill-informed and anti-gay herd.

Excuse No. 4: “This is about bullying, not discrimination. Strengthen the bullying policy, not the anti-discrimination policy.”

But the two go hand in hand. How can children be taught not to bully their LGBT peers when discrimination is allowed and, by this decision, endorsed by the school district? This argument says that when a teen is pushed into the locker and called a fag, it’s inexcusable, but when a teacher gives a lower grade to a student or ignores their questions in class because they are “different,” it’s permissible.

Saying that bullying is the only issue that needs to be addressed begs the question: If you believe that LGBT youth should be treated equally, why not exhibit that belief in every way possible?

The only real reason those four members of the Saline School Board have for voting the way they did is fear. And that is no excuse at all.

VIEWPOINT



BY JIM LARKIN

“I am terrified by this dark thing
That sleeps in me;
All day I feel its soft, feathery turnings, its
malignity.
... Its snaky acids kiss.
It petrifies the will. These are the isolate,
slow faults
That kill, that kill that kill.”

– Sylvia Plath

Suicide dogged me throughout much of my young life, nipping at my heels and threatening to swallow me whole.

There were the two times – once was not enough – I was barely able to swing my dad’s ladder over to the place, high in the ceiling coves, where he kept his dangerous solvents. I didn’t know what turpentine was; only that it contained a warning label that told me it could kill me. I drank it, hoping it would end my misery, only to be found in enough time to have my stomach pumped.

There were the sleeping pills, the only pills I knew how to get my hands on at the local drug store, that I kept stashed in my sock until I could work up the courage, only to have my mother find them and tell me never to bring them into the house again.

There were the stolen moments when I would hike myself up on the oil burner and then hoist myself on the roof of our small home, where I could look down and wonder how much pain would greet me if I threw myself off.

During those early years, I didn’t know what was wrong with me, only that I knew I was different from the other boys and felt totally alone. It would take years to find out what was “wrong,” followed by years of figuring out I could hide it by acting like all the other boys, followed by years of more pretending and denying who I was and wallowing in the self-hatred that burned so deeply I was sure one day I would simply ignite.

Hate the sin, they told me. And despite what they tell you about loving the sinner, for those living the lie it can only mean one thing: hate thyself. I did a fine job of it.

So I understand a little bit about Rutgers University freshman Tyler Clementi, who jumped to his death off the George Washington Bridge last month after his private sexual encounter with another man was splashed over the Internet. And Billy Lucas, 15, who hanged himself in a barn in Greensburg, Ind., and Asher Brown, 13, who shot himself in the head in Houston Texas, and Seth Walsh, 13, of Tehachapi, Calif., who hanged himself from a tree in his backyard.

All within one month. All victims of anti-gay bullying.

While legislators in New Jersey search for ways to strengthen its anti-bullying laws, we in Michigan don’t even have one. We don’t need one, say those opposing such legislation, and certainly not if sexual orientation or gender

A plea to gay teens

identity are protected by it.

But the fact is we are tiptoeing around a suicide time bomb here in Michigan, one of the worst places in the United States for a gay person to live. We have no state laws prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity. We provide no hate crimes protection to members of the LGBT community. We adopted one of the broadest bans in the country prohibiting same sex marriage, intentionally drafted to outlaw even the possibility of any form of civil union.

Our state Supreme Court was ranked among the nation’s worst in terms of its policies on LGBT-based rights. And, as Wayne State University Professor Peter J. Hammer so eloquently worded, our state attorney general turned what was supposed to be a shield into a sword and held that the marriage amendment prohibited state employers from offering domestic partnership benefits to same sex couples.

We couldn’t more clearly tell our gay youth that they are not wanted, not valued and indeed are not even second-class citizens but something much lower. We tell them by our actions, despite all the ridiculous words about “loving the sinner but hating the sin,” to hate themselves. There can be no clearer encouragement of teenage gay suicide than the one Michigan provides.

“Policy analysts always joke that Mississippi rates at the bottom of important state indices for education and infrastructure investment, making Mississippi the butt of many comparative jokes. Michigan may soon well risk being known as the Mississippi of civil and political rights,” Hammer noted in his written testimony encouraging the state to amend the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act to include sexual orientation and gender identity.

Yet we have cities say they don’t need to protect its gay and lesbian residents against discrimination. We have a state legislator that refuses, year after year, to adopt anti-bullying legislation. And, if polls are accurate, we are about to turn the governorship over to a Republican party that has made gay-bashing a political divisive tool.

The time bomb ticks. And our state “leaders” do nothing to stop it.

Thankfully, a number of grassroots organizations have stepped up in the absence of state leadership to lend local support for gay teens. Many areas – 16 in all – offer Parents and Friends and Families of Lesbians and Gays chapters, all which provide support and many of which provide hotlines (for your nearest chapter, go to www.pflag.org). Some community groups, such as those in Jackson and Holland, are calling out for anti-discrimination ordinances. And there are a number of online sites that provide help, including www.chadzboyz.com and www.youtube.com/user/itgetsbetterproject.

Reach out. It does, despite the best efforts of some to make your life miserable, get better. You have neighbors who know what you are going through and are trying to make your life better, your future more promising. You just have to get there. Please.

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

S/he said

Bullying, Facebook and It Gets Better

COMPILED BY HOWARD ISRAEL

"Nowadays, the Christian refrain isn't, 'Stop being gay.' Now it is, 'Stop acting gay.' They've given up trying to argue that the homosexual can change his or her sexual orientation: the complete failure of Christian Fix-a-Gay and Homo No'Mo! programs – not to mention a universe of anecdotal and empirical evidence – have left them little choice. So they've changed their approach. Now the argument is: A homosexual struggling against the temptation to act homosexual is no different from anyone else struggling to resist a sinful temptation."

- John Shore, in his column titled "Just Resist The Temptation": The Anti-Love Approach To Homosexuality," www.huffingtonpost.com, Oct. 2.



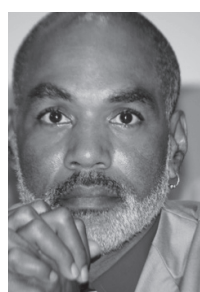
Alex Blaze

"In the videos in Dan Savage's 'It Gets Better' Project, the way it gets better for most people in the videos is that they're able to move away from their small towns and choose their own friends. Homophobia doesn't decrease; rather, we find ways to shield ourselves from it. ... The homophobes still exist, they're just far away, doing their own thing, having queer kids and anti-queer kids and indifferent kids and the odd gay-supportive kid, going back to school only to hear 'it gets better,' but first it'll be terrible."

- Alex Blaze, in her column titled "LGBT People Need to Take the Fight Back to School," www.huffingtonpost.com, Oct. 8.

"The first thing that went through my mind was, 'Oh, no, not again.' And because there's an epidemic of suicide among LGBT young people, my next reaction is anger. I'm convinced that the root of a lot of this is religion-based discrimination and defamation. Frankly, I think there's a lot of spiritual malpractice going on."

- Rev. Jack McKinney, a Baptist minister and private pastoral counselor in Raleigh, N.C., in an article titled "Gay Harassment and the Struggle for Inclusion," www.nytimes.com, Oct. 8.



Phill Wilson

"We need take responsibility for protecting ourselves from HIV – it is nobody else's job to protect us but us. We need to move from blame and shame to responsibility and accountability. We need to create a culture that embraces all of us regardless of gender or sexual orientation. We need our wives, mothers, sisters, and daughters to know they are beautiful and complete whether they are partnered or not. And we need black men to step up to the plate, be honest about who we are, regardless of sexual orientation, and provide the leadership this issue demands from black men."

- Phill Wilson, chief executive officer of the Black AIDS Institute, in his column titled "When You Know Better, You Do Better," www.blackaids.org, Oct. 8.

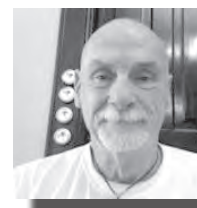


"There's a connection between Prop. 8, 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' and now this string of teen suicides. It's almost sanctioned to bully gay people and treat them as second class citizens. There are a lot of right-wing conservative people that absolutely sanction this behavior. All you anti-gay public figures, and you know who you are, you have the blood of these dead teens on your hands."

- Kathy Griffin, on CNN's Larry King Live, talking about gay bullying and suicide, www.ontopmag.com, Oct. 7.

"Facebook has taken an important first step in making social media a place where anti-gay violence is not allowed. Our community needs to continue to be vigilant and report instances of hateful comments and images across the site to Facebook moderators as well as post messages of support for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender youth."

- Jarrett Barrios, president of the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, in a joint press release with Facebook titled "GLAAD and Facebook Work Together to Remove Anti-Gay Comments," www.glaad.org, Oct. 13.



Parting Glances Then & Now

BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

Dr. Jekyll, Mr. Hide

To diddle an old saying: You can't judge a gay author – or his book – by the cover.

Case in point: Groundbreaking 1951 sociological expose, "The Homosexual in America." Gay nom de plume: Donald Webster Cory. Real name: Edward Sagarin. Outed dramatically 24 closeted years later. (A gay Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hide. er, Hyde.)

Cory's "Homosexual" followed three years after Alfred Kinsey's shelf-shocker, "Sexual Response in the Human Male." Both books provided in-your-face facts, focus, insights on a previously little discussed – statistically undocumented subject – homosexuality.

Kinsey, a biologist and authority on Gall Wasps, turned his scientific cataloging to humans. His research institute colleagues interviewed 5,940 men about their sex lives. The result: 804 pages of tables, charts, statistics. Dull; but, for the American public, titillating best-seller reading.

