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Between Lines









News

5 | Between Ourselves

2010 BTL Voter Guide

6 | Suicide of Oakland University student leaves lingering questions

Friends, police say Corey Jackson was not bullied on campus

7 | Gary Glenn's robocall lies, attacks lesbian candidate for state house

13 | Holland Human Relations Commission recommends protections for LGBT citizens

Commissioners not swayed by anti-gay remarks

13 | Shirvell's attorney threatens to sue U-M

14 | Wanna Be Startin' Something returns

Event seeks to promote dialogue in Detroit's black community

15 | Student drops out due to bullying

16 | National News

Gay marriage foes back push to oust Iowa justices

Opinions

7 | Speak Out

Don't sit this election out

8 | BTL Editorial

Vote as though our lives depend on it sometimes they do

8 | Viewpoint

Did NPR miss a teachable moment?

9 | S/he said

T-shirts, votes and murder

9 | Parting Glances

Slava! Il sodoma!

14 | Creep of the Week

Tim Hicks

Life

19 | Jónsi gives it a 'Go'

Out Sigur Rós frontman talks about breaking from the band

21 | Hear Me Out

Sugarland sucks country out of fourth album. Plus: Paula Cole does the '90s

22 | 13 homolicious Halloween movies...

...with hot dudes to die for

28 | Happenings

Featured: COLAGE hosts Halloween party at Affirmations on Oct. 30

27 | The OutField

God, gays and games

29 | Curtain Calls

Reviews of "Best of Friends" and "Of Mice and Men"

Rear View

32 | Dear Jody

33 | Horoscopes

34 | Puzzle

35 | Classifieds

36 | Queeries

37 | Scene Check

38 | Deep Inside Hollywood

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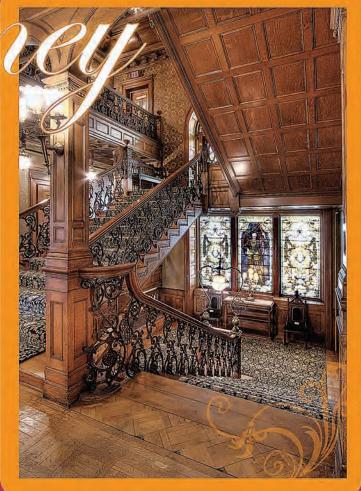
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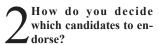


By Jan Stevenson & Susan Horowitz

2010 BTL Voter Guide is produced by the publishers and staff of Between The Lines every other year. It provides comprehensive research and endorsements so LGBT voters can make the best choices possible to move equality forward in Michigan. We sat down with **Jan Stevenson and Susan Horowitz**, co-publishers, to talk about this project.

Why do you publish the Voter Guide?

We have done readers' surveys and reviewed other studies of voter behavior, and the number one reason that people don't vote is that they feel uninformed. People don't like to feel like they don't know what they're doing, so they won't vote if they don't know who to vote for. Our first Voter Guide came out in 1996, and we've published one every two years since, with the primary goal to educate our readers on which candidates are pro-equality, and which are not.



We sent out over 700 questionnaires to candidates for Governor and Lt. Governor, U.S. Congress, Secretary of State, Attorney General, University Regents and Governors. Michigan State House and Senate, Michigan Supreme Court, and other select local races and closely evaluated, ranked and graded each response. We also studied the endorsements from pro-LGBT organizations including Equality Michigan, LAHR-PAC, The Kalamazoo Alliance PAC and the Michigan Democratic Party LGBT Caucus. We looked at whether labor

groups endorsed the candidates, because unions have been strong supporters of LGBT rights for workers in contract negotiations and in political races, such as the anti-marriage amendment that passed in 2004. Unions were our strongest allies in that tough fight. We considered candidates on their stand on a woman's right to choose to continue a pregnancy or not, and did not endorse any candidates that we knew to be anti-choice.

We also looked closely at the endorsements from anti-LGBT groups, specifically the Citizens For Traditional Values and the Michigan Right to Life. Both have severe positions against LGBT equality, family rights and employment protections. In many of the races we were unable to endorse a candidate, but we were able to provide information about CTV or MRTL endorsements that we hope voters take into account when deciding whom not to vote for.

■ How is it distributed?

The Voter Guide is produced both digitally and in print. The digital version is available at www.PrideSource.com and all a voter needs is their zip code. We then provide an individualized ballot with all the endorsements and research information for the races that will appear on that person's ballot Nov. 2. We have



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tried to make it as simple and easy as possible. Since it went live online earlier this month, we've done email blasts, links and online ads to drive traffic to the online Voter Guide. By election day we expect that thousands of people will have downloaded their ballot off the website.

The printed version of the Voter Guide has been inserted into two issues of Between The Lines, on Oct. 21 and this issue, Oct. 28. We have also distributed thousands of printed Voter Guides to organizations and meeting places where large numbers of LGBT people will see it. It is organized so the only thing a voter needs to know is which of the 15 U.S. Congressional districts they are in. All the races for that district are listed on one page, so voters can tear out their district page, take it to the polls and vote for

What do you hope the impact of the Voter Guide will be this year?

The Voter Guide is intended to mobilize LGBT voters in Michigan. We know that thousands of people have used the Voter Guides in past elections and they have told us they voted because they felt empowered by the Voter Guide. We also know that candidates have increasingly responded to our questionnaires and to our endorsement lists. They know that the LGBT vote is important and they want our support. We need to elect LGBT leaders who will include us in the vision of tomorrow's Michigan, and the only way we can do that is if we all vote, and we all vote smart.

What are the next steps for the Voter Guide project?

We will continue to work collaboratively with the LGBT political groups in Michigan to educate and motivate LGBT voters. Most likely information dissemination will continue to move towards online, but we will not forget that the printed page is still a powerful means of communication. We're looking forward to working together with the new people at Equality Michigan and hope that together we can move our state to a place that values and welcomes its LGBT citizenry.

Between Ourselves is a weekly feature. To recommend someone for Between Ourselves, e-mail us at editor@pridesource.com



Between Lines 🔘

190

Suicide of Oakland University student leaves lingering questions

Friends, police say Corey Jackson was not bullied on campus

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

OAKLAND - Corey Jackson didn't fit the classic mold of teen angst. He didn't keep to himself, wear dark clothing or write incessantly in a journal. Quite the opposite, Jackson, his loved ones say, was the life of the party.

"He was like a ray of light," said his aunt and former legal guardian, Kim Jones.

But something happened to snuff out that light, and on Monday night, Oct. 18, Jackson, 19, walked into the woods on the campus of Oakland University, where he was a sophomore, and hung himself.

Bullying in our backyard or something different

Immediately, the media began to pick up on the story and attempt to fit it within the horrific pattern of bullying-related gay suicides that have occurred across the country in recent weeks. Tvler Clementi, an 18-year-old freshman at Rutgers University, made national headlines when he jumped off the George Washington Bridge Sept. 22 after a romantic encounter with another man was streamed on the internet by his dorm roommates without his knowledge.

The deaths of Seth Walsh and Asher Brown, who lived in California and Texas respectively, also garnered a good share of headlines because of their ages - both boys were only 13 years old. Reports indicate that as many as eight gay youths may have killed themselves across the country in the past two months. Allegedly after being harassed because of their sexual orientation.

So was Jackson number nine? Did he forego what was by all accounts a promising future because hateful homophobes made it too unbearable to forge ahead? His family says yes.

"I believe (it happened) because he recently realized he was a homosexual and he was getting pressured at school by his peers, because he told his family and nothing changed here," Jackson's grandmother, Carolyn Evans, told The Oakland Press. "When he went to school and he realized his sexual preference had changed, he changed completely. He withdrew."

Jones, with whom Jackson lived from the time he was 12, spoke to Between The Lines at a vigil held on the Oakland University campus last Wednesday. She said much of the same

"We told him no matter what he was, we'd always love him," she said. "But he told me people (on campus) were treating him differently (since he came out). He didn't know where he belonged."

Friends, however, expressed disbelief that Jackson had been harassed on OU's campus, or that pressure from other students played any role

"That is a lie," said Jay Clark, Jackson's close friend. "Corey was not bullied."





memorial candles.

To the right are

Corey Jackson's

grandmother and

by Andrew Potter.

riends. BTL photos

Corey, in his own words (from his Facebook profile)

Saying I'm complicated is an understatement. I'm a very easy-going guy but my mind is everywhere, all the time. I love my friends and family a lot, they mean ev-

I try not to judge others and respect everyone's opinion, but it's hard sometimes. You don't need much to impress me, just a good heart. Drama is something I simply do not do. If you have it, please take it somewhere else. Honestly, it's very easy for me to not care what people think, because I've wasted too much of my life caring. I'm usually shy at first but once you get me going, I promise you won't be able shut me up. I love meeting new people and making them laugh and making them feel comfortable. I put myself in other people's shoes often. People who I feel have it harder than myself, or people who I admire, both help me become a stronger person. I've heard everything. Words do not hurt me, only actions.

Clark and Jackson roomed together during their freshmen year. The two became so close that Jackson asked to identify Clark as his sibling on his Facebook page. Clark does not buy that his friend was bullied to death.

"He seemed very comfortable (on campus)," said Clark. "I know he wasn't being bullied, because every time I saw Corey he had a smile on his face. He would have told me."

Eddison Bautista, another of Jackson's close

"I don't think bullying was an issue," he said. "Corey was really proud of who he was."

Retracing the descent of a falling star

By all accounts, Jackson had every right to be proud. He graduated from Warren Woods Tower High School in 2009 with a 3.9 grade point average. He was captain of the track team, a member of the swim team and, say friends, well-liked.

His popularity, from all indications, only increased at college, as he came to accept and express his sexual orientation. At the candlelight vigil, friends recalled his passion for helping people and his ever-present smile.

"Corey had probably one of the most infectious smiles you ever saw," said Tyler Scheuerman, Jackson's roommate this year. "No matter what kind of day you were having, you saw Corey and you weren't having a bad day anymore."

Jackson loved music and loved to dance. On weekends he enjoyed clubbing in Detroit and over the summer had joined the dance troupe Chico's Boyz and began performing at Gigi's, where he was an instant crowd pleaser. Much of his free time in recent weeks was spent talking to a new love interest, Mario Martin.

"He was a kind person," said Martin. "He was such a sweet guy.3

Jackson felt just as strongly about Martin and was, ironically, declaring his great happiness in the final days of his life. Clark saw Jackson for the last time on Thursday, Sept. 14, and much of their conversation was about Martin.

"He said, 'Jay, I feel like I'm on top of the world. I'm so happy," Clark recalled.

Clark and Jackson shared the news that they had both just been hired by the university to solicit donations from alumni. They made plans to attend training together the following week.

On Friday, Jackson finished his school week and prepared to party with his new love. They went to Gigi's, where Jackson danced as part of the first show.

"He was happy," remembered Murray, another of the club's dancers. "He was with his friends. He was having fun."

See OAKLAND, page 18





Don't sit this election out



hange takes time, but it's not always easy to wait. Over the past few

months, the LGBT community has celebrated several significant legal victories, yet has seen the political branches move at a snail's pace on issues of equality. Federal and state courts have overturned the "Don't ask, Don't tell" military policy, ruled against the "Defense of Marriage Act," and upheld the right of gays and lesbians to adopt in the state of Florida. Meanwhile, the U. S. Senate could not muster 60 votes to stop a Republican filibuster of a bill to end DADT, even with more than 60 senators in support of the measure.

Many people ask why President Obama has not moved more aggressively on issues of LGBT equality. Even more troubling to many people is the Obama Administration's decision to appeal the DADT and DOMA decisions, even as the president proclaims his desire to see these regressive laws die. The question some ask is why he doesn't simply accept the verdict of the courts, since he opposes the laws anyway. It is right that we ask these questions, especially since the political support of many in our community helped propel the president to his near-landslide victory two years ago.

There are a few things to keep in mind about President Obama's seeming-reluctance to support LGBT equality when it matters. On the legal cases, the president faces difficult choices. As the head of the executive branch of government, the president is responsible for carrying out the laws passed by Congress. As odious as they are, DADT and DOMA are still technically part of the U.S. legal code. President Obama has stated that he wants Congress to repeal these laws permanently, rather than leaving it to the courts with the possibility that they could be resurrected in some way by a future president.

President Obama has stated that he wants Congress to repeal these laws permanently, rather than leaving it to the courts with the possibility that they could be resurrected in some way by a future president.

President Obama is very aware of the political pitfalls of supporting the LGBT community. The last Democrat in the White House, Bill Clinton, had a difficult time navigating issues of equality, even as he made efforts to protect our community. However, it's important to note that in the 1990s, a majority of Americans opposed openly gay service in the military and gay marriage. Today, the vast majority of Americans support allowing gays and lesbians to serve in the military, and slight majorities (in some polls) support same-sex marriage. Thus, it would seem that President Obama faces a better political environment for achieving progress on issues of equality than was the case 15 years ago.

Where does this leave us as the midterm elections rapidly approach? Many people in the Democratic coalition that enthusiastically voted for Mr. Obama in 2008 appear likely to stay home this year. All of us, however, should look at what has happened in the last two years. We now have a president who reaches out to the LGBT community, even if his political support for our issues is sometimes tentative. Since taking office, the president has used executive action to allow gays and lesbians to visit their spouses in the hospital and granted certain domestic-partner benefits to gay and lesbian federal employees serving in foreign countries. He also signed major LGBT-inclusive hate crimes legislation, something his predecessor, George W.

Contact President Obama and urge him to make repeal of DADT a top priority in the upcoming "lame duck" Congress:

E-mail: http://www.whitehouse. gov/contact, or call the White House switchboard: 202-456-1414.

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Download the BTL Voters Guide--use it: http://www.pridesource.com

Bush, refused to do. More symbolically, the president has met with LGBT leaders, including some from Michigan, at the White House.