Data showed 37 percent of the male population had at least some overt gay experience to ejaculation; 4 percent of white males were exclusively homosexual after the onset of adolescence. Findings were startling, staggering and, from our perspective today, ultimately liberating.

It's safe to say of the time frame 62 years ago that the average Joe believed he had never met a homosexual; that fags, fairies, fruits were few, but even so: they were perverts, mentally unbalanced, to be incarcerated, punished if caught with their collective pants down, justifiably shunned by church, family, employers, military, government; to be dealt with by psychiatrists and/or police. (Sound just vaguely familiar?)

Those Americans living in large cities – Chicago, New York, San Francisco and Detroit – were likely to be aware of thriving gay subcultures gathered secretly in gay bars. (Detroit's bar community dates to Prohibition, with earlier house parties in the '20s. Gay bars thrived during World War II.)

Sagarin, a married bisexual, sociologist, trained criminologist (and perfume authority), documented gay life as a social phenomenon and as a participant observer in his "The Homosexual in America." He provided a fair-minded understanding of gay persons, their subculture, slang, sexual acts, their basic proximity to the so-called heterosexual "norm."

"As a minority homosexuals are caught in a particularly vicious circle," said Sagarin, writing as Donald Webster Cory, a pen name gleaned from André Gide's 1924 gay novel "Corydon," later published in America in 1950.

"On the one hand, the shame of belonging and the social punishment of acknowledge are so great that pretense is almost universal. On the other hand, only a leadership that would acknowledge (being homosexual) would be able to break down the barriers of shame and a resultant discrimination.

"Until we are willing to speak out openly and frankly in defense of our activities, and to identify ourselves with the millions pursuing these activities, we are unlikely to find the attitudes of the world undergoing any significant change."

Nonetheless, for all his advocacy on the behalf of America's gay population, Sagarin very cautiously, quietly, and only in 1962, joined the homophile Mattachine Society. His participation was supportive but "don't rock the boat": no militant advocacy for civil rights.

As a sociologist, himself in psychotherapy, Sagarin believed that homosexuality was a pathology; that homosexuals should seek psychotherapy. Few of his gay friends or colleagues knew that he was the famous (at least in gay circles) Donald Webster Cory. His second gay book, "21 Variations on a Theme."

His identity remained secret until a 1974 American Sociological Society convention held in Montreal. He appeared on a panel, "Theoretical Perspectives on Homosexuality," speaking strongly against liberationist scholarship. A colleague, Laud Humphreys, took umbrage – and perhaps some polymorphous perverse delight – in exposing Sagarin by repeatedly calling him "Mr. Cory."

Sagarin broke down in tears; withdrawing thereafter from all issues concerning homosexual discussion. He died in 1986, age 73. Mr. Hide or not, he was a pioneer for humane understanding of gay people (R.I.P.).

Charles@pridesource.com. Facebook, too.

Creep OF THE Week

Saline School Board

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

I think we can all agree that bullying is bad. No one likes to be bullied (Well, OK, some people do, but not, like, for real. That's why they have a safe word.) and no one wants their kids to get taunted and harassed while they're at school.

But if there's one thing worse than bullying it's anti-bullying. Because everybody knows that "anti-bullying" is really just code for "promo-homo" and is an attempt to indoctrinate children to hate Jesus and love leather daddies and bull dykes.

So congratulations to the Saline School Board for voting against adding "sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression" to the school district's non-discrimination policy. And double congratulations for holding this historic vote just days after a 19-year-old killed himself after attending a city council meeting in Oklahoma where person after person stood up to say how terrible gay people were.

Why did the Saline School Board vote 4-3 to keep LGBTs out of their non-discrimination policy? Well, they already have an anti-bullying policy, which supposedly covers that.

"We already have a policy in place," said board member Paul Hynek, who also acknowledged that "we don't live in a tolerant society."

Late September Hynek claimed, "The root of the problem is bullying; we need to get that under control." Surely getting bullying under control couldn't possibly start with adding "sexual orientation,

Because everybody knows that "anti-bullying" is really just code for "promo-homo" and is an attempt to indoctrinate children to hate Jesus and love leather daddies and bull dykes.

gender identity and gender expression" to the non-discrimination policy. I mean, to teach kids not to bully LGBT students it couldn't possibly matter whether the school district is willing to acknowledge that LGBT students not only exist but are also worthy of protection against discrimination.

"I do feel that people have been bullied and harassed," Hynek told *AnnArbor.com*. "But I'm thinking they're not the only group in the high school that gets bullied and harassed." It is, after all, well known that a group cannot receive protection until they are the only group getting discriminated against for who they are.

Board member Chuck Lesch said that since Michigan doesn't include LGBT folks in the state non-discrimination laws, Saline shouldn't have to either.

High school science teacher Tom Frederick boldly spoke out against the change, worrying that banning discrimination against gays would "lead to future cases of discrimination."

POW! That's the sound of Frederick blowing your mind.

Think about it: Fight fire with fire, right? In other words, fight discrimination with discrimination. As Dan Savage wrote, "If you ban discrimination against LGBT students then you're going to wind up discriminating against the people who want to discriminate against LGBT students."

And those people usually claim that it's a God-given right to think homosexuals are disgusting, awful people and to treat them as such.

As Superintendent Scot Graden told *AnnArbor.com*, without changing the policy LGBT students could technically be discriminated against by school employees without recourse. He gave the hypothetical example of a student getting cut from the volleyball team for being a lesbian.

But come on, it's one thing to put "no ass kicking" in an anti-bullying policy. It's another to put into writing that LGBT folks will get a fair shake in your school district. It's like putting out a welcome mat for the queers. Next thing you know, LGBT riff-raff will infiltrate the school.

And as more and more schools adopt inclusive non-discrimination policies, people are going to expect more from principals and school board members who don't do a damn thing to help LGBT kids until it's time to say, "So sorry for your loss" to parents at a kid's funeral.

Thank you, Saline Board members, for standing up against such a world.

Gay marriage debate persists in some Nov. 2 races

Candidates still squabbling over same-sex relationship recognitions

BY DAVID CRARY

This election will be the first since the 1990s without a measure to ban gay marriage on any state ballot, yet the divisive issue is roiling races across the U.S. during a time of tumult for the gay rights movement.

In Minnesota, New Hampshire, California and New York, gubernatorial campaigns have become battlegrounds for rival sides in the debate, with the Democratic candidates supporting same-sex marriage and the Republicans opposed.

In Iowa, voters will decide whether to oust three state Supreme Court justices who joined last year's unanimous decision making the state one of five where gay marriage is legal.

And in Rhode Island and California, Democratic candidates are seeking to become the fourth and fifth openly gay members of Congress. The Californian, Palm Springs Mayor Steve Pougnet, has a husband and 4-year-old twins, and would be Congress' first openly gay parent.

The races are unfolding on a rapidly shifting gay rights landscape, with activists elated by important court rulings, irked at setbacks in Washington and jolted by high-profile cases of anti-gay violence and bullying-provoked suicides.

The mixed emotions have been evident in recent days as a federal judge ordered a halt to enforcement of the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy. The Obama administration says it agrees with the judge that gays should be allowed to serve openly, yet to the frustration of gay activists, the administration appealed the ruling, saying it preferred that Congress repeal the policy.

"It's the best of times and worst of times," said Richard Socarides, a former Clinton White House adviser on gay rights.

"Culturally you see a huge increase in acceptance of gays and lesbians, and in the federal courts you see for the first time a willingness to embrace the Constitution as a vehicle for securing equality for gay people," Socarides said. "Yet in our nation's politics, we see essentially the opposite."

He said President Barack Obama has failed to deliver on his pledges to gays regarding marriage recognition and repeal of the ban on gays serving openly.

"The president made a conscious decision coming in that these were second- and third-tier issues," Socarides said. "People were very excited by him. But he overpromised and underdelivered."

Obama said Oct. 14 that the military policy "will end and it will end on my watch," but he acknowledged the con-



straints of the legal process.

Republicans have not emphasized social issues as much as in recent elections, calculating that dismay over the economy and frustration with the Democratic agenda will be enough to post big gains. The Republicans' recent "Pledge to America" did not call for a federal ban on gay marriage or broach the issue of gays in the military.

"Even the most conservative Republicans understand that these issues don't work on their behalf nearly as effectively as they did a few years ago," said Fred Sainz of the Human Rights Campaign, a national gay rights group.

Brian Brown of the National Organization for Marriage, a major financial backer of campaigns opposing same-sex marriage, said Republicans would be unwise to soften their stance on the issue.

"We're not saying the No. 1 issue in every state is same-sex marriage," he said. "We are saying it's an important issue, and Republicans abandon it at their peril."

A look at some of the notable races:

California

The high-profile races for governor and Senate coincide with legal wrangling over Proposition 8, the ballot measure approved by California voters in 2008 that banned same-sex marriage.

A federal judge ruled in August that the ban is unconstitutional. The case will be heard before the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in December. State Attorney General Jerry Brown, the Democratic candidate for governor, supports same-sex marriage and has refused to defend Propo-

sition 8 in court. His Republican opponent, Meg Whitman, opposes gay marriage and has pledged to defend the ban.

The Senate race has a similar split: Democratic incumbent Barbara Boxer supports same-sex marriage and Republican challenger Carly Fiorina opposes it.

Prop. 8 supporters organized a bus tour across the state intended to rally Latino support for Fiorina based on the marriage issue. They also released a TV ad in Spanish highlighting Boxer's support for abortion rights and same-sex marriage.

New Hampshire

Last year, Democratic Gov. John Lynch, who said he opposed gay marriage, signed a bill legalizing it after lawmakers approved provisions affirming religious rights.