Don't give up, even if you're not happy with what's going on in Washington. Yes, we should be upset that things aren't moving very quickly on some of our issues. Yes, we're entitled to be disappointed that the president is appealing legal rulings that we regard as victories. But we need to stay involved. We need to keep the pressure on the president. Since the president has decided to follow the legislative route toward equality, we need to make sure he follows through on his promises and keep the pressure on the White House to do the right thing

Most importantly, none of us should stay home on Election Day, Nov. 2. Keep in mind that while President Obama is not perfect, his opposition would do nothing at all to protect equal rights for the LGBT community. Indeed, it's largely their actions that have blocked any legislative progress on these issues. It is much better to work with imperfect friends than adversaries who don't care about our rights. If the other side wins this year, it'll be because we stayed home. That is simply not acceptable when so much is at stake for our community and country.

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Gary Glenn's robocall lies, attacks lesbian candidate for state house

BY JAN STEVENSON

Over the weekend, Gary Glenn, the chairman of the Campaign for Michigan Families and long-time anti-LGBT activist, released a robocall attacking Toni Sessoms because she is a lesbian. Sessoms is the Democratic candidate in the race for the Michigan State House 99th District in the Midland area. And if a voter didn't know she was an openly lesbian woman, they certainly got the point after getting Glenn's call, where he used the word "homosexual" ten times in just one minute and thirty-seven seconds.

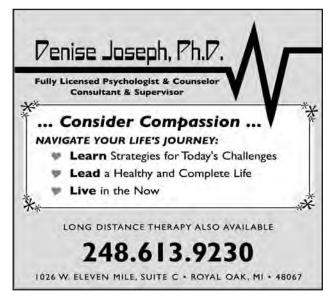
Sessoms quickly responded with a

video on YouTUbe, in which she confirms that she is a lesbian, but then proceeds to poke fun at the remaining absurdities in Glenn's robocall. One of her funniest moments is in response to Glenn's assertion that, "Sessom's campaign manager is the openly homosexual Central Michigan University faculty member who lost the statehouse race two years ago." Sessoms brought her campaign manager, Mary Barker, into the video and asked if she was gay, and she silently shook her head no. Then Sessoms asked Barker's husband if Mary is gay, and he too silently shook his head no. Barker also has never worked at CMU, nor has she run for state office.

At the end of the video, Sessoms looks directly into the camera and says, "The agenda of my opponent's strong supporter is to divide us as a people. The easiest way to divide people is through hatred and fear. My campaign is about bringing people together. Only when we work together can we actually reach our goal."

Sessoms is an accomplished attorney and a registered nurse. She was featured in the 2010 BTL Voters Guide as one of three openly LGBT state house candidates.

You can hear Glenn's robocall and view Sessoms' response on www.PrideSource.com.



caroldufraine@aol.com



BTL EDITORIAL

Vote as though our lives depend on it - sometimes they do

where individuals have the right to vote. Each November, we can go to the polls and cast our ballots. Our job is to protect this sacred right by educating ourselves on the issues, familiarizing ourselves with the candidates and making sure that we get to the polls on election day.

To not vote is to pretend that everything will be fine, that our rights and liberties will just continue unabated, and that eventually LGBT equality will be achieved because it is simply the moral thing and it should happen. This magical thinking is dangerous and irresponsible. And in that vein, we are encouraging everyone reading this to get out and vote Nov. 2, *and* make a special effort to take at least one other person along with you

Rabid anti-gay Michigan organizer Gary Glenn would love it if you did not vote. Last Saturday, in the 99th Michigan House race, Glenn, the American Family Association president, blasted that district with vicious robo-calls against openly lesbian candidate Toni Sessoms. Glenn would like nothing more than for LGBT voters to stay home. He should motivate us all to vote, to get involved in campaigns and to donate to candidates like Sessoms, who stand up for fairness and equality for all citizens in this state.

Meanwhile, in Ann Arbor, Andrew Shirvell has relentlessly stalked Chris Armstrong, the openly gay student body president. Shirvell is still an assistant Attorney General for the state of Michigan under Mike Cox, still collecting his considerable salary while on leave. If Cox had won the Republican primary election for governor in August and gone on to win in the general election, perhaps he would have installed Shirvell as, say, head of the Health & Human Services Department, or maybe the state's Civil Rights Commission - a terrifying thought. It is up to us to protect ourselves and our community, by voting anti-LGBT activists like Mike Cox and his merry band of right-wing fruitcakes right out of office.

Finally, we must vote because teenage LGBT people can't. We must provide hope and encour-

Finally, we must vote because teenage LGBT people can't. We must provide hope and encouragement to those young people who are vulnerable and scared.

agement to those young people who are vulnerable and scared. Corey Jackson, 19, committed suicide last Tuesday evening in a wooded area on the campus of Oakland University, becoming another tragic LGBT suicide in what has become a devastating pattern this fall. Yet our state legislators cannot pass anti-bully legislation, leaving our state one of the few without an anti-bullying law. We need to elect candidates who support LGBT equality and who are brave enough to stand up to the pressure from the far-right, especially when it involves the youngest among us.

Between The Lines has produced a comprehensive LGBT 2010 Voter Guide. It provides research and endorsements from all the LGBT PACS, including Equality Michigan Pride PAC, LAHR PAC, the Kalamazoo Alliance PAC and the Democratic Party LGBT Caucus PAC, and it lists which candidates are endorsed by Labor and whether the candidates are pro-choice or not. It also lists which candidates are supported by anti-LGBT, far-right wing groups. These candidates are not our friends, and if elected to office have indicated that they will work actively against our interests.

The LGBT vote in Michigan can make a difference in many of the key races this year, but only if we get out to the polls on election day in significant numbers. So to stymie Gary Glenn, to protect ourselves from the likes of Mike Cox and Andrew Shirvell, and to stand up for our young people who deserve the right to live long enough to reach voting age, go to the polls. Take your BTL Voter Guide. Make a difference.

VIEWPOINT



Did NPR miss a teachable moment?

BY MICHELLE E. BROWN

nyone who knows me will tell you: *I* LOVE NPR! I am one of those folks they talk about. The one who is always citing some tidbit of information or trivia — which can be heard only on NPR — in my conversations, speeches and my writing. But these days, when we are having so many in-depth discussions on the harm words can cause in response to recent bullying deaths, NPR missed a teachable moment that could have taken this conversation right to the root of the problem — fear based biases.

In case you missed it, Juan Williams, who was a news analyst on NPR, said in an interview on Fox News Channel's "O'Reilly Factor," that when he is on a plane, people in "Muslim garb" make him nervous. NPR promptly fired Mr. Williams, saying the comments were "inconsistent with our editorial standards and practices." Were they right in firing him? Well, as not just a listener, but one who contributes to two public radio stations, I have to cry "FOUL!"

In a statement Williams said, "My words were not a bigoted statement" and quite frankly I agree with him. Is he wrong in having these feelings? ABSOLUTELY! But let's be real, Williams said something probably millions of Americans have thought or said since the 911 attacks. But his comments are no different from the folks, not all white or women, who clutch their valuables to their chest when they see young, saggy-panted African American youth come their way. It is no different from parents who gather up their children and run out of public bathrooms if a trans-person walks in. It is no different from folks who see a Latino man or woman and assume they are illegal immigrants. And it is no different than the white sales clerk who followed me around a store recently lest I steal something

Unfortunately, we all harbor secret suspicions and biases that we consciously or unconsciously act upon, sending the wrong message to society and especially to youth. Do we think little Johnny or Jane learned the biases of fear and hatred that often lead to bullying and/or suicide out of the blue? They learned them from *us*.

Firing Juan Williams will not stop these biases, but it can provide teachable moments which can lift us all up. Isn't it time we come out of the closet and talk about what screws us up as a people?

Right or wrong, the media have a bully pulpit that can change hearts, minds and influence society. Williams said something probably millions of Americans have thought or said since the 911 attacks.

Take hair for instance. To this day African American women and girls still struggle against the stigma of having "bad hair." Now that more women are wearing their hair natural, in dreadlocks, twists, braids, etc. one would think little black girls would be free of hair hang-ups. We don't talk in depth about the history of our hair, why we have different textures or why long, straight hair is ingrained in our historical memory as somehow the "good hair." We don't talk about it because it might take us to unpleasant realities – slavery, white oppression, discrimination – that affect us even today in our post racial society.

But some things just won't go away. Sesame Street writer and puppeteer Joey Mazzarino, who has an adopted African American daughter, noticed she did not embrace her hair. After talking to their daughter and seeing Chris Rock's film "Good Hair," he came out with a new muppet that loves what she's got on top — her black, kinky, braided, dreadlocked hair. And what about homophobia? Our young people are dying because they are gay or perceived to be gay. Little girls wear dresses and play with dolls. Boys wear pants and play with trucks and woebe-tide the child that strays to far from the norm.

We tell our youth that "It Gets Better," but we don't want to talk about homophobia, our sexuality, our fears. One courageous family is bringing it to the forefront. "My Princess Boy" chronicles the real life of a family having a beautiful 5 year-old son/brother, Dyson, who loves to play dress up; who isn't interested in boy's clothes and loves his pretty girl clothes. With the support of family, teachers and friends, the Kidodavis family is not just changing hearts and minds, but showing the world what it takes for it to get better.

Right or wrong, the media have a bully pulpit that can change hearts, minds and influence society. Sorry NPR, but you took the too politically correct response of dismissal rather than talk about why we fear. I expected better from you.

Michelle E. Brown is a community activist, an authentic speaker, a dynamic leader, and a true voice for the African-American LGBT community,



Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress - First Amendment, U.S. Constitution

S/he said

T-shirts, votes and murder

COMPILED BY HOWARD ISRAEL

"'Proud to be lesbian' 'Support homosexual love' '100% Gay Pride.'" - Messages handwritten on a t-shirt, worn by 15-year-old Sommer Collins, an openly gay 15-year-old 9th grader in Arkansas, suspended from school for three days because of the t-shirt, and because a teacher thought it supported an immoral cause, http://gayrights.change.org, October 14.

"Evangelical leaders have told me that homosexuality is the single greatest threat to the family. But with one of two heterosexual marriages failing, with 70 percent of the Internet dedicated to the degradation of women through pornography and with a culture that is materially insatiable even as it remains all-too spiritually content, can we straight people say with a straight face that gays are ruining our families? We've done a mighty fine job of it ourselves.'

Shmuley Boteach, in his column titled "No Holds Barred: The Jewish view of homosexuality," The Jerusalem Post www.jpost.

"If candidates can mobilize the gay community and get them out to vote, it could make all the difference in the world in some of these key races. This year's election is a stark contrast to 2008, when the gay community turned out in droves to elect Obama and help Democrats regain control of Congress. People were clamoring and very excited about the change that then-candidate Obama promised America. Now I see lethargy at best and disgust at worst.'

- Rick Garcia, director of public policy, Equality Illinois, in an article titled "Gay voters angry at Democrats could sway election," Associated Press http://hosted.ap.org, Oct. 24.

"As good Christians and Jews we must work to change the religious thinking, rhetoric, and practice that communicates to our LGBT children that they are despised by their Creator. These bullying beers would not exist without the undergirding and the patina

of respect provided by religious fervor against LGBT people. It's time for 'tolerant' religious people to acknowledge the straight line between the official anti-gay theologies of their denominations and the deaths of these young people. Nothing short of changing our theology of human sexuality will save these young and precious lives."

- Bishop Gene Robinson, Episcopal Bishop of New Hampshire, in his column titled "How Religion Is Killing Our Most Vulnerable Youth," www.huffingtonpost. com, Oct.15.



Don't Ask Don't Tell is a discriminatory policy that has forfeited over 13,500 able-bodied men and women from our military while requiring others to hide who they are in order to serve their country. I strongly believe we must allow our military to recruit and retain any qualified, patriotic, and courageous American who wants to serve our country. During my service in the United States Navy Reserve, I served with many brave, patriotic, and dedicated men and women who were always ready to serve their country. I was never concerned about their sexual orientation, just their ability to serve the United States honorably."

> - Congressman Gary Peters (D-MI), in a statement about the judicial decision to halt enforcement of the military's DADT policy, http://www.peters.house.gov, Oct. 12.



LETTERS

Gene Robinson

Rosen does not deserve BTL endorsement

I am amazed that BTL endorsed Republican Ken Rosen in his bid to replace Marie Donigan in the State House District 26 (Royal Oak/Madison Heights). Rosen's only qualification is that he happens to be gay.

I too have been an out and proud gay activist since 1973, and am very involved in this year's election cycle. I happen to know that Rosen's supporters sent out at least three negative mailings against the Democratic candidate Jim Townsend in the past several weeks, using race baiting as part of their tactics. These mailing were unprovoked by the Democratic party or Townsend's campaign supporters. Mr. Rosen does not deserve any support

from the LGBT community, as his campaign is based on attacking the Democratic candidate without offering any solutions to what he will do should God-forbid he get elected.

I am working very hard to let voters know that Rosen does not represent what is decent in our gay community nor is he an honest person in the way he is running his bid to elected office. Jim Townsend will best represent our community and has been fully endorsed by his predecessor and many leaders in our LGBT family.

Sincerely, Thomas R. Zerafa MM Oak Park, MI

Editor's Note: BTL co-endorsed in this race.



Parting Glances Then & Now

Slava! II sodoma!

y favorite coming-out story is about Dennis, a friend and computer wizard who, before his retirement a few Lyears ago, brought expertise to a nationally known local publishing company of research and library compendiums.

When in his mid-20s, Dennis – who now, 40-plus years later, says he's a religious skeptic, humanist, gayly proud – studied for the Russian Orthodox priesthood. Slava! (Glory!) Slava!

"At the time it seemed an intense authentic calling for me," he recalls. "Nonetheless, it was a troubled and confused time as well."

As a priesthood candidate, Dennis found himself emotionally attracted to other men on the narrow spiritual path. "Scripture says that too often thinking about sinning is as serious as committing the act itself. A no-win situation for would-be celibates.