Lynch is up for re-election, facing a Republican who opposes same-sex marriage, and the National Organization for Marriage is running ads against the governor depicting his signing of the bill as a betrayal of voters.

Andy Smith of the University of New Hampshire Survey Center said Lynch has a solid lead over Republican nominee John Stephen in the center's latest poll, while voters seem relatively at ease with legalized gay marriage.

"When the economy is bad, it tends to blow social issues out the door," Smith said. "Voters are more concerned about what's on the table than what their neighbor is doing."

Minnesota

There's a similar dynamic in the race to succeed Republican Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty. Republican candidate Tom Emmer opposes same-sex marriage, while

Republican's gay issues hound NY governor campaign

Paladino apologizes for remarks, but can't escape negative publicity

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) – The Republican candidate for the governorship of New York has recently railed against gay marriage and called the bumping-and-griding at gay pride parades disgusting. He also once was the landlord for two gay clubs in Buffalo.

The real estate deal, first reported Oct. 13 by the New York Daily News, left Democrats calling him a hypocrite. Carl Paladino's Republican campaign said it proved that he supports gay rights, just not gay marriage.

Meanwhile, a rabbi who represents an umbrella organization of ultra-Orthodox clerics said he was dropping his endorsement of Paladino because the candidate had apologized for the harsh wording of some of his comments about gays at a recent event.

Paladino's campaign has acknowledged the mistakes have hurt his candidacy as it tries to overcome Democrat Andrew Cuomo's double-digit lead in the polls. The Republican's poll numbers had been slipping since late September, when he was caught on video loudly arguing with a reporter over Paladino's unsubstantiated claim that Cuomo had extramarital affairs.

Then, late last Wednesday, political website WNYMedia.net released pornographic e-mails forwarded under Paladino's company account that it said he had sent to friends and business associates. It's the second batch of embarrassing messages linked to the candidate, who has already apologized for forwarding racist

and sexist e-mails.

But the biggest conflict began Oct. 10, when Paladino told Orthodox Jewish leaders in New York that he opposes gay marriage and doesn't want children being "brainwashed into thinking that homosexuality is an equally valid and successful option." He also told the rabbis, "That's not how God created us, and that's not the example that we should be showing our children."



Carl Paladino

The next day, he said he was referring only to his opposition to gay marriage, then added that young children shouldn't be exposed to homosexuality, especially at gay Pride parades.

On Oct. 12, the day after National Coming Out Day, Paladino apologized for using harsh words, such as "brainwashed," but not his opposition to gay marriage.

"I sincerely apologize for any comment that may have offended the gay and lesbian community or their family members. Any reference to branding an entire community based on a small representation of them is wrong," he said in a statement. "The portrayal of me as anti-gay is inconsistent with my lifelong beliefs and actions and my prior history as a father, employer and friend to many in the gay and lesbian community."

That apology lost Paladino an endorsement. Orthodox Rabbi Yehuda Levin, one of his hosts at the Jewish event, withdrew his support and accused Paladino of

bowing to political pressure. Levin says he was told by the campaign that Paladino apologized at the urging of family members, because his nephew is gay.

Paladino spokesman Michael Caputo told The Associated Press that the rabbi and Paladino "agree on many things and disagree on some, too. He's entitled to his opinion."

Being a landlord to two gay clubs in Buffalo "was a clear example of how Carl Paladino doesn't discriminate against the gay community in business," Caputo said. "Carl not only rented to the clubs – he had a good working relationship with them throughout their tenancy."

Cuomo wouldn't comment. Democratic Chairman Jay Jacobs, head of the party's state committee, said Paladino's "extremism is outdone only by his hypocrisy."

Conservative Party Chairman Michael Long, who is critical to Paladino's chances for winning Nov. 2, said Paladino had better get back to his primary message of cutting taxes and state spending.

As for the leases with gay clubs, Long says it shows "he has no prejudices."

"He is not a slick politician," Long said of Paladino, his party's nominee. "He may at times be somewhat gruff, but anything I saw – and I watched all his interviews – I didn't see any meanness."

The New York Post reported a brief interview with Paladino's gay nephew, Jeff Hannon, saying, "Obviously, I'm very offended by his comments." He declined further comment. The nephew continues to work on the campaign, Caputo said.

► Gay Marriage

Continued from p. 14

Democrat Mark Dayton and independent Tom Horner support it.

The National Organization for Marriage has run TV ads for Emmer, highlighting the three candidates' stances on marriage. The ads infuriated some gay rights groups because they used the image of slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr.

University of Minnesota political scientist Larry Jacobs says Dayton appears to be leading, but the race is up for grabs. According to Jacobs, few voters consider gay marriage a vital issue, and Emmer has not emphasized it. "In past years Republicans have used gay marriage as an issue to mobilize their base, to bring out conservatives," Jacobs said. "This year they don't need it."

Brown, the National Organization for

Marriage's president, disagreed.

"When marriage becomes an issue, as it has in Minnesota, people understand what's at stake," he said. "This could be a decisive factor in the governor's race."

New York

Republican gubernatorial candidate Carl Paladino was considered an underdog from the outset in his race against Democrat Andrew Cuomo.

Now Paladino's task may be even harder after his recent entanglement in gay-related controversies. He railed against gay marriage in a speech to Orthodox Jewish leaders, then called gay Pride parades disgusting.

Under fire from gay rights advocates, including the Cuomo campaign, he apologized, costing him his support from a leading ultra-Orthodox rabbi. Meanwhile, news reports surfaced that Paladino was once landlord of two gay clubs in Buffalo.

Iowa

Polls show Iowa voters evenly split on whether to oust three Supreme Court justices who were part of the decision legalizing gay marriage. If the effort succeeds, it would be the first time since Iowa adopted its current system for appointing judges in 1962 that voters opted to remove a Supreme Court justice.

The targets include Chief Justice Marsha Ternus, who said the three wouldn't undertake a counter-campaign because they don't want to set a questionable example for judges by campaigning and raising money.

Brown said removal of any of the justices would be a "game-changer" with national impact.

"Judges will have to sit up and take notice that they can't just arbitrarily make up the law," he said.



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Gov't seeks to resurrect 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell'

Obama shocks activists with appeal of court-issued injunction for military ban

BY REX WOCKNER

The U.S. government moved Oct. 14 to block a Riverside, Calif., federal judge's worldwide injunction issued two days earlier that bars the government from making any further use of the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" military gay ban.

Justice Department lawyers asked U.S. District Judge Virginia Phillips to suspend the injunction while the government appeals it, saying her mandated, immediate, universal end to DADT was imprudent and could harm the U.S. military.

Phillips rejected the stay request in a tentative ruling Oct. 18, meaning that "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" remains unenforceable worldwide. Leaders in the Pentagon, however, still advised gay troops not to come out during the law's uncertain time.

In issuing her injunction, Phillips said DADT violates servicemembers' and prospective servicemembers' Fifth Amendment due-process rights and First Amendment rights to free speech and to petition for redress of grievances. She permanently enjoined the United States, the defense secretary and anyone working with them from enforcing or applying DADT against any person.

She ordered the U.S. and the defense secretary to "immediately ... 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."

Phillips 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 followed a nonjury trial that was held July 13-23, and Phillips' issuance of her opinion striking down DADT on Sept. 9.

But the Justice Department was having none of it and sought an order staying application of

"Today's appeal by President Obama's Department of Justice is not only indefensible – it is yet another shocking lack of leadership from the White House on issues of equality for the LGBT community."

- GetEQUAL Director Robin McGehee

the injunction pending appeal. The Department said that if Phillips rejected the stay, which it appears she has, it would seek "an immediate administrative stay" from the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals "to allow the orderly litigation of the stay request before that Court."

As of press time, no other attempts by the DOJ to stay the injunction had been made.

"As the president has stated previously, the administration does not support the DADT statute as a matter of policy and strongly supports its repeal," the Justice Department told Phillips. "However, the Department of Justice has long followed the practice of defending federal statutes as long as reasonable arguments can be made in support of their constitutionality, even if the administration disagrees with a particular statute as a policy matter, as it does here."

Beyond that, the injunction was imprudent, disrupting and frustrating, and is possibly harmful, the government said.

"(T)he Department of Defense has established a high-level Working Group that is currently conducting a comprehensive review of the

statute and how best to implement a change in policy in a prudent manner," the lawyers said. "The Working Group is nearing completion of its report to the secretary, which is due on Dec. 1. The immediate implementation of the injunction would disrupt this review and frustrate the secretary's ability to recommend and implement policies that would ensure that any repeal of DADT does not irreparably harm the government's critical interests in military readiness, combat effectiveness, unit cohesion, morale, good order, discipline, and recruiting and retention of the armed forces."

Furthermore, the Defense Department isn't up to the task of stopping DADT cold, the lawyers said.

"The DADT statute implicates dozens of DoD and service policies and regulations that cover such disparate issues as benefits, re-accession, military equal opportunity, anti-harassment, and others," they wrote. "Amending these regulations would typically take several months, because of the need to notify and seek input from all affected to ensure that changes do not inadvertently result in unanticipated negative effects on the force. Properly implementing any change in policy would thus be a massive undertaking by the department and the military and cannot be done overnight. And if the court's judgment is reversed on appeal, the department and the military will have to implement another major policy change – creating further disruption and confusion."

Gay advocates were not pleased

Human Rights Campaign President Joe Solmonese: "It is certainly disappointing and frustrating that the administration has sought a stay."

Servicemembers Legal Defense Network Executive Director Aubrey Sarvis: "We are disappointed but not surprised."

Servicemembers United Executive Director Alexander Nicholson: "This request from the Obama administration asking Judge Phillips to stay her own injunction was expected, but it is nevertheless disappointing in light of the president's claim that 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' harms national security and impairs military readiness. ... (W)e all hope that our commander in chief will fiercely advocate for the immediate elimination of anything that stands in the way of national security and military readiness."

LCR lawyer Dan Woods: "We are not surprised by the government's action, as it repeats the broken promises and empty words from President Obama avowing to end 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' while at the same time directing his Justice Department to defend this unconstitutional policy. Now that the government has filed a request for a stay, we will oppose it vigorously because brave, patriotic homosexuals are serving in our armed forces to fight for all of our constitutional rights while the government is denying them theirs."

GetEQUAL Director Robin McGehee: "Today's appeal by President Obama's Department of Justice is not only indefensible – it is yet another shocking lack of leadership from the White House on issues of equality for the LGBT community. ... Yet again, we are faced with action by this administration that stands in stark contrast to the campaign rhetoric and lofty speeches about equality that continue to be served up as progress to our community."

Obama, for his part, tweeted: "Anybody who wants to serve in our armed forces and make sacrifices on our behalf should be able to. DADT will end & it will end on my watch."

Lawsuit filed on behalf of corrections officer

ACLU says Mississippi officer fired for being gay, had unblemished record

HATTIESBURG, Miss. – The American Civil Liberties Union filed a lawsuit Oct. 18 on behalf of Andre Cooley, a corrections officer for juvenile detainees with an exemplary record. Cooley was fired when his supervisors discovered that he was gay. The lawsuit claims Cooley's constitutional rights were violated by the Forrest County Sheriff's Department and his superior officers.

"Andre's sexual orientation has no bearing on his ability to perform the job of a corrections officer," said Joshua Block, staff attorney with the ACLU Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Project. "It is well established that a public employer cannot fire an employee based on irrational fears and prejudices against gay people. Andre's case is also a reminder that people in Mississippi who work for private companies are left almost entirely unprotected from anti-gay discrimination. There is currently no state or federal law protecting against employment discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation."

On June 14 while, at home and off-duty,

Cooley called 911 after his boyfriend became physically violent. One of the officers who responded to the call, was Chief of Corrections Charles Bolton, one of Cooley's supervisors. After Cooley's boyfriend told Bolton that he and Cooley were in a relationship, Bolton told Cooley not to return to work before speaking with his immediate supervisor. The next day, Staff Sergeant of Jail Operations Donnell Brannon informed Cooley that he was being permanently terminated. Cooley asked Brannon if he was being fired because he was gay. Brannon responded, "Yes."

Cooley had never received a written explanation for his firing. He had never been charged or disciplined in connection with the domestic violence precipitated by his former boyfriend the day before he was fired. The official police report of the incident identifies Cooley as the victim. After firing Cooley, the sheriff's department attempted to deny him unemployment benefits by alleging that Cooley had engaged in unspecified "inappropriate conduct and behavior

while off duty, unacceptable for an officer." After a hearing, an administrative law judge concluded that the sheriff's department failed to show that Cooley committed misconduct of any kind.

"I loved my job, and I did it well. It should not matter whether I'm gay or straight," said Cooley. "Because I grew up in the foster care system, I know the types of problems faced by the kids in juvenile corrections. As a corrections officer, I could give back by helping these kids turn their lives around and build a future for themselves."

Cooley was raised in the foster care system from birth. He chose to be a corrections officer, so he could serve as a mentor and positive role model for troubled teenagers. Cooley earned his bachelor's degree in administration of justice from the University of Southern Mississippi, and began working for the Forrest County Sheriff's Department in November 2009 where he was quickly promoted to senior corrections officer. At the time Cooley was hired, he was told that he had a better resume than any other person who

had applied for the job.

"It is shameful and baffling that the sheriff's department would terminate Andre for being gay," said Bear Atwood of the ACLU of Mississippi. "Andre's life is a perfect example of what a person can accomplish through hard work and education. As a juvenile corrections officer, he was a positive role model for kids who were falling through the cracks and had no one else they could relate to."

The lawsuit names the Forrest County Sheriff's Department, Chief Bolton, Sheriff Billy McGee and Staff Sergeant Brannon for violating his equal protection and due process rights guaranteed under the Fourteenth Amendment.

Cooley is represented by Joshua Block and Leslie Cooper at the ACLU Foundation, Bear Atwood at the ACLU of Mississippi and Lisa E. Cleary and Aron Fischer at the law firm of Patterson Belknap Webb & Tyler LLP.

The complaint for this case can be found at: <http://bit.ly/9MCZ89>

► Shelters

Continued from p. 7

crisis in our region,” said Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan President Mariam C. Noland. “The demand for emergency food and shelter has increased in southeast Michigan, but the funds available to meet essential needs are not keeping pace with the increased demand. The Community Foundation Challenge – Emergency Food & Shelter is a yearlong program, but funds are needed now to help meet these needs.”

As part of the program, more than \$1.1 million in matching funds have been made available to 21 organizations serving the hungry and homeless in the seven-county region of southeast Michigan.

One of those organizations is the Ruth Ellis Center, which services homeless and at-risk LGBT youth.

“It costs approximately \$1,700 per day to run our Drop-in Center, so if our donors help us reach the maximum goal, the homeless youth we serve can rely on 24 more days of a safe space where young people can access services and take the necessary steps to move toward independence,” said Laura Hughes, Ruth Ellis Center executive director. “Those 24 days have an immeasurable effect on our youth, who have been rejected by families and are searching for their next meal. It is 24 more days that we are saving lives.”

The Community Foundation will match new donations from individuals for current operations at a match of one dollar for every two dollars raised by the participating food and shelter organizations. Participating match organizations will be awarded matching grants ranging from \$20,000 to \$125,000 per organization. When gifts and matching funds are combined, the program will result in more than \$3.3 million of support to the participating organizations.

“My father used to say, ‘If you have the opportunity and the material means, you should give back to the community,’” said Phillip Wm. Fisher, a member of the Fisher Foundation board of trustees.

The Community Foundation Challenge – Emergency Food & Shelter will also raise much-needed public awareness of the historic high demand for emergency food and shelter in the region and the need for charitable giving from individual donors to help address that need.

Raising awareness, skills

An important component of the program is to provide training opportunities to help strengthen the fundraising capacity of a broader group of emergency food and shelter providers across southeast Michigan. Organizations will be invited to participate in education and training programs that will focus on topics such as individual fundraising, planned giving, endowment gifts and volunteer engagement.

“For more than 25 years, the Community Foundation has supported emergency food and shelter organizations in southeast Michigan as part of our mission to improve the quality of life in the region,” said Noland. “The organizations providing food and shelter in this area have an urgent need for support. Through this program, we hope to raise awareness of the needs that their services meet in our community.”

“While 21 organizations have been awarded matching funds under the Community Foundation Challenge, we trust that the residents of southeast Michigan will support not only those

“It costs approximately \$1,700 per day to run our Drop-in Center, so if our donors help us reach the maximum goal, the homeless youth we serve can rely on 24 more days of a safe space where young people can access services and take the necessary steps to move toward independence.”



– Laura Hughes, Ruth Ellis Center executive director

organizations, but the many worthy nonprofits providing food and shelter and other human needs within our community,” Phillip Fisher explained. “We hope that many emergency food and shelter organizations will take advantage of the training programs in order to strengthen their ability to serve those in need.”

Details of the training program will be announced in the coming weeks.

For more information, visit www.mmfisher.org or www.cfsem.org

Participating Organizations

- Cass Community Social Services www.casscommunity.com
- Coalition on Temporary Shelter (www.cotsdetroit.org)
- Common Ground www.commongroundhelps.org
- Detroit Rescue Mission Ministries www.drmm.org
- Focus: HOPE www.focushope.edu
- Food Gatherers www.foodgatherers.org
- Forgotten Harvest www.forgottenharvest.org
- Gleaners Community Food Bank www.gcfb.org
- Grace Centers of Hope www.gracecentersofhope.org
- HAVEN www.haven-oakland.org
- Lighthouse of Oakland County www.lighthouseoakland.org
- Livingston Area Council Against Spouse Abuse (LACASA) www.lacasa1.org
- Monroe County Opportunity Program www.monroecountyop.org
- Neighborhood Service Organization www.nso-mi.org
- Ozone House Inc. www.ozonehouse.org
- Capuchin Soup Kitchen www.thecapuchins.org
- Ruth Ellis Center www.ruthelliscenter.org
- Salvation Army Eastern Michigan Division www.usc.salvationarmy.org/usc/www_usc_emi.nsf
- SOS Community Services <http://sosc.org>
- South Oakland Shelter www.southoaklandshelter.org
- Starfish Family Services www.starfishonline.org

Note: Contributions eligible for matching funds through the Community Foundation Challenge should be made directly to the participating organizations, which will then receive matching funds from the program.

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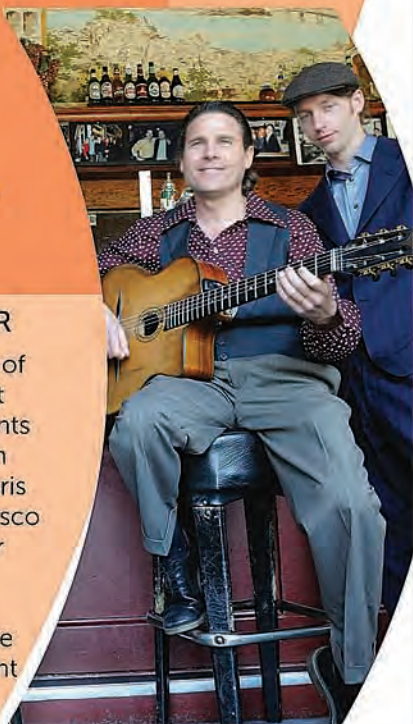
Django Reinhardt's 100th Birthday Celebration

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Pointer Sisters 'Jump' to Detroit



The Pointer Sisters:
Sadako, Ruth and Anita.