Dennis decided, after much daily reflection and soul searching, that a priest's life was not really "my cup of unhoneyed tea - hot or iced." He left, as he puts it, "Without letting my right hand know what my left hand wasn't doing."

'If you can't serve the Almighty," reasoned Dennis at the time of his departure, "do the next best thing: join the State Department." (It helped that Dennis was fluent in Russian and – though not married or possessed of an even remotely believable girlfriend - still a virgin. Possibly straight. He hoped.)

Seemingly a new career door was ajar for him. That is, until Dennis was asked to take a lie detector test as a matter of State Department applicant review. "Have you ever had sexual relations with a man?" he was unsuspectingly questioned. "No," said Dennis, telling the truth. (He wanted to, but God wouldn't let him.)

Slava! Slava! The recording marker danced – "It chardashed all over the graph sheet," says Dennis - outing him as possibly with "homosexual tendencies" and not acceptable to the State Department – a candidate for blackmail.

(Years earlier, in a mid-1950s Sen. McCarthy-induced witch hunt, 325 homosexuals were dismissed from government service. It was not until after the Nixon years in the '70s that "known homosexuals" were eligible for obtaining a passport.)

What the hell," says Dennis. "I'd never slept with a living soul – let alone been to bed with a guy – so I decided right there and then that if my sexual orientation was authenticated for me by the State Department, it was high time I got some action, with or without national security clearance."

On the subject of coming out: Possibly the first recorded act of public acceptance happened 460 years ago. The honor goes to Giovanni Bazzi, an Italian High Renaissance artist and wealthy fashon plate who, although married and a father, collected exotic birds and equally exotic young men found cavorting in his native Sienna. He also painted nude male saints. (Quite a market for tiny nimbuses I understand.)

Neighbors gossiped that Bazzi, "loved more than was decent." His friends nicknamed him "Il Sodoma," the sodomite. (When I was a Cass Tech High School art student, we learned of Il Sodoma quickly in art history class. Teacher Don Brackett winked slyly as a subliminal comment, but this was an historical two-point perspective we gay students quickly zeroed in on. At least I did. Slava!)

Bazzi also kept racehorses. One of these festooned fillies won an important annual race. Bazzi insisted that the winning horse and his - Bazzi's - boytoi jockey be trumpeted loudly through the streets of Sienna with shouts of Il Sodoma! Il Sodoma!

Shortly thereafter another filly - his daughter Faustina demonstrating 16th century all-in-the-family values - married the painter's favorite model and jockey for a little competitive side-saddle riding of her own.

Win, place, and show me yours.

Charles@pridesource.com. Facebook, too.





INDICATIONS

ISENTRESS is an anti-HIV medicine used for the treatment of HIV. ISENTRESS <u>must</u> be used with other anti-HIV medicines, which may increase the likelihood of response to treatment.

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 a go-getter. I am romantic. I am a world traveler. 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

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



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

Read the patient information that comes with ISENTRESS1 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.

ISENTRESS 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: Reduce the amount of HIV in your blood. This is called your "viral load"
 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
- 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.

ISENTRESS

If you take too much ISENTRESS, call your doctor or local Poison Control

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

 When your ISENTRESS supply starts to run low, get more from your doctor
 - 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

- 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.

Medicines are sometimes prescribed for conditions that are not mentioned in

- 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 raitegravir

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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Holland Human Relations Commission recommends protections for LGBT citizens

Commissioners not swayed by anti-gay remarks

BY JIM LARKIN

HOLLAND - The Rev. Bart Spencer of the Lighthouse Baptist Church said protecting gay people under the city's anti-discrimination ordinance would make criminals out of those who have high moral standards.

Resident Joe Stafford said sometimes discrimination is a good thing.

And many of the approximate 100 people at the Oct. 21 Holland Human Relations Commission said "Amen" and "That's right, brother" while nodding their heads in agree-

But in the end the commission unanimously recommended to the Holland City Council that sexual orientation and gender identity be added to the classes protected under the city's anti-discrimination ordinance.

Commissioners said they were moved by the many letters they received in support of attempting to protect gay, lesbian and transgender people in the community. And they added that their mission, by definition, was "to protect the equal rights and equal opportunities of all citizens by preventing discrimination" and promote "social justice and cultural understanding and improve relationships among all citizens of the City

They added that after a summer of research they could reach no other conclusion than to recommend inclusion of sexual orientation and gender And they (Commission) added that their mission, by definition, was "to protect the equal rights and equal opportunities of all citizens by preventing discrimination" and promote "social justice and cultural understanding and improve relationships among all citizens of the City of Holland."

identity in the anti-discrimination ordinance

Those speaking at the widely publicized commission meeting, which had to be moved from its normal meeting room to the much larger City Council chambers, were almost evenly divided on the issue

On one side were those who said homosexuality is morally wrong and by broadening the ordinance the city would be making a dangerous statement advocating for homosexuals. One woman said it would open the door for others, and related that in another state some said it would make it OK for people to have sex with sheep. Another man said he had proof that being gay isn't natural because if you put two men on a desert island they wouldn't be able to procreate. Another expressed concerns about the high incidence of AIDS in the gay community and still another said the city might just as well also add prostitution as a protected class.

On the other side were those, including three local pastors, who said protecting all people in the community against discrimination was the right and moral thing to do. Arni Schering said he got along fine with his former church and neighbors until he came out as gay about a year ago, but now his neighbors won't speak to him. A businessman who declined to give his name for fear of retribution said he had experienced discrimination first hand.

"We want to be a safe, welcoming, productive place for all our brothers and sisters," said the Rev. Jennifer Adams, pastor of Grace Episcopal Church and a leader of the local group Holland Is Ready.

The Rev. Ruth Hawley Lowry said the position of the Reformed Church of America, which has a large presence in Holland, is that the denial of human and civil rights based on sexual identity is inconsistent with Reformed theology.

And Tony Cortese, a vice president with Herman Miller, said that the company - as one of the largest employers of Holland residents - supports passage of including sexual orientation and gender identity as protected classes and that he, as a Holland resident, does so also. He said it made sound business sense to do so and that Herman Miller itself has a strong belief in inclusion.

"To succeed as a company, we must include all the expressions of human talent and potential that society offers," notes the company's statement on inclusion. "When we are truly inclusive, we go beyond toleration to understanding all the qualities that make people who they are, that make us unique, and most important, that unite us."

Herman Miller has been named one of the most admired companies in the country by Fortune magazine, which also named it one of the 100 best companies to work for Fast Company listed it as one of the country's 50 most innovative companies.

The City Council has not yet determined when it will take up the issue.

Shirvell's attorney threatens to sue **UofM**

BY JAN STEVENSON AND WIRE REPORTS

ANN ARBOR - It appeared that tensions had eased. Chris Armstrong agreed to drop his request for a personal protection order against Andrew Shirvell, the assistant attorney general accused of stalking the openly gay

student at the University of Michigan. In court filings Oct. 25, Armstrong said he agreed to drop a personal protection order request because Shirvell had not tried to contact him since being served notice by the court of Armstrong's intent to get the PPO.

The court dismissed the case Oct. 25. Shirvell is on paid leave from his position at the attorney general's office and the university has banned Shirvell from its campus.

But the appearances of reduced tensions were short-lived. Shrivell's attorney turned around and threatened to sue UofM if his client is not immediately

allowed back on its 3,000-acre campus. Shirvell is currently not allowed to do so under a trespass warning issued Sept. 14. According to Philip Thomas, Shirvell's attorney, his client has tried to get

a hearing with University's Public Safety Director Ken Magee at least three times since campus police read Shirvell the trespass warning. A campus police spokesperson confirmed to Annarbor.com that a meeting with Magee had not been scheduled as of Oct. 25.

Armstrong, who is the university's first openly gay student body president, filed the request for a PPO after Shirvell launched a blog attacking him for his "radical homosexual agenda" and started showing up at various events as well as outside his home to protest and heckle Armstrong.

In the PPO application filed Sept. 13, Armstrong called Shirvell "a threat to my own personal safety" and detailed several instances where Shirvell followed Armstrong's friends as they gathered in various Ann Arbor locations, hoping to confront Armstrong. He wrote that Shirvell's actions made him "fear for his safety."

"The actions that Mr. Shirvell has taken against me over the past four months have been incredibly distressing," Armstrong wrote. He added he might feel slightly different if Shirvell was a student. "His actions... have been an outright attack on my ability to live my life openly and be honest about who I am."

"In the matter concerning the appeal of the trespass, we want that withdrawn," Thomas said. "(Shirvell) should be able to go onto that campus for whatever reason. It's legal as long as what he's doing is legal, and he's not threatening in any way.'

Thomas said his client is proud of attending the UofM and loves his school. "The next step would be the courts," Thomas continued.



Holland is Ready film series

HOLLAND – Holland is Ready will continue its free 2010-11 film series with the showing of "Big Eden" at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 5 at the Park Theatre, 248 S. River Ave.

"Big Eden" is set in a tiny fictional town in northwestern Montana and follows the story of Henry Hart, a successful New York artist who returns to the town of his childhood to care for the ailing grandfather who raised him. Back in Big Eden, Henry must come to terms with his relationship to Dean Stewart, his best friend from high school, as well as the object of his unrequited love.

But it is also the story of Pike Dexter, a shy, unassuming Native American owner of the town's general store, who is as surprised as anyone to find himself falling in love with Henry, and the town that conspires to bring Pike and Henry together.

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

Holland is Ready is a group of community leaders working for the safety, rights and inclusion of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender persons in the Lakeshore area

Conference to look at LGBT and immigration issues

SOUTHFIELD – Northwest Unitarian Universalist Church in Southfield will host a statewide conference on Standing on the Side of Love for Immigration Reform and LGBT Justice on Saturday, Nov. 20, 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. The church is located at 23925 Northwestern Hwy, in Southfield.

The interfaith conference promises to be moving, eye-opening, and educational. Two panels will discuss the true life stories of immigrants and LGBT people who have been affected by oppression. Immigration Reform for America and Equality Michigan will hold workshops on the issues. Members of faith congregations and spiritual groups will learn about how to maintain a welcoming environment for people of all gender and sexual identities.

Early registration before Nov. 6 costs \$30 and includes meals, childcare. and home hospitality. Later registration will cost \$40. The discounted price for students or low-income individuals is \$15 before Nov. 6 and \$20 after.

The conference is co-sponsored by the Heartland District of the Unitarian Universalist Association: Immigration Reform for America: Equality Michigan: Interweave, First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor; with support from Oasis TBLG Ministries of the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan.

Register and pay online at www.uujustice.org, or mail a check to: MUUS-JN, Randy Block, 4220 Arlington Dr., Royal Oak, MI 48073. For more information, call Jeannie Miernik, 517-927-3453 or Randy Block, 248-549-5170.

Creep !!! Week **Tim Hicks**

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

ttention all incestuous Iowans. Your dream is coming true. Soon you'll be able to marry the object of your incestuous affections. Since that's how incest works: just two people in love, oppressed by blood. It's like Flowers In the Attic on Broadway, only Broadway is real life.

This is all thanks to the Iowa Supreme Court. No, they haven't legalized incest. But they will. After all, they made it legal for homos to marry each other, so incest is next on the marriage agenda. At least that's what Tim Hicks promises. And he would know since he is apparently insane.

Hicks is a member of Cornerstone World Outreach in Sioux City, a church facing IRS scrutiny for its rabid campaign to boot three members of the Iowa Supreme Court who are up for reelection. Apparently it's a violation of federal tax law to mount a political campaign from the pulpit. But hey, it's not God's law so they apparently don't have to follow it.

When he's not blowing his sax for the Cornerstone Praise Team, Hicks apparently likes to make videos under the moniker Creative Media Solutions. One of his latest, which is up on You-Tube, features "Mike and Sharron" in a spoof on the eHarmony ads.

'We were made to be together," Mike says, his arm around Sharron. "But there was a time when society would not allow us to be married."

He continues, "You have to be friends before you're lovers."

Of course, to Hicks incest and homosexuality are pretty much the same thing in that they're horrible and disgusting and against God or whatever. But in the realitybased world where rational people live, they are not the same thing at all.

Sharron chimes in, "That's definitely true of us."

"And we were definitely friends before we were lovers," he

"But more importantly than that," says Sharron, "before we were friends we were brother and sister."

"If it wasn't for the Iowa Supreme Court, we wouldn't be married today," Mike says.

And then, in unison: "Thanks, Iowa Supreme Court!" followed by clip of the pair kissing. On the lips. Eww!

Look, as far as parody videos go, it's actually pretty good. The production level is pretty high, the actors know how to say their lines (though they could have used a bigger make-up budget. I mean, come on. It's hot under those lights. A little powder would've gone a long way, that's all I'm saying), and it's a clever premise.

As far as arguments go, well, that's another story. The whole "slippery slope" argument is a crowd favorite among anti-gay folks wanting to keep homos from marrying each other. And while it may be fun to imagine all of the horrible things that gays marrying might wreck on society, it just doesn't hold up under scrutiny.

To quote Andrew Sullivan, "If you want to argue that a lifetime of loving, faithful commitment between two women is equivalent to incest or child abuse, then please argue it. It would make for fascinating reading. But spare us this bizarre point that no new line can be drawn in access to marriage - or else everything is up for grabs and, before we know where we are, men will be marrying their dogs."

Of course, to Hicks incest and homosexuality are pretty much the same thing in that they're horrible and disgusting and against God or whatever. But in the reality-based world where rational people live, they are not the same thing at all.

But in order to see that you can't just dismiss gays and lesbians as bunch of sex-crazed lunatics hell-bent on destroying marriage. You have to be able to see gays and lesbians as actual human beings capable of love and same-sex couples deserving of the protections that come with a legally recognized marriage.

My guess is that Hicks isn't capable of this. The Iowa Supreme Court is, however, and that's screwing up the "homos are the worst" narrative. Sadly for Hicks and Co. that's the only story they know.