Legendary girl group on Motown memories, gay following and being part of the golden disco era

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

So excited and just can't hide it? Well, no wonder: The Pointer Sisters, the girl group spearheading the '70s and '80s disco era with songs like "I'm So Excited" and "Jump (For My Love)," are stepping out for a rare show in Detroit.

Original sisters Anita and Ruth – along with her granddaughter, Sadako (who stands in for the late June) – will perform at 8 p.m. Oct. 28 at Sound Board at MotorCity Casino Hotel. Before their local gig, Ruth, 64, shared her fondest Motown memories, boasted about that golden age in music, and praised the Pointer Sisters' gay following.

You're only doing a few shows in the states. But lucky for us, Detroit is one of them. What makes Detroit so special?

Hey, it's the Motor City. It's where I feel like it all began, especially for African-American artists with Motown and the Supremes and the Temptations – just so many wonderful classic artists that will never go away.

Do you have memories of performing in Detroit?

One of the memories that stands out is going to the first Motown office and just being in awe of the history, and then later we went to the Joe Louis Arena and performed with Lionel Richie.

What do you miss about that era in music?

For me, it was the best time for music. The music was just so joyful; it wasn't political, and if it was it was done in such a classy way. I'm thinking of Marvin Gaye and Stevie Wonder, who always touched upon political issues but in a discrete way. It left room in your mind for imagination – and hope.

It was a great time to be at the peak of your career, wasn't it?

Yes, it was! I have no regrets! (Laughs)

Do you think you'd be able to fit in now, with all the Lady Gagas and such?

Oh my god! You know, I would find a way to fit in, but it's so different now.

You have your granddaughter, so she probably keeps you hip. Are you keeping up with what everyone is listening to these days?

Well, you know, she kind of does. And I have 17-year-old twins now; they keep it current for me.

Your music is particularly huge in the gay community. Were you aware of that following back in the '70s?

You know, we have a history of having a really huge gay following. We did some of our earliest work with (disco-soul singer and gay drag performer) Sylvester in San Francisco and it was some of the best and most fun times. And, of course, living in the Bay Area and participating in the gay parades there in San Francisco, it's just always been something that's been very dear to us. And I mean, our gay friends would come in our dressing room and help us dress, and it'd just be a party in there. Oh my god, so fun!

I tell my 17-year-old daughter, because there are a few students at her school that are gay – and with this bullying going on nowadays and young people committing suicide: "You really,

See Pointer Sisters, page 22

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Twin Cities band Dark Dark Dark performs in Detroit on Oct. 27. Photo: Todd Seelie

Dark Dark Dark... and queer

Sextet promotes melancholy second album in Detroit

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

You're not the only one reading this, because so is Marshall LaCount. He likes to know who's writing what about him and his psychedelic-folk band Dark Dark Dark, so he has Google Alert on the group. Just the other day, he found out they're getting gay ink – finally.

"It's so exciting for us to not be stuck in the 'straight' indie-rock publicity scene, and it's true at all of our shows that we're somewhere between indie rock and the queer community," says LaCount, vocalist and multi-instrumentalist for the Minneapolis-based band, which just landed some glowing write-ups in gay publications for their second full-length, "Wild Go."

To promote the project, Dark Dark Dark performs at 8 p.m. Oct. 27 at the Bakery Loft in Detroit – and this is how much they love you: "If the queer community doesn't feel comfortable coming to certain venues or being among certain attitudes then we just won't do it," LaCount assures. "We've spent pretty much our whole lifespan as a band making decisions like that, where everyone has to feel welcome and it has to be a safe space for everyone."

The band members' own sexual identities give them more reason to perform in progressive rooms: LaCount, along with fellow lead singer Nona Marie Invie, is queer (because, he says, bisexual is limiting); while accordionist Walter McClements is, LaCount notes, "our gay man." Straights are among them, too: celloist Jonathan

Kaiser, bass player Todd Chandler and Brett Bullion on percussion. Three of them – LaCount, Invie and Bullion – will appear locally, as the band truncates due to everyone's crazy schedules.

"The three of us will be able to have something equally as special as the six of us," LaCount says. "It'll just have to be adjusted slightly; the intimate version can be just as powerful as the big version."

But they've been small before: A year before the band became a sextet, it was just Invie and LaCount, who met each other when Invie caught LaCount's then-band at a Minneapolis café five years ago, a year before Dark Dark Dark swelled to six. "She was kind of an excited young person and I was an excited young person too," he recalls.

He hit on her, didn't he?

"Oh no," he says. "Although that might make for a better story if I could really work that."

One angle's already there, and true: the gay one, which his publicity firm wasn't sure how to spin, he says, even though it was obvious to them: "We're around gay people and the trans community and the queer community all over the country, all the time."

Dark Dark Dark spends so much time on the road, hanging out all over the world, that LaCount's only been home to the Twin Cities for a few weeks since March. They're regulars at Idapalooza Fruit Jam, a queer music festival in Tennessee where there's "so many freaks in the middle of the mountains," he says. The band's no stranger to Michigan either, having visited Ypsilanti, Ann Arbor and Saginaw – where they ran into the bookers who slated them for the Bakery gig.

Since forming, the road's been their friend – and a jump-off point for their music, where

See Dark, page 22

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► **Dark**
Continued from p. 21

they're granted copious amounts of inspiration, from landscapes to people, to pull from. Look no further than the video for "Daydreaming," the wistful first single from "Wild Go," and their nomadic influences take hold: a marching band drums in a run-down field, cars zoom across interstates, and Invie's in a parking lot, playing piano and singing with passionate fervor.

The rest of "Wild Go" – recorded in studios, along with a renovated church and landmark theater, in Minneapolis – has a similar cinematic vibe that's more unified than their debut, 2008's "The Snow Magic," which LaCount says was basi-

Dark Dark Dark

8 p.m. Oct. 27
The Bakery Loft
4300 W. Vernor Highway, Detroit
www.brightbrightbright.com

cally just their first 13 recordings thrown on an album with less attention paid to arrangements and editing. Lush, layered and whimsical, this 10-song album – following an EP, "Bright Bright Bright," released earlier this year – is infiltrated with Americana, Eastern European folk and New Orleans jazz sounds. Soundtracks were also particularly influential on "Wild Go," with score-makers Philip Glass and Nico Muhly perched on LaCount's mind

during the record's conception.

There were others, too. "Oh, weird, I'm coming up with all these cowboy ones right now," he says. "But the other one I thought of immediately was the soundtrack for 'The Good, the Bad and the Ugly,' which is absolutely amazing."

Based around an apocalyptic narrative, "Wild Go" is an emotional work of breathtaking proportions; "Robert" is a crushing elegy and the lovelorn "Nobody Knows" is the "song of a sorry gal." Dark dark dark, but not intentionally so.

"I wasn't aware that's what was happening necessarily," LaCount says. "We weren't doing it on purpose, but I think that's what I'm becoming aware of. Hopefully it's not all dark and depressing."

Only mostly.

► **Pointer Sisters**
Continued from p. 19

really have to rise above these prejudices." I said, "Let me tell you something: One of the best friends I've ever had in my life was my gay friend, and a girl needs a gay friend."

How do you feel about the progress we've made since the '70s?

I just can't understand why people don't understand that everything changes. And I just choose to go with the flow pretty much and keep my own personal values to myself, but I think a lot of it is just plain narrow-mindedness, ignorance and cruelty.

Why did the group decide to resurface recently?

Well, we never really stopped, we just continued on. When we lost my beloved sister June, my daughter (Issa) stepped in. We've performed a lot in Europe and Asia and Australia, and it's just that we haven't been very visible publicly in the states. We

The Pointer Sisters

8 p.m. Oct. 28
Sound Board at MotorCity Casino Hotel
2901 Grand River Ave., Detroit
www.motorcitycasino.com

still do a lot of corporate parties and private parties because I mean, let's face it, those are the people that are in our own age group and know our songs.

How does performing feel different without June?

June, Anita, Bonnie and myself grew up singing together from a very early age in my dad's church, and we learned specifically how to sing harmony with one another and how to sing harmony with other people by singing in a choir. It's something that just comes naturally for us, and I have to say that's the hardest thing when bringing someone in to sing with me and Anita right now. We have to actually sit down and teach them the part that June was singing note for note. Never had to do that with June. And it's tough! (Laughs)

Do you plan on recording an album with Sadako?

Hmm... not really. We talk about it from time to time, but the business has changed so much. It's not like the old days when you just have a record deal and go in the studio and record with a producer and then start promoting.

I think these young people today are so much smarter than we were, and I really have to give it to them; they've found a way to make a great living and really make a mark in the business.

What do you think is the Pointer Sisters' greatest accomplishment?

That's a tough one. I mean, we were the first African-American females to play the Grand Ole Opry – that's a huge accomplishment. We do all types of music, I think that's a great accomplishment – and sometimes it's been to our detriment because we don't like to be pigeonholed as an R&B group, a pop group, a country group or whatever. We just like singing music.

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Happenings



EDITOR'S PICK



Southeast Michigan's Ozone House for homeless and at-risk LGBT youth will be hosting a benefit at 6 p.m. Oct. 21 for their "Kicked Out" fund. The fundraiser will be held at Cornery Brewery in Ypsilanti.