Wanna Be Startin' Somethin' returns

Event seeks to promote dialogue in Detroit's black community

BY BTL STAFF

DETROIT – Last October Detroit made a significant historical leap with an actual sit-down, face-to-face dialogue between black men and women who are hetero-attractional, homo-attractional and bi-attractional, and according to organzers it happened without a screaming debate. The event, "Wanna Be Startin' Somethin' II" will continue the dialogue once more Oct. 30 and 31

The event name "Wanna Be Startin" Somethin" comes from a famous Michael Jackson song. Using the song title was a way to memorialize Jackson and his messages of social justice. Jackson's sudden death occurred as last year's event was in the planning stages.

What organizers want to "start" again this year, is "an ongoing cross-attractional dialogue to help dismantle the divisions between 'straight and gay' in the black community."

Organizers said communities of color often "tip-toe" around gay and lesbian identity or refrain from having open, intellectual conversations. The event's group dialogue format aims to create a safe space of mutual respect. Organizers hope that bringing individuals of all attractional orientations together will build new friendships, alliances and organizational partnerships across metro Detroit - replac-



ing myths with facts in the process.

CUNY professor, Dr. Juan Battle, invited Dr. Amorie Robinson, a licensed psychologist and resident of Detroit, to create and implement the project.

Other planning committee members include Crystallee Crain, a doctoral candidate at the California Institute of Integral Studies working on race, gender and empowerment, and Dr. J. Frederick Bland, a Detroiter who recently completed his doctoral dissertation at Western Michigan University focusing on attractional minority youth. All three are passionate about the value of intergroup cross-cultural dialogues.

Starting this conversation in metro Detroit is just the beginning of what organizers hope will become an ongoing series that includes cross-racial, crossgenerational, cross-gender and other categories. Those who attended last year want to see the program continue.

The planning committee expressed appreciation to private donors and gratitude to Rev. Horace Sheffield of Detroit Association of Black Organizations and National Action Network for providing the venue.

This year's event will be held on Oct. 30 - 31, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the Detroit Cares Academy, 8100 W. Davison. Participants must be 18 or older and are asked to attend both days to maintain the integrity of the group process. There is no charge to attend and refreshments will be provided. Pre-registration is preferred. Free parking is available, and the event is handicap accessible.

Participants are encouraged to invite family members, colleagues and friends who ordinarily avoid talking face-to-face with a gay or biattractional person. Questions and comments can be sent to detroitstartsomething@gmail.com or interested parties may call 313-570-1543 and ask for Dr. Robinson.

Analysis: Election cycle recap

BY MARK SEGAL

During this election cycle, the news has been focused on the Republican tea party candidates. They are a fun-loving bunch: Let's look them over.

In Delaware, the Senate candidate doesn't know the First Amendment and says she used to be a witch.

In Alaska, the security team for the Senatorial candidate handcuffed a reporter for asking a question.

In Nevada, a Republican ad on Univision urged Hispanics not to vote.

In Kentucky, the Senate candidate said if he could, he would vote against the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

In Pennsylvania, the Senate candidate would outlaw abortions and put doctors who perform them on trial.

In New York, the gubernatorial candidate offered to punch a reporter and sent racist and sexist e-mails.

A little more than a week to go and the general election of 2010 will be history - and, if you feel as I do, hurrah.

While we can't wait to get this over with, it is still very important to remember that this year your vote is crucial. The LGBT vote can make the difference between a Democratic Congress or a

Blame all the problems of the country on Obama and Pelosi. Yeah, blame the black guy and the woman.

Republican Congress. If the latter doesn't scare you, I'm not sure what will. In any case, while we might debate on if we care about Congress, there is one congressional race we can all agree on.

Pat Murphy is the Democratic incumbent for Pennsylvania's 8th Congressional District. If you need any reminders, he's the Iraq War vet who has fought "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" from his days teaching at West Point to the halls of Congress. And while most ran from the issue this year, he picked up the flag and became the standard bearer for repeal in Congress. His opponent is running the same old tired Republican scare-tactic race. It's a nail-biter. And this is a swing district in a difficult year. His district stretches from Northeast Philadelphia through Bucks County. Pat needs your help. Donate, volunteer and, most importantly, if you're in his district, vote.

During the presidential primary sea-

son in 2008, a friend and I had a discussion with the premise, is this country more racist or more sexist? It was an easy subject to discuss since, for the first time in history, the two major candidates for president in one party were an African American and a woman. It's an interesting debate, and you can see some of this -ism playing now in this mid-term election.

For the first time in American history, we have an African-American president and a woman as Speaker of the House. And what has been the battle cry of the right and the tea party activists? Blame all the problems of the country on Obama and Pelosi. Yeah, blame the black guy and the woman

Getting back to the tea party and the standard bearer in Delaware, Christine O'Donnell: Her name was misspelled on her own website until this week.

Mark Segal is Philadelphia Gay News publisher. He is the nation's most-awardwinning commentator in LGBT media, having just received the 2010 Columnist of the Year Award from the 2,000-member Suburban Newspapers of America. He can be reached atmark@epgn.com.



Student drops out due to bullying

BY TODD A. HEYWOOD

The Bay City Times reported last week, that 17-year-old Cassandra Morris has dropped out of Ogemaw Heights schools because of bullying based on her sexual orientation.

Morris came out to her friends and family last year, which resulted in a series of escalating bullying incidents, including a July incident in which her tires were slashed, sausage was spread throughout her car and an explicit message was scrawled on the car. Police interviewed two people in connection with the incident, but have

The final straw for Morris was Oct.

unprovoked attack. She said she fought back against her attacker to protect herself. But school officials tell the Bay City Times that their policies require them to suspend any student involved in a fight that throws

The district is defending its bulling policies. District Superintendent David Martsen had this to say to the paper, "Our high school takes bullying very seriously. We do follow up on issues and seek what remedies to put into place.

"Do we have bullying? Yes, we do. Are there consequences for bullying? Yes,

at Ogemaw Heights called "Mean Girls" that deals specifically with bullying within the female population.

"We do teach tolerance for differences (in students)," said Marsten.

Morris will attend Delta Community College to get her GED and begin college

The story hits as a national movement arises to addressing bullying and what activists have called an "epidemic" of suicides related to bullying.

ganmessenger.com.

classes in January, the paper reports.

This story originally reported at www.michi-

Dept of Ed: Some bullying violates law

BY CHRISTINE ARMARIO

WASHINGTON, D.C. (AP) - The U.S. Department of Education is warning schools: Tolerating or failing to adequately address ethnic, sexual or gender-based harassment could put them in violation of federal anti-discrimination laws.

After several high-profile cases of bullying, the department is sending letters to schools, colleges and universities across the country this week, reminding them of their federal obligations.

Russlynn Ali, assistant secretary for civil rights, said the department was responding to what it senses as a growing problem within schools.

She said the Office for Civil Rights had received 800 complaints alleging harassment over the last fiscal year, and that reports from the field indicate an increase of harassment against certain groups including gays and lesbians, as well as Muslim students after the 9/11 attacks.

In September, 18-year-old Rutgers University student Tyler Clementi committed suicide after his roommate secretly webcast his dorm-room tryst with a man. police said. The roommate and another student have been charged with invasion of privacy, and authorities are considering whether to add a hate-crime charge.

In January, a 15-year-old Massachusetts girl, Phoebe Prince, took her own life after being relentlessly bullied by her

"Certainly the unspeakable tragedies over the past several weeks contribute to our sense of urgency, and it's important that the public know there are things schools and universities can and should be doing."

- Russlynn Ali, assistant secretary for civil rights

classmates, prosecutors said. Six teenagers have been charged.

"Certainly the unspeakable tragedies over the past several weeks contribute to our sense of urgency, and it's important that the public know there are things schools and universities can and should be doing," Ali said on Monday.

The Education Department's Office for Civil Rights has issued similar guidance letters to educators in the past. But this is the first time the agency is addressing all statutes, not just those protecting against gender or sexual offenses, and in the context of bullying and harassment, Ali said.

The letter also clarifies protections for students of religious groups and gay and lesbian individuals.

While the laws the OCR enforces do not protect against harassment based on religious or sexual orientation, there are protections for students from religious groups that share ancestry or ethnic characteristics, as well as gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender students based on gender

Tolerating, not adequately addressing, encouraging or ignoring harassment based on race, color, disability, sex or national origin can indicate the violation of civil rights statutes.

Education Secretary Arne Duncan sought to assure students that action will be taken.

"No one should ever feel harassed or unsafe in a school simply because they act or think or dress differently than others," Duncan said. "To every student who feels threatened or harassed, for whatever reason, please know that you are not alone. Please know that there are people who love you. And please know that we will protect you."

The department will hold technical assistance workshops for schools in early

Obama shocked, saddened by suicides

WASHINGTON (AP) - President Barack Obama said he was "shocked and saddened" by the recent suicides of several young people who were bullied and taunted for being gay.

"As a parent of two daughters, it breaks my heart. It's something that just shouldn't happen in this country," Obama said in a video posted late Thursday on YouTube and the White House website.

It's time, he said, for Americans to dispel the myth that bullying is "just a normal rite of passage."

"I don't know what it's like to be picked on for being gay. But I do know what it's like to grow up feeling that sometimes you don't belong," Obama said. "It's tough."

The victims of bullying can sometimes feel that they are responsible for the taunting because they're different or don't fit in with everybody else.

"But what I want to say is this: You are not alone. You didn't do anything wrong. You didn't do anything to deserve being bullied," Obama said.

He encouraged young people who are depressed or down on themselves to reach out to people they trust parents, teachers, or "folks that you know care about you just the way you are."

"Don't feel like you're in this by yourself," he advised.

Over time, Obama said, "you're going to see that your differences are a source of pride and a source of strength."

Anti-gay bullying has been in the spotlight recently after the suicides of several teenagers. The victims included Asher Brown, 13, of Houston, who shot himself with his father's handgun, and Tyler Clementi, 18, the Rutgers University freshman who jumped off the George Washington Bridge in New York after his roommate secretly recorded him with another male student, then broadcast the video online.

In a videotaped message posted earlier in the week. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said she was saddened by the suicides.

"These most recent deaths are a reminder that all Americans have to work harder to overcome bigotry and hatred,"

Va. research award to focus on gay rights

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) -- The Virginia Historical Society is partnering with the Gay Community Center of Richmond to promote historical scholarship on gay and transgender issues.

The community center is providing the funding for the creation of the Guy Kinman Research Award. It is named after a retired Army chaplain who has been a leader in the capital city's gay, bisexual and transgender community. Kinman remains active at age 92.

The Historical Society says it has been building a significant collection of materials related to gay rights since 2008. The society says the Kinman award will help build on that existing scholarship.

Online: Virginia Historical Society: www.vahistorical.org, Gay Community Center of Richmond: www.gayrichmond.com

Lawyers: Ga. police erased data in gay bar raid

ATLANTA (AP) – Lawyers have accused Atlanta police of erasing e-mails, text messages and cell phone photos that could shed light on a police raid on a gay bar that triggered a lawsuit.

Lawyers for the Atlanta Eagle Bar and several patrons said in court filings that the evidence was deliberately destroyed. Attorneys said the cell phone data was erased just days after U.S. District Court Judge Timothy Batten ordered that the information be turned over.

City Attorney Cathy Hampton told The Atlanta Journal-Constitution that the city government takes the allegations seriously and will investigate.

A national gay rights group filed the federal lawsuit on behalf of 19 people who say they were illegally searched and detained during a Sept. 10, 2009 raid.

Elton John says America needs more compassion

NEW YORK (AP) – Elton John says he's heartbroken by a mean tone that he says is enveloping America.

John spoke at his annual Elton John AIDS Foundation benefit Oct. 18 and honored the memory of AIDS activist Ryan White, who died 20 years ago. The teen contracted AIDS through a blood transfusion and faced ostracism and discrimination. White worked to combat prejudice and ignorance associated with the disease until his death.

John and White became close friends during White's crusade: John said White is the reason he started his foundation, which has doled out tens of millions of dollars to AIDS-related causes.

However, the legendary singer said some things have not changed since White died in 1990.

"I'm saddened and disturbed to realize we are still dealing with the same problems," John said.

'Ryan White was an amazing boy who had no prejudice, no bitterness," he added. "God do we need that kind of thing in America at this moment "

The British superstar professed his love for the United States, but said there is an increasing hostility in the country that "breaks my heart"

Speaking before a crowd that included Hugh Jackman, Anderson Cooper, Christina Ricci and Billie Jean King, John condemned people who say "ridiculous horrible things" without thinking of the consequences of what they are saying.

Online: www.ejaf.org

PRIDESOURCE

Gay marriage foes back push to oust lowa justices

BY MIKE GLOVER

DES MOINES, IOWA (AP) – Stung by a state Supreme Court ruling legalizing gay marriage in Iowa last year, out-of-state convervative groups have been pouring time and money into an effort to unseat three of the court's seven justices.

At a Statehouse rally Monday to kick off a bus tour, gay marriage opponents pleaded their case for why voters on Nov. 2 should opt not to retain Chief Justice Marsha Ternus, and justices David Baker and Michael Streit. Iowa voters have never ousted a state Supreme Court justice.

"I can't overstate the significance of what is about to happen in Iowa," said Brian Brown, executive director of the Washington, D.C.-based National Organization for Marriage. "The whole country is looking at you. This cannot be overstated."

At a counter rally about 100 yards away, organizers argued that anti-gay rights groups have been spent more than \$600,000 to oust the justices are only focused on the one issue and don't care about the damage they'll do to the state's judicial appointment process.

"In January, when the consequences of this effort come to fruition, the special interest advocates will be gone – back to Mississippi, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Alabama," said former Attorney General Bonnie Campbell. "They won't be here after Nov. 3, but the rest of us will be."

The court joined in a 7-0 ruling last year upholding a lower court's decision that found that a state law limiting marriage to between a man and a woman violated the constitutional rights of equal protection.

Those who want to oust the three justices argue that by striking down a law banning gay marriage, the high court in effect, amended the state constitution, which can only be done through a referendum. They say the justices were legislating from the bench, and should therefore be removed.

"We are going to send a message all the way across America. These judges are rogue judges and they're arrogant," Iowa Republican Rep. Steve King told the crowd Monday, standing in front of a bus emblazoned with the justices faces with the word "No," superimposed on them.

Des Moines resident Art Arrett, who attended the rally, said legislating should be left to legislators, not judges.

"It's not their job to make laws," Arrett said.

Those who want to retain the justices, including many law groups, say ousting them would upset the balance of power. They note that the three justices were appointed by Republican and Democratic governors, including Terry Branstad, the state's longtime Republican governor who is seeking a return to office after a 12-year break. He appointed Ternus.

"I believe in keeping politics out of it,"

The National Organization for Marriage has been the biggest spender, contributing \$435,000 to efforts to remove the judges. About \$100,000 has come from the AFA Action Inc., the political arm of the Mississippi-based American Family Association. The Campaign for Working Families, a Washington-based group, also spent \$100,000, and the Washington-based Family Research Council added \$18,000. The Iowa-based Iowa Family Policy Center has spent roughly \$10,000.

said Des Moines resident Harry Shipley, who attended the rallies.

Thus far, the campaign to remove the justices has spent more than \$650,000 and those who want to retain them have spent \$227,000, much of it on television ads.

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to efforts to remove the judges. About \$100,000 has come from the AFA Action Inc., the political arm of the Mississippi-based American Family Association. The Campaign for Working Families, a Washington-based group, also spent \$100,000, and the Washington-based Family Research Council added \$18,000. The Iowabased Iowa Family Policy Center has spent roughly \$10,000.

The three justices haven't formed political action committees or raised money for their retention. However, Ternus has recently given speeches in support of judiciary independence.

Supporters of the justices say they're worried because some gay marriage opponents have called on voters to oppose all 74 judges on the ballot this year. Bob Vander Plaats, who is heading the campaign to remove the justices, said he's also heard that many people plan to vote against all judges up for retention votes.

Eugene Meyer, commissioner of the Iowa Department of Public Safety, said at a rally held by justice supporters that he worried that the widespread removal of judges would cripple the justice system.

Former Republican lieutenant governor Art Neu said he's also worried about that possibility.

"I don't think any of us can contemplate the breakdown of our legal system should anything close to what they're proposing take place," said Neu.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

BY REX WOCKNER

Euro court strikes down Russian ban on gay pride parades

In a stinging rebuke to Russia's pervasive homophobia, the European Court of Human Rights on Oct. 21 ordered the nation to stop banning gay pride parades.

In a group of cases brought by Moscow Pride founder Nikolai Alekseev, the court ruled that former Moscow Mayor Yuri Luzhkov's yearly bans of gay pride violated guarantees of the European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms in the areas of freedom of assembly and association, right to an effective remedy and prohibition of discrimination.

Russia must pay Alekseev 12,000 euros (\$16,800) in damages and 17,510 euros in costs and expenses.

The court rejected Moscow's many excuses for the bans, which included the alleged need to protect public order, health, morals and the rights and freedoms of others -- as well as the desire to prevent riots.

In reality, Luzhkov had vowed to never allow a gay pride parade in Moscow no matter what. He called gay parades "satanic" and "weapons of mass destruction," and called gay people "faggots" ("gomiki").

"(T)he main reason for the bans on the gay

marches had been the authorities' disapproval of demonstrations which, they considered, promoted homosexuality," the court's registrar said in a summation of the ruling. "In particular, the Court could not disregard the strong personal opinions publicly expressed by the Moscow mayor and the undeniable link between those statements and the bans. Consequently, the Court found that, as the Government had not justified their bans in a way compatible with the Convention requirements, Mr. Alekseyev had suffered discrimination because of his sexual orientation."

Alekseev said the Euro court decision is binding on Russia and he hoped new Moscow Mayor Sergey Sobyanin would offer no resistance.

However, on Oct. 22, the Russian Ministry of Justice reportedly appealed the ruling to the ECHR's Grand Chamber.

"This decision is a major victory for us because no judge, no lawyer and no politician will any longer be able to tell us that the bans of our events were lawful," Alekseev said. "This decision is the first to recognize that the Russian law on freedom of assembly contradicts with the European Convention. It is a gift to all democrats and human rights activists in Russia."

"We declare October 21 the Russian LGBT Liberation Day and we will celebrate it every year from now on with public demonstrations," he yowed

Louis-Georges Tin, president of the Committee for the International Day Against Homophobia, said: "A new chapter is about to be opened in Russia and we hope that this decision will make history the arrests, fines and harassment that LGBT rights defenders faced since 2006. ... The (European Union) countries represented in Moscow have now no excuse not to bring the same political support to Russian Pride organizers as in other Eastern European countries."

Small groups of LGBT activists defied Luzhkov's bans each of the past five years, provoking him to send riot police to arrest and sometimes beat them. The small gatherings also were routinely attacked by anti-gay hooligans.

Leading British activist Peter Tatchell, who was pummeled by anti-gay protesters in Moscow in 2007, said: "This ruling is a major rebuke to the disgraced former mayor of Moscow, Yuri Luzhkov, and to his authoritarian allies in the Russian government. ... This is an astonishing victory. Nikolai and his small band of daring LGBT activists have taken on the might of the Russian state -- and won. ... He is a real pioneer and hero."

ILGA-Europe confab starts

Europe's top international LGBT organization opens its 14th annual conference Oct. 28 in The Hague, Netherlands.

The gathering of the European Region of the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans & Intersex Association will run through Oct. 31.

"This a unique opportunity for LGBTI activists from across Europe to get together and discuss common problems and challenges, share experiences and best practices on tackling discrimination and advancing equality and human rights for LGBTI people, as well as celebrating achievements and sketching future projects, strategies and tactics," said spokesman Juris Lavrikovs.

Keynote speakers include a member of the Dutch House of Representatives, a former Amsterdam deputy mayor, a Swedish government anti-discrimination boss, and a member of Denmark's Parliament, among other Euro luminaries.

IGLHRC blasts Turkey over trans arrests, attacks

Turkish prosecutors must investigate attacks against five transgender rights activists by police in Ankara and drop charges against the activists, the International Gay & Lesbian Human Rights Commission and other organizations said Oct. 18 in a letter to Turkey's interior and justice ministers.

The activists from the Ankara-based transgender organization Pembe Hayat were detained by police in May; beaten, kicked and peppersprayed; then later charged with resisting police.

The letter also was signed by Human Rights Watch, COC Netherlands, Global Advocates for Trans Equality, and the European Region of the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association -- ILGA-Europe.

"The Turkish government is turning us trans people into criminals, for no other reason than existing," said GATE co-director Mauro Cabral. "We are the crime."

The activists from the Ankarabased transgender organization Pembe Hayat were detained by police in May; beaten, kicked and pepper-sprayed; then later charged with resisting police.





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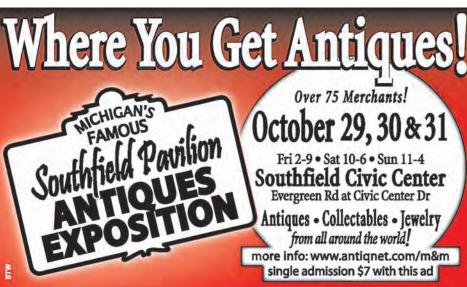
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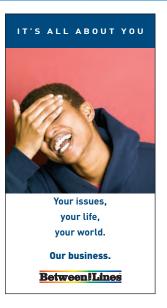
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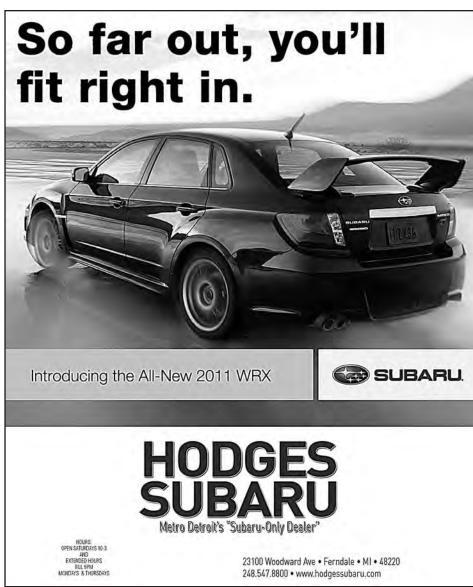
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Professor Lisa Dalton, an OU sociology teacher and an out lesbian, who told students the LGBT faculty would be more visible going forward. Photo by Todd Heywood, MichiganMessenger.com

▶ 0akland

Continued from p. 6

The next day, Saturday, was Sweetest Day. Jackson and Martin spent the day together. They went to the movies, ate at Red Robin and just chilled at Martin's place before going to Ice in Hamtramck, where Jackson was practically bubbling over with joy.

"He talked to me about how happy he was with Mario, and I was really happy for him," said Jackson's friend John Watson, who spoke to him at the club.

Sunday, Jackson chilled with friends and settled in back on campus. He texted friends that he had a fantastic weekend. Twenty-four hours later, he killed himself.

So what went wrong? What actually happened to leave Jackson feeling so hopeless he thought he had to end it all?

"It seems that he had been despondent about personal matters," said Oakland County Chief Medical Examiner Dr. Ljubisa J. Dragovic, speaking to OU's campus newspaper, The Oakland Post.

Of course, if anyone could answer the question of what those personal matters were, it's Jackson himself. Questioned last week by The Oakland Press about the existence of a suicide note, OU Police Chief Sam Lupido said he would not discuss the matter with the media. Pressed this week by Between The Lines, Lupido held to that position. Still, Lupido's comments seem to confirm the existence of a note and on Monday, Oct. 25, BTL filed a Freedom of Information Act request with the university seeking the release of its contents. For now, all Lucido would say is that his investigation of Jackson's death turned up no evidence of on-campus bullying.

"We have no indication of any bullying or harassment whatsoever from others," he said.

A 'bright light' extinguished too soon

The last known person to talk to Jackson was his boyfriend. The two spoke Monday at about 5:30 p.m.

"He was sad about a conversation he had with his family, which I prefer not to speak about further," said Martin. "Then he told me he had to go."

Shortly after, Jackson began texting friends. Clark got his text at 6:41 p.m.

"He texted a smiley face and said he loved me," said Clark. "We always said we loved each other, but he had never texted it before." Jackson's final text message, sent about 7 pm., was to Martin. Like Clark's, it said, simply, "I love you."

Martin texted back, "love you, too, boo," and added "you're an amazing person.

"He responded, 'eno, you're the amazing one,'" said Martin. "The last thing he told me was, 'you need to gain self-confidence more and understand you're amazing, the quicker the better '"

It was the last anyone would hear from Jackson directly. But by taking his life so dramatically - hanging himself in public, where he was certain to be discovered by strangers - it's almost as if he was attempting to speak from beyond the grave.

"I think he was trying to tell us something," said Martin. "I'm not sure what it was, though, and he went about it the wrong way."

Calls to Kim Jones seeking additional comments and to discuss the contents of a note were not returned. OU has 10 days to respond to the FOIA request. The frightening possibility that what Jackson was trying to say - why he chose to end his own life - may never be known, remains on the forefront.

"There may never be an answer to that question," said Lisa Dalton, a professor of sociology, speaking at last week's vigil. "The only thing that is always consistent (in suicides) is that it's the result of deep psychological pain. Most individuals who take their life don't want to take their life. They just want the pain to end."

Resources to prevent suicide

These hotlines are available for people who are struggling with issues that relate to their sexuality. If you are feeling particularly down, and especially if you have suicidal thoughts, call one of them.

The LGBT Helpline of Michigan, a project of Affirmations

800-398-GAYS (4297)

The Trevor Hotline, a national 24-hour, toll free confidential suicide hotline for gay and questioning youth.

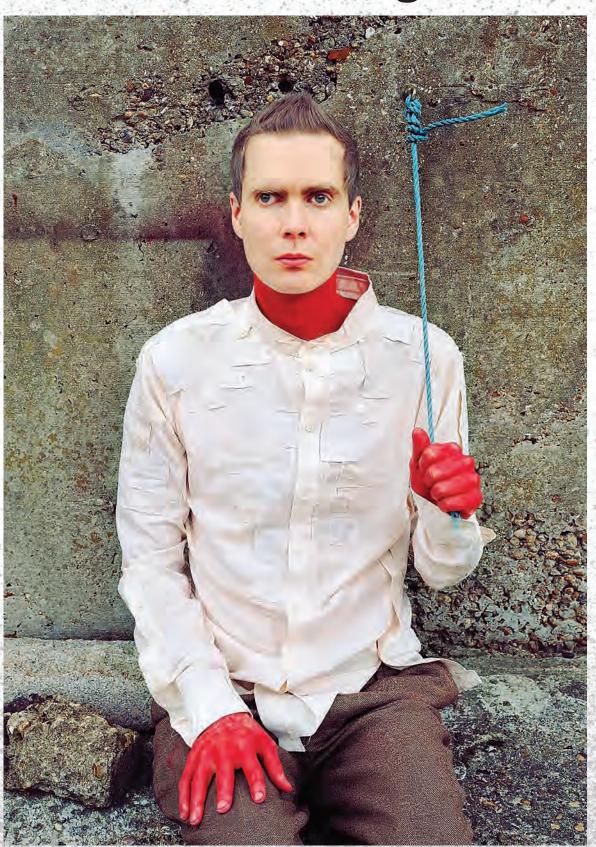
866-4-U-Trevor or 866-488-7386

Ozone House Crisis Line, Ann Arbor 734-662-2222



Porssi gives it a Go Out Sigur Rós frontman talks

about breaking from the band



BY GREGG SHAPIRO

s the out frontman of groundbreaking Icelandic band Sigur Rós, Jónsi (pronounced Yónsi) provides warmth and an ethereal quality to the band's already atmospheric and lush, chilly songs. In fact, it's hard to imagine what Sigur Rós would sound like absent Jónsi. However, on "Go," Jónsi's solo debut, we get the chance to hear him sans band as he teams with primary collaborator, and openly gay orchestral pop artist, Nico Muhly.