The event, Kicked Out the Jams, is named after the locally published "Kicked Out" anthology, which tells the stories of queer youth living on the streets. Edited by Sassafras Lowrey and published by Homofactus Press, it puts names to the epidemic of LGBT youth who are kicked out of their homes. "Queer teen homelessness occurs across lines of race, class, religion, ability, ethnicity, nationality and geographical region," Lowrey notes. "Kicked Out's contributors represent the diversity of this epidemic."

Kicked Out the Jams will feature performances by Drag King Rebellion, Nervous But Excited and Just Jill. Admission is \$7. To learn more about Ozone House and the Kicked Out fund and book, visit www.ozonehouse.org.

OUTINGS

Thursday, Oct. 21

Can We Work Together?, 8 a.m. With presentations by the local NAACP chapter and Equality Michigan's Alicia Skillman on race and diversity. Community House, 380 S. Bates, **Birmingham**. www.equalitymi.org

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, 816 S. Saginaw, **Flint**. 810-238-ARTS. www.greaterflintartsCouncil.org

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**. outatltn@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

Zombie Prom 9 p.m. A Halloween party and fundraiser for the Lansing Food Bank with zombie make-up, prom photos and more. Ages 18 and older welcome. Spiral Dance Bar, 1247 Center Street, **Lansing**. www.spiraldancebar.com

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

A Night At The Races 5:30 p.m. Fundraiser to fight for same-sex adoption equality and marriage equality. Tickets: \$25. Northville Downs, 301 S. Center, **Northville**. 248-980-3604. [mmbardoni@yahoo.com](mailto:mmbarbondi@yahoo.com)

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

Sunday, Oct. 24

One Nation Under a Groove, 9 p.m. Hosted by Sabin and Tori Lynn, with DJ Cent. Cover: \$10. Hosted by The JAT Group. Club 9, 141 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-439-6168. thejatgroup@gmail.com

Tuesday, Oct. 26

An Evening with Holly Hughes, 6 p.m. A performance piece by the well-known performance artist UM professor of art, design and drama. Hosted by the Gender and Sexuality Alliance. Location TBA, University of Michigan-Dearborn, **Dearborn**. bmjenkin@umd.umich.edu. <http://gsa.umd.umich.edu>

Wednesday, Oct. 27

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

Thursday, Oct. 28

LGBTQ History Month Luncheon, 12 p.m. With special guest UM Provost Kate Davy, author of "Lady Dicks and Lesbian Brothers." Hosted by the Gender and Sexuality Alliance. Quad E, Fairlane Center, University of Michigan-Dearborn, **Dearborn**. bmjenkin@umd.umich.edu. <http://gsa.umd.umich.edu>

Saturday, Oct. 30

COLAGE Halloween Party, 3 p.m. A party put on by the metro Detroit chapter of COLAGE with snacks, crafts and fun for the whole family. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org

Monster Bash, 9 p.m. Sober dance to benefit TWC, a GLBT organization that sponsors an AA/AI-Anon conference in the spring. Admission: \$5. Costumes encouraged! Together We Can, 2441 Pinecrest, **Ferndale**. twc@twcdetroit.com. www.twcdetroit.com

MUSIC & MORE

BENEFITS/SOCIAL EVENTS

Ann Arbor Art Center "The Host with the Most" A dinner to benefit the art center. Tickets: \$75. The Earle Restaurant, 121 W. Washington, **Ann Arbor**. 6 p.m. Oct. 26, 7:30 p.m. Oct. 26. 734-994-8004. www.annarborartcenter.org

Arab American National Museum "Haunted Halloween" A series of Halloween-themed parties with pumpkin carving and decorating, a scavenger hunt and showing of the classic film "Halloween." Tickets: \$5 in advance, \$6 at the door. Arab American National Museum, 13624 Michigan Ave., **Dearborn**. 4 p.m. Oct. 30, 7:30 p.m. Oct. 30. 313-582-2266. www.arabamericanmuseum.org

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

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, 11 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

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

MSU Museum "Hello Halloween" An afternoon of family-friendly Halloween fun. MSU Bug House, Michigan State University, **East Lansing**. 1 p.m. Oct. 31. 517-432-2370. www.museum.msu.edu

Multicultural Council of Windsor and Essex County "Magical Masquerade" A dinner and entertainment fundraiser for the Multicultural Council and the AIDS

See Music, page 26

MOT makes the most of 'The Mikado'

BY MICHAEL H. MARGOLIN

Saturday night was the opening of Michigan Opera Theatre's 40th season, and while David DiChiera took five minutes on stage to laud MOT's achievements, he must have felt a pang: an anniversary year and the season is still confined to four productions due to economic factors in the city. And though generous Ford Motor Company is still a sponsor, the hoped for return of DiChiera's wonderful "Cyrano" in MOT's anniversary year is not to be.

Still, there were pleasures and differences in the opener, Gilbert and Sullivan's "The Mikado" from its last outing in 1991. Surtitles, for one, so that W. S. Gilbert's audacious lyrics are viewable for all to fully appreciate. To quote from a song in "Kismet," "rhymes have I, fine rhymes have I..."

Set to Arthur Sullivan's score con-

REVIEW

'The Mikado'

Michigan Opera Theatre at The Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway, Detroit. Oct. 20, 22-24. \$29-\$121. 313-237-7464.

www.michiganopera.org



The Michigan Opera Theatre opens its 40th season with "The Mikado." Photo: MOT

taining tunes of shapely beauty such as "A wandering minstrel I" or "I have a little list," Gilbert gives us rhymes such as "etiquette...marionette," "hallowed joys...no equipoise" and almost everybody's favorite: "My object all sublime, I shall achieve in time - , To let the punishment fit the crime - , The punishment fit the crime." As is traditional two of the patter arias are given to lines for current events and personalities, some of them really quite good, though the writer is uncredited, it may well be Roberto Mauro, he of the

surtitles management.

In this production, punishment and crime are, as usual, made funny as they have been rendered silly by the text.

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

Tales of the macabre at Planet Ant Theatre

BY JOHN QUINN

As the calendar draws closer to the Great Pagan Feast, the Celtic blood pulses a little faster in my veins. I pray, like the Cornish:

From goulies and ghosties and long-legged beasties

And things that go bump in the night
Good Lord, deliver us!

In the spirit of Halloween, Planet Ant is serving up a sample of the twisted imaginations of some of our local artists in "Nightmare Box," an evening of original stories. There aren't ghosts and ghouls to give us shivers but there's enough "weird" to chill the spine.

The production's structure is interesting. "The Nightmare Box," written by Dave Davies and show director Shawn Handlon, is the longest tale. Its scenes are broken up by unrelated vignettes

REVIEW

'The Nightmare Box'

Planet Ant Theatre, 2357 Caniff St., Hamtramck. Friday-Saturday through Nov. 6, with additional performances Oct. 21 & 26. \$20. 313-365-4948.

www.planetant.com



Alysia Kolasz and Pete Podolski in "Nightmare Box" at Planet Ant Theatre. Photo: Planet Ant.

that hang like shrunken heads from the main tree. Herein we learn of the demon Archamendon, imprisoned for two thousand years in a box buried under a flow of lava. "Someone" has retrieved the box and "someone" is attempting to open it. Is this the End of Time? Can we be saved by an intrepid Guardian?

"The Nightmare Box" plays a little like the "Flash Gordon" style serials, which, I am not afraid to admit, were still playing on Saturday morning TV when I

was a kid. Not that Mom would have let us watch anything as gruesome as this. Just when the action is heating up, though, we must wait with bated breath as another creepy tale is told. Fortunately, we don't have to "tune in next week," as the interludes are short and to the point.

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

'Shining City': a ghost of its own potential

BY JENN MCKEE

Plays, by their very nature, are usually more about what's said than about action; and a play about a person who's in therapy is especially likely to be "talky." So how do you keep a show from being visually static?

That's ultimately the question haunting "Who Wants Cake?"'s inert production of Conor McPherson's "Shining City."

Set in Dublin, the Tony Award-nominated play has a dual structure, so that we hear a newly-minted widower, John (Joe Bailey), narrate the story of being haunted by his estranged wife in their home - to such a degree that he's moved into a B&B - to a therapist named Ian (Jamie Richards); and we see Ian, a former seminary student, struggling to leave the woman (Cassandra McCarthy) who just had his child, and staring down a crisis of existential loneliness and sexuality with a

REVIEW

'Shining City'

Who Wants Cake, The Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Saturday-Monday through Nov. 8. \$10-\$20. 248-545-5545.

www.whowantscaketheatre.com



Jamie Richards is haunted in the Who Wants Cake? production of Conor McPherson's "Shining City" at The Ringwald. Photo: Colleen Scribner.

male prostitute (Matthew Turner Shelton). Clearly, John's experience is intended as a filter through which we view Ian's unraveling, slowly leading the audience to the play's surprise ending.

But on opening night, McPherson's gut-punch conclusion was undercut by way of the lights not going down on cue, leaving Richards no choice but to finally break character and wave the other actors back on-stage for a curtain call.

Yes, this is something that probably won't happen again during the play's run.

But in a way, it was an appropriate end to a flawed production.

Director Jamie Warrow has some elements working in her favor - Bailey does nice work with McPherson's distinctive pauses and stop-and-start speech patterns, and she tells John's tale well - but the overall show feels painfully sluggish.

To read the complete review, log on to ...
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Help me come out

Q. My story is really too long to tell; it spans over 40 years of self-denial and people-pleasing. To make this long story short, I've denied being me by trying to fit into the mold that my parents, friends and society said that I should fit into. That has taken a toll on me, and I long for freedom.