We caught up with Jónsi recently, before his Nov. 5 gig at the Fillmore in Detroit, to chat about going solo, working with his partner and recording a new Sigur Rós CD.

How does it feel to be solo?

It feels really good. I'm really happy how it turned out.

What do you say to people who might be concerned that the release of a solo disc by you might be interpreted as the end of Sigur Rós?

I'm touring my solo album this year – and I'm going to keep on working in Sigur Rós, writing and recording songs. Hopefully there's going to be a new Sigur Rós album in 2011.

You wrote the closing theme for the animated movie "How to Train Your Dragon," which hit theaters earlier this year. What would it mean to you if the song was nominated for an Academy Award next year?

It would be really cool! (Laughs.)

There is a radiant effervescence to some of the songs on "Go," such as "Go Do," "Animal Arithemtic" and "Around Us." Is that a reflection of your state of mind at the time?

Yeah, I think so; definitely. I wanted to push these songs in any way possible. "Go Do," for example, was written on ukulele - which sounds kind of weird when I listen to it now (laughs). There are so many layers on the song, so many instruments. I wanted them to be energetic.

The songs "Around Us" and "Grow Till Tall" both contain references to growth and growing "till tall." What's the connection between the two songs?

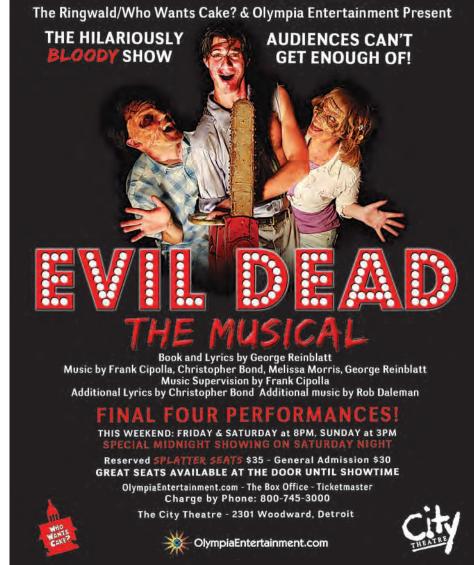
I don't know why "grow" appears in so many songs. I think it appears in three lyrics on the album, actually. It's probably about... somebody growing.

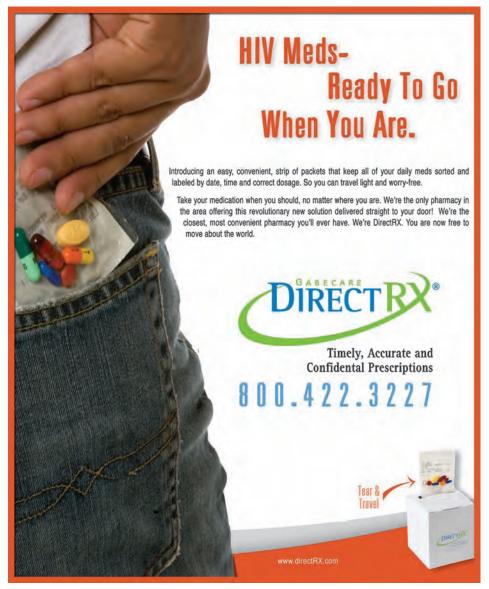
Do you think it could be a reflection of your own personal and creative growth?

Yeah, it could be, actually. I'm kind of taking a big step by releasing this solo album and finally releasing these

See Jónsi, page 27









Sugarland sucks country out of fourth album. Plus: Paula Cole does the '90s on 'Ithaca'



Sugarland, 'The Incredible Machine'

Having already bent country music during their glorious hit-making, genre-shaking run, change seemed inevitable for power-duo Sugarland's fourth album. And on the slick "The Incredible Machine," the restless twosome of Jennifer Nettles and Kristian Bush are coloring so far outside the lines they're not even on the right page - twisting their rural-living construct, built on hits "Baby Girl" and "Stay," into a bustling downtown of whomp-whomp drums and '80s-zinged anthems. Country purists will gasp at some of their admirable risk-taking: a reggae breakdown on "Stuck Like Glue," synth sounds, and a thing for arena rock. Suddenly, Sugarland's not down-home - they're country's answer to U2. Nettles blasts tunes like bombastic opener "All We Are" and nostalgic torch song "Tonight" into space with her powerhouse pipes, but it's not her singing that's off. Whereas previous Sugarland outings thrived on imagery-speckled narratives, "The Incredible Machine" switches on the generic platitudes, power messages of hope and love delivered with heart but less ingenuity. "Stand Up" seems written for our times, a call-to-change chant that could be the It Gets Better theme song, while sweet piano lifter "Shine the Light" would make a really good Hallmark card. Both go down easy. It's telling, though, that the best cut is one that sounds like classic Sugarland: "Little Miss," the song that stays truest to their roots. Next time the band decides to pull a Faith Hill, they should keep that in mind. Grade: B-



Paula Cole, 'Ithaca'

Oh how the years go by except for Paula Cole, who's stuck in her '90s glory days like she never left the

original Lilith Fair or shaved her armpits. But without hairy situations, of course referring to her divorce, we wouldn't have "Ithaca." Cole's fifth LP, the first time she's written every song since 1999's "Amen," doesn't take any dramatic detours, resisting modern trends just like her stubborn contemporaries Sarah McLachlan and Tori Amos. Instead, Cole returns safely to the groundwork she laid out with decade-defining hits like "I Don't Want to Wait," her sublime soprano still in check. She launches with the lessons-learned "The Hard Way," a bittersweet number that's got the grit so much of McLachlan's work has lost since "Fumbling Towards Ecstasy." The demise of Cole's relationship, obvious by simply scanning the track names ("Waiting on a Miracle," "Elegy," "P.R.E.N.U.P."), carries her through the self-referential 10 tracks, ending with optimism on "2 Lifetimes." She speaks her mind on "Somethin' I've Gotta Say," especially conjuring heyday Cole, and gushes over her daughter on the sweet "Violet Eyes." And then there's "Sex" - softcore porn that plays over a slinky eight minutes with pillow talk like, "I'm picturing you as I touch my inside." Even if the horny and heartbroken "Ithaca" sounds more like the album Cole needed to make than the one we needed to hear, she sometimes touches you there too. Grade: B-

Also Out



Robbie Williams, 'In and Out of Consciousness -The Greatest Hits 1990-2010'

Solo suited Robbie Williams just fine, as he made viable bids on a

chunk of pop stardom – many of which are included on this 39-track career retrospective. Williams' dexterity as a recording artist is spotlighted over two CDs, gleaning tracks from as far back as his days as a boy-bander in Take That. "Shame," the leadoff single, is a country-candied song, but hardly the best of the set. Look to disc two for that where there's his biggest hit, "Angels." And Nicole Kidman. And Kylie Minogue.



Jason Mraz, 'Life is Good'

Music's goodwill ambassador - and outspoken ally sums up his career in the title credo of this five-song digital EP, offering a

more aggressive take on "Coyotes," off his latest studio album, and four new selections They keep his proverbial mojo of looseygoosey going with the jazzy "Freedom Song," dancey "San Disco Reggaefornia" and the swaying sweetness of "Up." That they're live is all the more cool since Mraz is even better when there's a crowd to play for.



Dar Williams, 'Many Great Companions'

Best known to the queer community because of her genderbending contribution "When I

Was a Boy," the regarded folkie splits her latest release into two discs: one for as-originally-recorded favorites, another for acoustic, collaborative takes on them. Mary Chapin Carpenter gently caresses the chorus of the beautiful "The One Who Knows," while out musician Patty Larkin adds an understated vocal to the new "Boy." A two-decade career deserves something as good – and full – as this.

Reach Chris Azzopardi at chris@pridesource.



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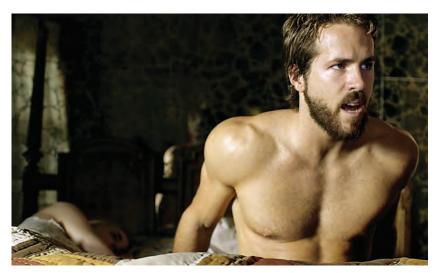
If it's about Michigan theaters, it's here.

13 homolicious Halloween

BY MIKEY ROX

I KNOW WHAT YOU DID LAST SUMMER

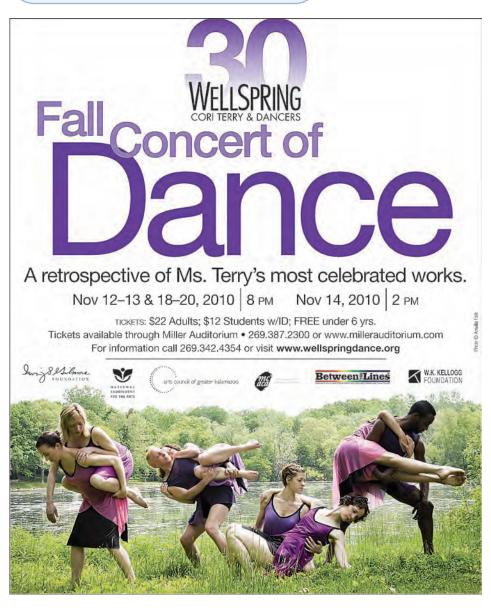
It's a crime against the gratuitous horror genre that Ryan Phillippe's Barry didn't escape the Fisherman's hook in "I Know What You Did Last Summer" - or that the Fisherman couldn't have ripped Barry's pants off before gutting him like a trout - but at least there's the gym scene. After an intense eight-second workout (because people born perfect require less exercise than the rest of us), Barry proceeds to the locker room where he disrobes and showers like he loves himself, only to be interrupted by a strange shadow that, wouldn't ya know it, the dog-tag-clad Barry decides to follow. Thank you, stupid movie rules. For the next minute and a half, viewers are treated to the young Adonis weaving in and out of lockers in a tight terrycloth skirt that accentuates all the right areas. And if that's not enough to satisfy your Phillippe fantasies, just wait until he gets pissy over his missing letterman jacket. Hell hath no fury like a post-high-school hottie scorned.



▲ THE AMITYVILLE HORROR (2005)

As remakes go, this 2005 update of the 1979 classic doesn't stand out as a winner based on cinematic principles, but it does boast one quality the original didn't: Ryan Reynolds, dripping wet, upper body a-blazin'. Reynolds plays patriarch George Lutz (whose real-life paranormal experiences in an alleged haunted house on Long Island led to

the controversial 1977 book on which both films are based), who is a loving husband and a stepfather to three beautiful girls. Until, that is, he becomes possessed by an evil entity and chases the family around the house with a shotgun. Whatev, right? They probably deserved it. What matters most is that before George goes berserk, he takes a dip in the lake and exits soaked in liquid splendor, pecs and abs glistening in the moonlight, white pajama bottoms painted to his thighs. A beautiful nightmare, indeed.





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movies ... with hot dudes to die for

THE LOST BOYS

Before Edward Cullen, there was Michael Emerson (Jason Patric) – big brother, brooding loner and newly turned vampire. He's sexy, for sure - because Hollywood demands it of its nightstalkers (here's winking at you, young Keifer Sutherland) – but that's not why the world made "The Lost Boys" the quintessential teen fang flick. For that, you can thank late heartthrob Corey Haim and that other Corey who rode his coattails. Infinitely cuter than Feldman, Haim won over fawning girls (and fey fanboys alike) with his vulnerable, adorable turn as Sam, Michael's little bro. If his fate wasn't sealed as the object of adolescent affection before, it was when he splish-splashed in a bubble bath while memorably belting out Clarence "Frogman" Henry's trademark song, "Ain't Got No Home." Except he did – locked away in our dreams.



▲ THE COVENANT

Before he was wannabe Upper East Side lothario Nate Archibald on "Gossip Girl," Chace Crawford played Tyler Simms, a Son of Ipswich, one of five bloodlines whose firstborn male of each generation inherits "the Power," in the "The Covenant." What that power entails exactly is unknown, except that it gives Tyler (who is only a supporting character in the film) the ability to do neato tricks like jump from dark-and-misty elevations and land unscathed. Yawn. But what "The Covenant" lacks in supernatural spectacle it more than makes up for in smokin' hot half-nakedness. Take the poolside scene for instance, when Tvler's also-gifted brethren stroll in shirtless from the locker room wearing only trunk-cut suits and owning the hell out of effortless swagger. Out of the water, kiddies – it's time for adult swim.

28 DAYS LATER

Why Jim (Cillian Murphy) awakens from his coma to a desolate and destroyed London is no secret - the Rage virus has decimated the city and left him seemingly alone – but how he lost his hospital gown remains a mystery. Director Danny Boyle's 2002 zombie-genre game changer opens with the injured bicycle messenger locked in a room for his own safety but also very much naked. We're talkin' full-frontal, uncut, in-vourface, flaccid penis action. Which is kinda sweet if you think about it. Because not only did the (probably male) nurse save him from having his face bitten off by the Infected, but it's highly likely that he went down on him (liberties must be taken for the sake of interpretation) before the world as he knew it ended – and then cleaned up the mess. Now that's good bedside manner.

JOY RIDE

Paul Walker has never chosen his roles wisely (except maybe once, when he played injured quarterback and washroom fornicator Lance Harbor in "Varsity Blues"), and "Joy Ride" is an almost 10-year-old testament to his permanent C-List status. The plot begins with Walker's character, Lewis Thomas, pining for childhood friend Venna – which would have been half believable if he had the hots for anybody else besides hizzaro Helen Hunt lookalike Leelee Sobieski – who he agrees to pick up on his way home from college after she announces her recent breakup with her boyfriend. Road trip! Major bumps ensue, of course, the best of which come when big-rigdriving serial killer Rusty Nail orders Lewis and his brother, Fuller (Steve Zahn), to strip down and enter a busy Nebraska diner. Obediently, the boys - front bits covered by crossed hands - do as they're told, exposing their plump, pale backsides to uptight and unsuspecting patrons. Bottoms up.

JEEPERS CREEPERS 2

Remember when you were in high school, riding home from the big game with your basketball buddies, when all of a sudden the bus gets a flat, the team removes their shirts and lines up shoulder-to-shoulder to catch some rays on the roof? What, that never happened? It would have if you attended whatever podunk educational establishment these meatheads never made it back to. It goes without saying that you would have been eaten by The Creeper too, but not without first watching him tear the clothes off your friends and devour their body parts. Lacking the scare factor of the original – and the rose-tattooed torso of Justin Long, although he does make a cameo this 2003 sequel gives back in homoerotic tension what it's missing in terror. Like, for instance, that the team is called the Bannon Bantams and they chant about "fighting cocks." Or that they pee together in an open cornfield while accusing each other of being queer. Or that they talk about sniffing jockstraps. And gay bars. And swinging dicks. Yep, it's all in there.



▲ TWILIGHT: NEW MOON

Let's bypass the bullshit, OK? The only redeeming quality in the "Twilight" snoozefest is Jacob Black (played by Taylor Lautner), a werewolf with a penchant for running around the Washington state backwoods in athletic shorts and sneakers – and nothing else. The first installment was a complete waste of Lautner's talent (read: eight-pack abs and bulging biceps), but "New Moon" makes amends – and the now-legal Lautner a star – by giving fans the goods and plenty of 'em. Already established series superstar Robert Pattinson must've been

pissed about that one. Having to share the spotlight with an immensely better looking — and better bodied — co-star has to kill. Unless he lives by the old (if not completely manipulated) adage, "Once bitten, never shy." One can hope.



A AMERICAN PSYCHO

Some stories are better left in print, but the same can't be said for author Bret Easton Ellis' masterpiece, "American Psycho." This satirical tale, set in late-1980s New York City, is narrated by the film's protagonist – and serial killer – Patrick Bateman, played deftly by crazier-than-thou Christian Bale. But while the book drags on for 416 looooong pages, the movie version runs a digestible 101 minutes, each one more triumphant than before. The film opens poignantly with Bateman taking a leak in his tighty-whiteys, performing yoga in his tight-whiteys, then showering sans tighty-whiteys. And that's just the first 90 seconds. Fast-forward about an hour and you'll reach what is arguably the best murderous sex scene in history. After Bateman picks up a hooker, orders an escort and returns home, he hits play on Phil Collins' "Sussudio" and record on a video camera. Flexing and winking his way to conceit-drenched climax in the mirror, he then cannibalizes one prostitute and chases the other with a chainsaw, wearing nothing more than a pair of sneakers. Run, Bateman, run.

A NIGHTMARE ON ELM STREET (2010)

Wes Craven's original "Nightmare" boasted a couple of hot guys, namely Tim Burton muse Johnny Depp, who's wearing a half-shirt (is there anything sexier than a dude sporting a bare midriff?) and unbuttoned stonewashed jeans when he gets pulled through his bed then splattered all over the ceiling. Enough to whet an appetite, for sure – but that's about all the man-skin you'll get in the 1984 classic. My how times have changed. Because in the 2010 reboot, Craven employs some of young Hollywood's freshest faces – and he makes 'em work hard for their money. Thomas Dekker and Kellan Lutz provide a nice balance of beauty and brawn - though not much else - while "Veronica Mars" alum Kyle Gallner plays his part sleepy, scared and in skintight swimwear as he tries to escape Freddy's clawed glove. He lives, but not before breaking a serious sweat. Poor kid. If only he had somewhere to run...

THE FORSAKEN

Before Simon Rex played day-driver Penn in this Gen-Y take-off of "The Lost Boys," he spent his time on some seedy pornographer's couch—with his pants down. Yep, the former MTV VJ fancies himself solo sessions for cash, and that makes this road-trip-of-a-vampire-bromance film all the more watchable.

Throw in hotties-of-the-day Brendan Fehr and Kerr Smith (who played gay on "Dawson's Creek") and you've got yourself a bloodsucking even-better time. But while Brendan and Kerr's quiet lust for one another is endearing — because, cut the crap, there's only one reason you pick up a hitchhiker—it's DSLed vamp daddy Johnathon Schaech who puts the homoeroticism into hyperdrive; he can't get Kerr out of his mind, spending the majority of the film stalking him like a hanky-wearing patron of The Eagle. The best part? He bites. And Kerr kinda likes it.



▲ FRIDAY THE 13TH (2009)

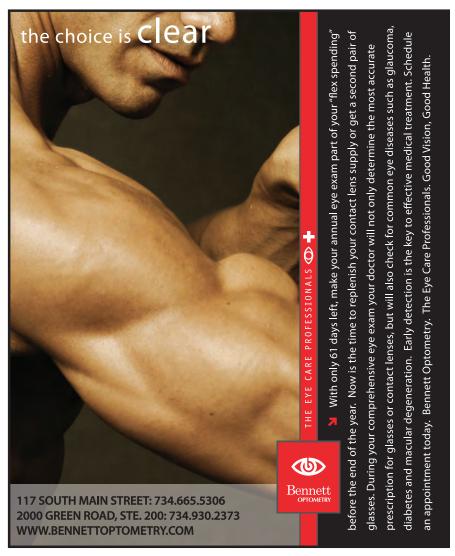
Sure, the original had Kevin Bacon in a Speedo - and apparently with a boner (just Google those keywords on YouTube to find the debatable video) - but if you've seen Ren McCormack's member once, you've seen it at least two other times ("Wild Things," "Hollow Man"), and, frankly, that's three times too many. Still, there's plenty of skin in the 2009 reboot of the fright-filled franchise, which kicks off with über-cutie Richie (Ben Feldman) givin' it to his girlfriend good – and from behind! - in a tent near Crystal Lake before they each succumb to their bloody fates. Not to be outdone, jacked-up playboy Trent (Travis Van Winkle) pleads his case for a spot in the horror-movie-sexscene hall of fame by letting his concubine play cowgirl, camcorder in hand, while he breathlessly delivers charming lines like, "Your tits are stupendous," and 15 seconds later, "Your tits are fucking, just, so juicy, dude." But what do you expect? No one's ever watched these movies for the dialogue.

SWIMFAN

Jesse Bradford was only lukewarm in the hit cheerleading movie "Bring It On," but at least he had time on his side. Because just two years later, the perma-stubbled actor became a five-alarm fire of fitness as Ben Cronin, a star swimmer with a sordid past in this waterlogged 2002 thriller. As if Ben's troubles weren't bad enough – overcoming drug addiction and kleptomania - along comes out-ofher-effing-mind Madison, a new student with her sights set on the rehabbed athlete. But what begins as a benign relationship – Ben innocently helps Madison with a jammed locker – soon takes a tantalizing turn when Madison helps Ben with his jammed zipper. It's all downhill from there. When Ben refuses Madison's future advances, the harlot gets all sorts of Glenn Close on his ass, killing his friend and trying to drown his girlfriend. Yeesh! High school ain't what it used to be. Still, at least Ben has enough sense to save the day while showing off his best, um, assets. Good form, old chap.

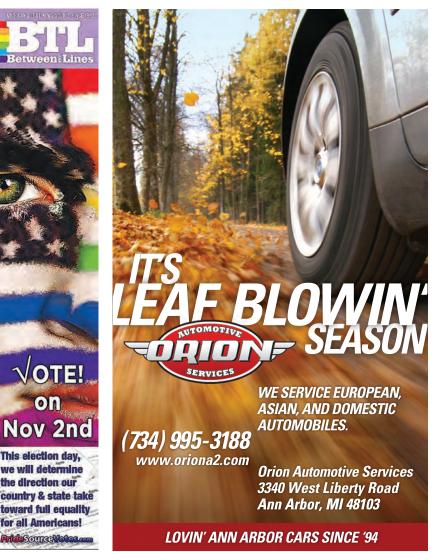
Mikey Rox is an award-winning writer/journalist and the founder of Paper Rox Scissors, a copywriter and creative consulting company in New York City.



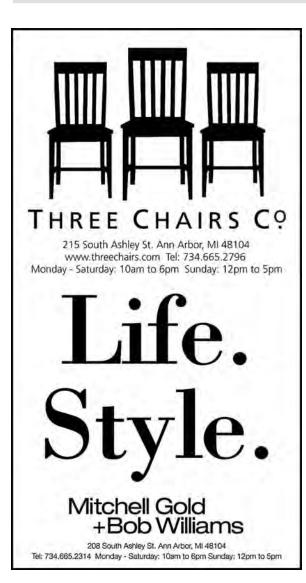




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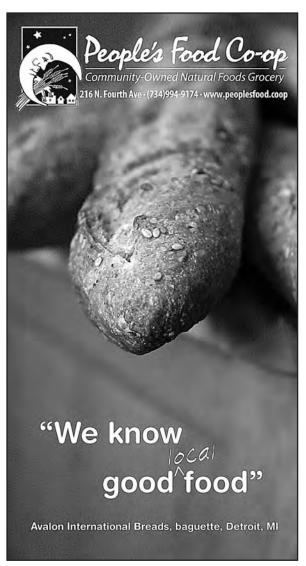
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God, gays and games

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What in God's name is going on?

Tom Krattenmaker – a Portland, Ore. journalist and member of USA Today's board of contributors who writes frequently on religion in public life – figured he'd find out. The result: "Onward Christian Athletes: Turning Ballparks into Pulpits and Players into Preachers."

The book – published earlier this year – is an incisive, example-filled look at the oftenoverlooked. seldom-examined ways in which sports and faith converge. Krattenmaker believes that "spontaneous" displays of faith are actually part of a well-organized effort – orchestrated by "a network of evangelical chaplains and sports ministry organizations" – to unite the powerful institutions of religion and athletics.

Of course, wherever religion pokes its nose, it smells homosexuality. Inevitably, athletics and Christianity converge to create a tangled homo hornet's nest.

"Anti-gay sentiment is where sports, culture and politics intersect," Krattenmaker says. "The opposition to gay rights is part of the Christian right rhetoric. And sports as a whole can be homophobic too."

Though Krattenmaker devotes only a few of his 210 pages to specifically anti-gay examples, the ones he chooses are chilling.

For example, Ron Brown - an assistant football coach at the University of Nebraska, and former statewide director of operations for the Fellowship of Christian Athletes - wrote a column for the FCA magazine. The football

coach focused on women's sports, decrying the influence of lesbianism (he called it "the elephant in the room that needs to be addressed"). Brown declared that Christians in sports had an obligation to fight homosexuality.

Or take Campus Crusade. The parent organization of Athletes in Action says that "indulgence in any lifestyle or pastime that is illegal or scripturally questionable or forbidden" – let's say, oh, homosexuality – "may result in termination" of its employees or associates.

Then there's Tony Dungy. The Indianapolis Colts' Super Bowl-winning coach stood front and center during Indiana's political struggle over gay rights.

In a speech accepting an award from the Indiana Family Institute, Dungy said, "We're trying to promote the family, family values, the Lord's way. Just like I'm trying to win on the football field the Lord's way. I'm on the Lord's side when I'm on the field, and on the Lord's side when I'm off the field "

Good lord

"It's a complicated tangle of relationships and influences," Krattenmaker admits, referring to the religious right and sports. "Teasing out precise causes and effects is a difficult exercise." But it's an exercise that must be undertaken, he says.

"So many Christian professional athletes have said ignorant, harmful things," Krattenmaker notes. (Star pitcher John Smoltz once likened gay marriage to marrying farm animals.)

'It's gotten to the point where being Christian almost means being anti-gay," Krattenmaker continues. "That's not compassionate or smart. And it is harmful to both Christians and gays."

Sports and religion are two of America's most traditionally conservative institutions. However, Krattenmaker says, "Lately the religious right has begun shifting its focus nationwide away from social issues, to causes like environmentalism and AIDS " Yet religious sports figures remain behind the curve.

"The form of Christianity we see in sports is very skewed," says Krattenmaker. "It's an incomplete Christianity. When fully expressed, Christianity is across the board. It's not confined to one form of the political spectrum."

Still, Krattenmaker warns, one should not paint the entire religiousright-in-sports movement with one brush.

Athletes in Action, he says, has recently become "leery" of being viewed as anti-gay. "They know the culture is changing. They realize that if the Christian right focuses too much on that issue, they'll be left in the dust. That's encouraging."

And Krattenmaker is quick to trot out a Christian right hero: Reggie

The 12-time All-Pro earned the nickname "The Minister of Defense" as much for his work as an evangelic minister as for his hard-hitting play on the defensive line. He appeared in newspaper ads urging gays and lesbians to "cease" their homosexuality, and called being gay a sin.

But, Krattenmaker says, "few people understand the enormity of what happened after his career." White said he was "prostituted" by religious people. Yet because of the "enormity of his heroism in the Christian/sports pantheon,"

Krattenmaker says, there has been little acknowledgment of that renunciation of some previous statements. White died in 2004 of cardiac arrhythmia, age 43.

"I'm encouraged," Krattenmaker concludes. "Change is inexorable. It's happening at a deep level. American culture is changing in a positive way. And sports will be dragged along."

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





Insi.

Continued from p. 19

songs by myself. I've been creating for many,

Are you referring to the passion fruit lilikoi in the song "Boy Lilikoi" - or something else?

Is lilikoi something that you like to eat?

Maybe it has a different meaning. Maybe it's about nature and living in the wild and dreams. Maybe meeting some young boy out in the forest (laughs).

You collaborated with your partner Alex Somers on the new album "Go" and vou've also collaborated with him before. How does being in a relationship affect creative collaboration?

It's actually quite healthy. I like it. Alex is this amazing person who really inspires me. We have kind of the same taste in everything, like music, movies and books and clothes and food; nearly everything. We fit well together. It's really good for me. We support each other

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and help each other with songwriting. He helped me choose the songs for this album and produced the album with me. So yeah, it's really good.