My freedom will start with telling my adult daughter that I am bisexual. My daughter and I can talk about anything, but for some reason I cannot bring myself to say those words to her. Can you help me? I'd appreciate any suggestions you have.

Suffocating In Here

A. I'm assuming, in my response, that your daughter is not a part of a right-wing, religious movement, since you didn't mention that she is. So, I'll proceed on that assumption. (Otherwise, my answer to you would be quite different.)

You need to have faith in your daughter with whom you appear to have a very close relationship. My guess is that the big fear is that she will reject you and, therefore, you dread telling her. It will probably be shocking to her at first (but, maybe not) because she has to change her view of who her mother is, at least the sexual orientation part; but do you really think she'll end up rejecting you – there might be some difficult times in the beginning, but "rejection"?

I'm sure she loves and values her relationship with you, as you do with her. You've lived with this knowledge of your sexuality for many years, so you need to give her time to adjust. She's the victim of the same fears and feelings that society perpetuates and that have kept you in the closet.

Also, issues that are considered "sexual" tend to be embarrassing for parent/child relationships – even when our children are adults, and even when talking about heterosexual sex. We don't like to think of our parents as having sex – any kind of sex. And even though "sexual orientation" is so much more than "sex," when anything other than "heterosexual" is being talked about, it seems to scream "sex" in our society.

When you tell her, you also need to let her know how difficult living in the closet has been for you, and how hard it is for you to come out. In general, when you know someone's pain and struggle, you are more likely to understand and accept. Having said that, I don't mean for you to come out in a shame-based way, because acting shameful of your sexuality tends to invite criticism and shaming from the person you are coming out to.

This brings me to your feelings of shame over your sexuality and your internalized homophobia – you can't help taking on society's negative attitudes toward gay people, therefore, you feel that negativity toward yourself. These feelings have kept you in the closet along with society's homophobia. Your first step to "freedom" might be better started by dealing with your shame and fear around all this. It's hard to come out with a modicum of confidence if you are feeling bad about your sexual orientation. You haven't mentioned where you live, but there are "coming out" groups that can help with the process. (If need be, I can help you with that, just let me know.) The other thing you could do is find an experienced, gay-supportive therapist who can help you with your feelings and the coming out process – along with your need to be a people-pleaser.

You have spent 40 years of self-denial. 40 years! How much longer are you willing to continue this: one, five, 10 years more before you to get your freedom? How would it feel when you are 85 if you never went after your freedom?

Come on out, the air is fresher, the colors brighter, and you'll be able to taste the freedom.

Note: If you have come out recently, visit my Facebook page and tell me how it went. I'd love to hear from you: Go to Facebook/Dear Jody Valley; see what's happening, and checkout "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. Reach Jody at DearJodyValley@hotmail.com. Letters may be edited for clarity and length.

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by Jack Fertig

Get it all off your chest, Capricorn!

Mars is in Scorpio trine to Jupiter and Uranus, inspiring powerful – even surprising – passions. Alas, he's in hard aspect to Saturn and Neptune, arousing anxiety and confusion. Try to be alert, but calm. Your inner resources are stronger than you expect.

ARIES (March 20 – April 19): Secrets about your sex life (or deeply hidden fears!) can leak to the surface, potentially disrupting your partnership, or efforts to start one. Friends want to help, but you'll be very sorry if you let them.

TAURUS (April 20 – May 20): Work is crazy. Employees understand the problems better than the bosses, but that engenders more craziness. Do your best to observe from a safe distance. Friends and your mate are a wonderful relief, but *do not* allow them to try to help.

GEMINI (May 21- June 20): Work can go smoothly if you just put one foot in front of the other and follow instructions. Trust your intuition, but only along familiar paths. Efforts to innovate or to creatively involve colleagues are sure to disappoint.

CANCER (June 21- July 22): Problems at home demand attention, but solutions are elusive. "Brilliantly creative" approaches will probably backfire. You need a new perspective. Get out of the house and explore. Spiritual and artistic adventures beckon. Sexual experiments are probably not a great idea now.

LEO (July 23 – August 22): You could turn your home into an absolute passion pit, but what would your partner say? Erotic {ITAL divertissements} can take some of the pressure off of your communications issues, but don't avoid the hard work. Being too logical may get in the way.

VIRGO (August 23 – September 22): Talk with your partner about money and housework. There may be some long simmering issues there, and now is a good time to clear the air. Be open to what your baby has to say, and listen with your heart.

LIBRA (September 23 – October 22): All your efforts at self-expression may reveal, more than anything else, that some things really shouldn't be

so openly expressed. Focus on necessary tasks at hand. They will surprise you with new opportunities and insights.

SCORPIO (October 23 – November 21): Some old inner demons are making themselves known. The way to exorcise them is to play with them. Portray them artistically, act them out, engage them. Getting to the root of those anxieties can prove very empowering.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 – December 20): Worries about the future are big now, but most friends are likely to misinterpret your words and start an argument. If you can't confide in a shrink or a parent, talk with a close friend you can really trust with your deepest secrets.

CAPRICORN (December 21 – January 19): Say what you like among friends and get it all off your chest. At work, however, your mouth could get you into huge trouble. Keep in mind what's important and your long-term strategy.

AQUARIUS (January 20 – February 18): Your resourcefulness could be utterly brilliant, getting you way ahead at work, but you can still be your own worst enemy by complicating simple inspirations with cockamamie schemes. Run any new ideas by your boss or an expert first.

PISCES (February 19 – March 19): Your best ideas are now coming from outside yourself. Look for inspiration in the new and the different. Meditation can help you clear out mental garbage. Be careful not to take any of those notions seriously.

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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D	E	N	I	R	O		M	A	R	L	E	N	E
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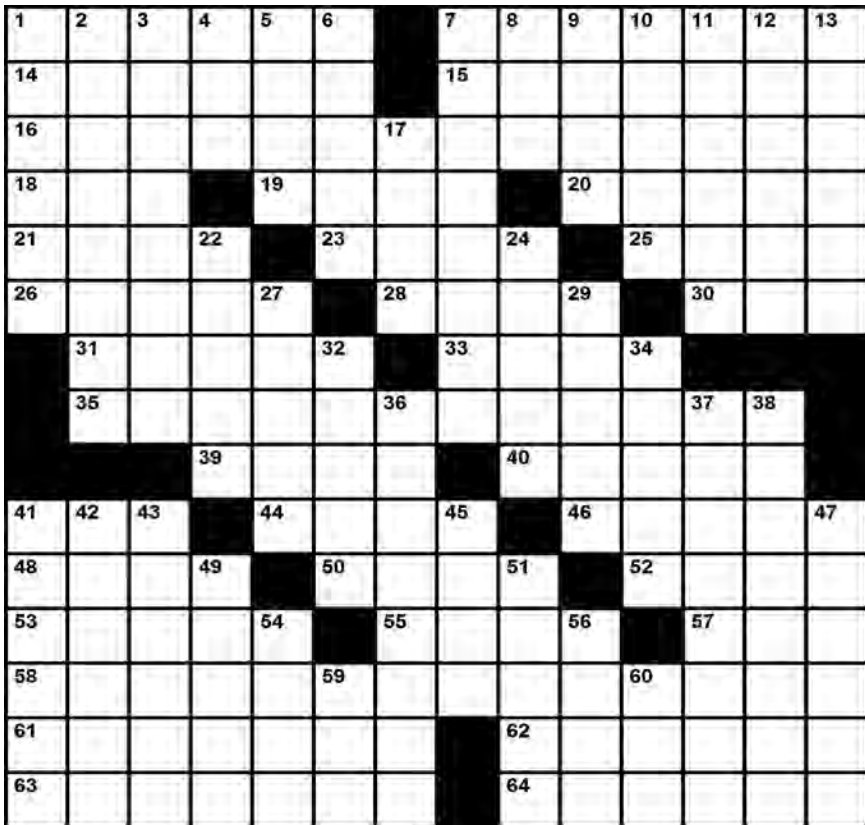
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Solution on 29

Q P U Z Z L E

Slip of the Tongue

Across

- 1 Murdoch with a flower?
- 7 Overhand strokes, for Mauresmo
- 14 "Cape Fear" star
- 15 Sultry Dietrich
- 16 Start of a quip
- 18 Halloween mo.
- 19 Series ender
- 20 French river
- 21 Mistake for Paul Taylor
- 23 Lubricates
- 25 Hammerhead part
- 26 Flies like an eagle
- 28 Shakespearean king
- 30 Hearst's kidnappers (abbr.)
- 31 What you do after you drop the soap in the shower
- 33 Former Queens stadium name
- 35 More of the quip
- 39 Wine list datum
- 40 Swiss capital

Down

- 41 IBM products
- 44 Potential partners for Adam and Steve?
- 46 Puccini opera
- 48 Jungle warning
- 50 Historic Stonewall event
- 52 Tide type
- 53 Rosie's favorite dolls
- 55 McAn of footwear
- 57 Beverage suffix
- 58 End of the quip
- 61 Gay parent, often
- 62 "Have a piece!"
- 63 Abductors' demands
- 64 Sachet emanations

Across

- 5 Flying fisher
- 6 ___ voce (softly)
- 7 Most likely to exaggerate stats?
- 8 Poet Sarton
- 9 Rock Hudson's "A Farewell to ___"
- 10 Single-master
- 11 Greek messenger of the gods
- 12 Hard stuff in your mouth
- 13 One-named Tejano singer
- 17 Travel with your first mate
- 22 Official substitute
- 24 Madras title
- 27 One who scatters seed
- 29 Odometer button
- 32 Liz, whose debut album was "Exile in Guyville"
- 34 Composer Copland
- 36 Strike settlers, sometimes
- 37 When fruits are ready to be eaten

Down

- 38 Hedonistic
- 41 Like the beginning of "Gone with the Wind"
- 42 Fruity mixed drink
- 43 Haircut victim
- 45 Gay nightlife district of London
- 47 High points
- 49 Easy wins
- 51 Civil wrongs
- 54 Hernando de ___
- 56 Fashion designer Jacobs
- 59 "The One I Love" band
- 60 Tough cleaner

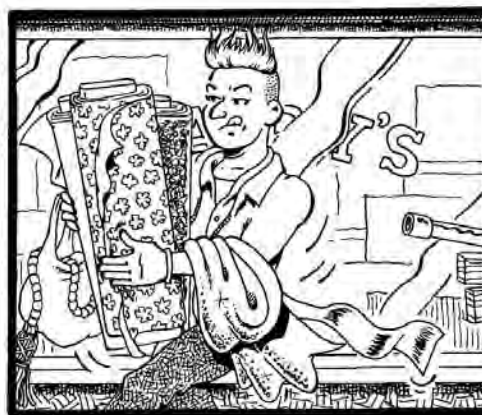
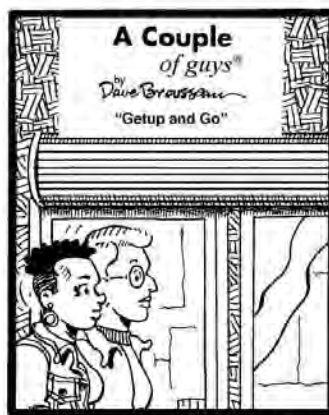
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They hate me. They really hate me!

I was trying not to take it personally. Really.

OK, I was taking it personally. Why else had they all called to say they'd be at the house in time for dinner on Friday but no earlier? Therefore no cocktail hour(s). I admit it: I'm an out-of-control control freak. I was making a perfect meal: Bobby Flay's barbecued salmon; Israeli couscous, which I was spiffing up with saffron and grill-roasted red peppers; and a salad (from a bag - I can be lazy about salads). We would start with Pernod from the freezer, and dessert would be a delightfully thick and creamy drink made to order.

Then it hit me: they were avoiding what I claimed was that week's "cocktail du weekend"! I'd stupidly sent out an e-mail claiming that I'd found an obscure drink recipe and would be making it on Friday. It was called the Booger.

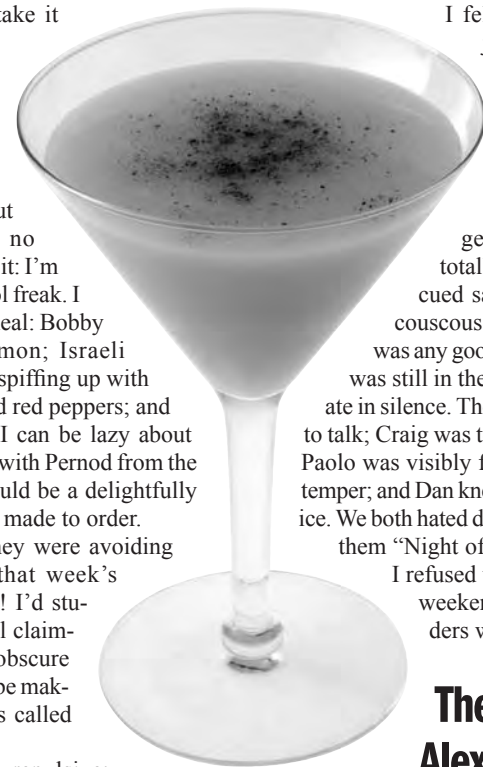
It was, of course, repulsive: half part banana liqueur, half part coconut rum and half part Midori. As if this combo wasn't wretched enough, Boogers get topped off with Baileys Irish Cream. Shake with ice. Strain. Drink. Vomit.

Bogus Boogers drove them away! The puppies, Robbie and Kyle, both said they were meeting friends for drinks at low tea (wasn't I their friend?). Craig preferred Top o' the Pines; he was meeting Paolo there for martinis. Even Dan said he was stopping at BarHarbor for a Campari and soda before coming home. Did none of them have a sense of humor? At least Kyle apologized before bailing on me.

Dan arrived around 8:30. "Where are the snot shots?" he asked pleasantly. A growl was my reply. He turned away from me toward the stairs, and I lost it. "Do you really think I'd make that shit?" I barked. His face took on that stricken look he gets when I bawl him out for something he doesn't understand. Then

I felt guilty. "It was just a joke, sweetie. A bad joke. You know me. Would I ever make a Booger?" "You just might," he said, "as some sort of revenge."

The other guys staggered in around 9:30, all totally plastered. The barbecued salmon was gummy. The couscous clumped. Only the salad was any good, and that was because it was still in the bag. I was seething. We ate in silence. The puppies were too drunk to talk; Craig was too caught up in his food; Paolo was visibly frightened of me and my temper; and Dan knew he was already on thin ice. We both hated dinners like this; we called them "Night of the Living Drunks." So I refused to make the "cocktail du weekend." The Brandy Alexanders would have to wait.



The Brandy Alexander

It's strictly a dessert drink. Never order one before dinner, or everyone will think you're too young to know any better or, if you're over 30, you simply have god-awful taste.

- 2 parts brandy
- 1/2 part dark creme de cacao
- 1/2 part or more heavy cream
- Nutmeg (optional)

Mix brandy, creme de cacao and cream in a shaker filled with ice. Put on top and cap and shake shake shake - create some froth. Strain into a martini glass and sprinkle a little nutmeg on top. I'm the type who keeps whole nutmeg in a glass jar and uses a little nutmeg grater; McCormick's is almost as good, though not nearly as pretentious.

Ed Sikov is the author of "Dark Victory: The Life of Bette Davis" and other books about films and filmmakers.

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Rear View SCENE CHECK @ GIGI'S...
BTL photos by Danielle



1. Denishwa, Garnett and Evelyn 2. Dale and Buddy 3. Miss Gigi's title holders, past and present

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Ron Howard wants Jodie for 'Stroke of Insight'

Harvard neuro-anatomist Jill Bolte Taylor's 1996 stroke at the age of 37 turned her life upside down. Eventually, though, after eight years, she made a full recovery and her subsequent memoir titled "My Stroke of Insight" became a bestseller. Now Oscar-winning director Ron Howard plans to make the film version and he wants fellow Oscar-winner Jodie Foster to star as Bolte. Sounds like perfect casting. But Foster has yet to sign on. She's already preparing to star in "God of Carnage," so whatever decision she makes will have to wait for that to wrap. Whatever transpires, the inspiring story of Bolte's miraculous recovery should be handled by an actor with the skills to play someone who loses and painfully, slowly regains movement, speech and memory. And Dakota Fanning is still too young, so someone get Jodie to say yes, OK?

Hidden 'Hugo Cabret' gets highly visible cast

Highly dedicated readers with long memories will recall that back in 2007 Romeo reported on the new project from Martin Scorsese and Academy Award-nominated gay screenwriter John Logan ("The Aviator") called "The Invention of Hugo Cabret." In the three years since it was announced, the name has been shortened to just "Hugo Cabret" and the fantasy tale about a



Jude Law. Photo: Sony Pictures Classics

12-year-old orphan living in the walls of a train station in 1930s Paris who solves a mystery involving a robot finally has a big A-list cast: Jude Law, Ben Kingsley, Christopher Lee, Sacha Baron Cohen, Emily Mortimer, Ray Winstone and Hollywood's current child-actor It Girl, Chloe Moretz ("Let Me In," "Kick-Ass"). The film is currently shooting and its mysteries will be revealed sometime in 2011. In the meantime, you can always go back and watch Scorsese's "Shutter Island" again and try to figure out what "that" one was about.

And now for some Leo/Tobey/Baz Luhrmann rumors

Romeo already reported that Baz Luhrmann wants to make his next film an adaptation of F. Scott Fitzgerald's "The Great Gatsby." That news has been around for about a year now. Well, the flamboyantly straight/free-spirited/somewhat heterosexual-ish director *does* want to make "Gatsby," and it's firing up the blogs lately that Leonardo DiCaprio, Tobey Maguire and Amanda Seyfried are in talks with Luhrmann to star. Now it's true that there've been some talks, but "Gats-

by" might not even be Luhrmann's next film at all. He's set up to direct a musical soon, as well, which is good news for all "Moulin Rouge!" fans. But ultimately what all this means is that anything you hear about this or any Luhrmann project right now is subject to total change. In other words, don't go fantasy-casting before the names are signed on the dotted line. It can only lead to heartbreak.

Lili Taylor brings the bad to 'The Good Wife'

One of the great things about DVRs is that they allow you to catch your favorite actors in guest-star story arcs on shows you don't otherwise watch. Case in point: We love Lili Taylor. Always have. From her "Joe Lies" songs in "Say Anything" to playing extreme lesbian would-be assassin Valerie Solanas in "I Shot Andy Warhol" to her heartbreaking role on "Six Feet Under," there's nowhere Lili Taylor can go that Romeo won't follow. So when she shows up soon on "The Good Wife" as someone being described as a "romantic foil" for Archie Panjabi's character Kalinda, the TiVo will be fired up and ready. No one likes spoilers, but it seems that Taylor's investigator character may have been involved with Kalinda at some point and might be back in her life to cause some trouble. Not that it matters too much. Taylor could play Charles Manson and it'd be easy to enjoy watching her do it. The episodes are coming up in November.

Romeo San Vicente thinks you should rent the Lili Taylor-starring early '90s movie "Dogfight." He can be reached care of this publication or at DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com.

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