What happens when you disagree on thinas?

We just bicker a little bit but then somebody just gives in in the end (laughs).

If you hadn't teamed up with Nico Muhly, how different do you think the experience of making "Go" would have been for you?

It would be definitely different. I think Nico. definitely added a lot of atmosphere and colors and playfulness and life to the album, which I'm really happy about. It's what I wanted it to be, and exactly what I wanted him to do.



There are many family activities to choose from to celebrate Halloween. But this year, children with LGBT parents have an option to get dressed up and spend the holiday weekend with other kids like them in an LGBT-supportive atmosphere.

At 3 p.m. Oct. 30, the metro Detroit chapter of COLAGE (Children of Lesbians and Gays Everywhere) will be hosting a Halloween party at Affirmations LGBT community center in Ferndale. There, kids ages 8 and older and their parents can participate in all kids of Halloween fun in an affirming space with other families like theirs. Activities will include crafts, Halloween-themed

To learn more, contact Affirmations Social Activities Coordinator Rosalea Brown at 248-398-7105. or visit www.goaffirmations.org.

OUTINGS

Thursday, Oct. 28

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

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, bmienkin@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

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

Tuesday, Nov. 2

Euchre Tournament, 7 p.m. Euchre tournament fundraiser to benefit Out Loud Chorus, Washtenaw county's original GLBT chorus, \$10 entry, cash prizes, Sh\aut\ Cabaret and Gallery, 325 Braun Court, Ann Arbor. 734-973-6084. outloudchorus@ gmail.com www.olconline.org

Wednesday, Nov. 3

LGBT Health Matters Conference, 9 a.m. A conference for physicians, nurses and more to learn about the health care needs of LGBT patients. Registration: \$75 individuals, \$25 students. Hosted by Service Alliance for Equality. Fogolar Furlan Club, 1800 N. Service Road East, Windsor, 519-253-8481.

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

Friday, Nov. 5

Big Eden, 7:30 p.m. Part of Hollan is Readv's 2010-11 film series. Free. The Park Theatre 248 S. River Ave., Holland. 616-990-5669.

MUSIC& **MORE**

BENEFITS/SOCIAL EVENTS

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

Elegance by Design "Halloween Masquerade Spablah Dinner Party" A fundraiser for the Karmanos Cancer Institute with retail, spa treatments and dinner by Executive Chef Stef. Tickets: \$150. Elegance by Design, 231 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 6 p.m. Oct. 31. 248-688-2464.

Kerrytown Concert House "It's a Woman's World" A fundraiser for the SafeHouse Women's Shelter with contemporary songs sung by U of M's Musical Theatre Department. Tickets: \$10 adults, \$5 students. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. 7 p.m. Nov. 6, 9 p.m. Nov. 6. 734-769-2999 www.kerrytownconcerthouse.com

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 Committee of Windsor. Tickets: \$40. Symbol, 285 Ouellette Ave., Windsor. 7 p.m. Oct. 28. 519-973-0222. www.aidswindsor.org

The Crofoot "Creepy Cheapy Halloween Treat" A musical masquerade, with over 15 bands and DJs paying homage to their heroes for Halloween. Cover: \$5. Crofoot Ballroom, 1 S. Saginaw, Pontiac. 7 p.m. Oct 29 www.thecrofoot.com

UM School of Music. Theatre and Dance "UM Center for Performing Arts Technology 25th Anniversary Celebration" A day of free workshops and performances. Duderstadt Center, 2281 Bonisteel Boulevard, Ann Arbor. 11 a.m. Nov. 5. www.ums.org

CLASSICAL

Detroit Chamber Winds and Strings "Purely Romantic" With cellist Debra Fayroian and pianist Maria Meirelles Tickets: \$22 adults, \$10 students. Hagopian World of Rugs, 850 S. Old Woodward, Birmingham. 8:30 p.m. Nov. 5. 248-559-2095. www. detroitchamberwinds.org

Kerrytown Concert House "Beethoven Sonatas" A performance by the Fischer Duo. Tickets: \$10-30. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. 4 p.m. Oct. 31, 8 p.m. Nov. 1. 734-769-2999. www.kerrytownconcerthouse.com

Kerrytown Concert House "Fischer Duo" Performing Beethoven Sonatas, Tickets: \$10-30. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. 4 p.m. Oct. 31. 8 p.m. Nov. 1. 734-769-2999, www kerrytownconcerthouse.com

Lansing Symphony Orchestra "Bundle of Sticks" With bassoonist Michael Kroth, Tickets: \$15 adults, \$10 students Plymouth Congregational Church, 2001 Grand River Ave., Lansing, 3 p.m. Nov. 7. 517-487-5001. www.lansingsymphony.

MSU College of Music "Wind Symphony" Performing works by Ravel, Berlioz, Martinu and Schmitt. Free. Grand Ledge School Auditorium, 820 Spring Street, Grand Ledge, 7:30 p.m. Oct. 28, 517-353-5340. www.music.msu.edu

MSU College of Music "Two Hundred Years of Chopin" Part of the West Circle Series. Tickets: \$10 adults, \$8 seniors, free for students. Music Building Auditorium, Michigan State University, East Lansing, 7:30 p.m. Oct. 28, 517-353-

MSU College of Music "Faculty Concert" Yuri Gandelsman, viola, with Janna Gandelsman, piano, Tickets: \$10 adults. \$8 seniors, free for students. Music Building Auditorium, Michigan State University, East Lansing. 7:30 p.m. Nov. 2. 517-353-5340. www.music.msu.edu

Plymouth Canton Symphony Orchestra "Piano Prodigy" With 11-year-old pianist Anastasia Rizikov playing Chopin Piano Concerto No. 2. Tickets: \$25 adults, \$20 seniors, \$10 students. First United Methodist Church, 45201 North Territorial, Plymouth. 2 p.m. Nov. 7. 734-451-2112. www.plymouthsymphony.org

Plymouth Canton Symphony Orchestra "Prodigious Piano" A performance by prodigy Anastasia Rizikov. Tickets: \$25 adults, \$20 seniors, \$10 students. First United Methodist Church, 45201 North Territorial, Plymouth. 2 p.m. Nov. 7. 734-451-2112. www.plymouthsymphony.org

CONCERTS

Arab American National Museum "Sean Blackman" A performance by the accomplished acoustic guitarist. Tickets: \$10, \$9 for museum members. Arab American National Museum, 13624 Michigan Ave., Dearborn, 6:30 p.m. Nov. 4 www.arabamericanmuseum.org

Detroit Symphony Orchestra "Super Saturday Halloween Open House" With performances by Musique Noire and Halloween fun for kids. Tickets: \$12. Max M. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit, 9 a.m. Oct. 30, 313-576-5111. www.detroitsymphony.com

Detroit Symphony Orchestra "Dee Dee Bridgewater" A performance by the Grammy Award-winning jazz vocalist. Tickets: \$19-63. Orchestra Hall, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. Nov. 5. 313-576-5111. www.detroitsymphony.com

Kerrytown Concert House "Marina Santillan and Samy Mielgo" A performance by the Argentinian Duo. Tickets: \$10-30 Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Oct. 30. 734-769-2999. www.kerrytownconcerthouse.com

Kerrytown Concert House "Longrun Development of the Universe" A jazz concert on tuba, trombone and saxophone, Tickets: \$5-25, Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave Arbor. 8 p.m. Nov. 3. 734-769-2999. www.kerrytownconcerthouse.com

Live Nation "Bob Dylan and His Band" Tickets: \$35-55. Hill Auditorium, 825 N. University, Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Oct. 28. www livenation com

Miller Auditorium "Bob Dylan and His Band" Tickets: \$47.50 adults, \$27.50 WMU students. Miller Auditorium, Western Michigan University Kalamazoo 8 n m Oct 29 269-387-2300. www.millerauditorium.com

MotorCity Casino "The Pointer Sisters" A performance by the classic pop/R&B act. Tickets: \$35-39. Sound Board Theater, 2901 Grand River Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. Oct. 28. www.motorcitycasino.com

MotorCity Casino "Michael Bolton" A performance by the Grammy Awardwinning singer/songwriter. Tickets: \$45-60. Sound Board Theater, 2901 Grand River Ave., Detroit, 8 p.m. Nov. 5. www.motorcitycasino.con

MSU College of Music "University Chorale and State Singers" Tickets: \$10 adults, \$8 seniors, free for students, Plymouth Congregational Church, 2001 Grand River Ave., Lansing. 8 p.m. Oct. 30. 517-353-5340. www.music.msu.edu

Olympia Entertainment "Katherine Jenkins" A performance by the opera superstar. Tickets: \$28. City Theatre, 2301 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 7 p.m. Nov. 6. www.ticketmaster.com

Olympia Entertainment "Jason Bonham's Led Zeppelin Experience" A celebration of the work of his father, Zeppelin drummer John Bonham. Tickets: \$38-68. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. Oct. 30. www.ticketmaster.com

The Magic Bag "Charlie Hunter" A performance by the legendary guitarist. Tickets: \$18. The Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. 8 p.m. Oct. 28 248-544-1991. www.themagicbag.co

The Whiting "Somi" Singing in English and three East African languages, Somi's vocal delivery is subtle yet the power she exerts is enormous Tickets: \$30-\$35 The Whiting, 1241 E. Kearsley St., Flint. 8 p.m. Oct. 30, 810-237-7333.

University Musical Society "Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlan" A performance by the classic Mariachi band. Tickets start at \$10. Hill Auditorium, 825 N. University Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Nov. 5. www.ums.org

University Musical Society "Assi El Helani" A performance by the famous Middle Eastern musician. Tickets start at \$10. Hill Auditorium, 825 N. University, Ann Arbor, 8 p.m. Nov. 6, www.ums.org

University Musical Society "Django Reinhardt's 100th Birthday Celebration" With the Hot Clubs of San Francisco and Detroit, Tickets start at \$18, Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Oct. 29. www.ums.org

University Musical Society "The Tallis Scholars" A performance by the ensemble of Renaissance sacred music. Tickets start at \$35. St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, 2250 E. Stadium Blvd., Ann Arbor,

DANCE

Macomb Center for the Performing Arts "Beyond Folklore" A performance by the Bayanihan Philippine National Dance Company. Tickets: \$37-42. Macomb Center for the Performing Arts Gallery, 44757 Garfield Road, Clinton Township, 8 p.m. Oct. 29. 586-286-2222. www.macombcenter.com

The Bellydance Superstars "Bombay Bellywood" A mystical, rhythmic and innovative dance and visual experience of belly dancing. Tickets: \$30-50. Music Hall, 350 Madison, Detroit. 8 p.m. Nov. 6. 313-887-8500. www.musichall.org

Wharton Center "Bayanihan Philippine National Dance Company" A performance by the world-renowned dance troupe. Tickets: \$25. Wharton Center, Michigan State University, East Lansing. 7:30 p.m. Nov. 4. 517-432-2000. www.whartoncenter.com

FESTIVALS

Detroit Film Club "Ferndale Film Festival" The annual showing of independent films in Ferndale. Dino's Lounge, 22740 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. 5 p.m. Nov. 6. 248-591-3466. www.dinoslounge.com

Flint Institute of Arts "First Frost Art and Rine Crafts Fair" With works for sale by 43 hand-selected artists. Admission: \$5 adults, \$4 seniors, free for children. Flint Institute of Arts, 1120 E. Kearsley, Flint. 10 a.m. Nov. 6, 11 a.m. Nov. 7. 810-234-1695, www.flintarts.org

FILM & VIDEO

Friends of the Penn "Abbott and Costello Meet the Mummy" Part of the Shocktober Thursday Classics series, Tickets: \$3. Penn Theatre, 760 Penniman Ave., Plymouth. 7 p.m. Oct. 28. 734-453-0870. www.penntheatre.com

Friends of the Penn "Poltergeist" Part of the Shocktober Classics series. Tickets: \$3. Penn Theatre, 760 Penniman Ave., Plymouth Oct 30 - Oct 31 734-453-0870. www.penntheatre.com

Michigan Theater "Nosferatu" A Halloween special, with live organ accompaniment, Tickets: \$15 adults, \$12 students, seniors and veterans. Michigar Theater, 603 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor, 7:30 p.m. Oct. 28. www.michtheater.org

Michigan Theater "The Princess Bride" Part of the Family-Friendly Film Series. Tickets: \$9 adults, free for kids 12 and under. Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor. 1:30 p.m. Nov. 7. www.michtheater.org

OTHER

Detroit Science Center "Coats for Kids" A day of performers, music and raising funds for Detroit area kids to get coats. Part of Ford Free Fundays, Detroit Science Center, 5020 John R Street, Detroit. 10 a.m. Nov. 6. 313-577-8400, www.detroitsciencecenter.org

M&M Enterprises "Southfield Pavilion Antiques Exposition" A show and sale of American, European and Oriental antiques. Admission: \$8 for all three days. Southfield Municipal Complex 26000 Evergreen Road, Southfield. 2 p.m. Oct. 29 10 a m Oct 30 11 a m Oct 31 www.antiqnet.com/M&M

Michigan Depression Glass Society "Depression Glass Show" The 38th annual show, with an emphasis on vintage glassware. Admission: \$5. Ford Community and Performing Arts Center, 15801 Michigan Ave., Dearborn. 9 a.m. Nov. 6, 9 a.m. Nov. 7. www. michigandepressionglass.com

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

Zell Visiting Writers Series "Marilyn Hacker" A discussion and reading with the author of 12 books of poetry. University of Michigan Museum of Art, 525 S. State, Ann Arbor. 4:10 p.m. Nov. 4. 734-615-

SHOWS

The Whiting "Last Comic Standing" An evening of stand up with Mike Destefano, Tommy Johnagin, Myq Kaplan and more. Tickets: \$15-39. The Whiting, 1241 E. Kearsley, Flint. 8 p.m. Nov. 4. 810-237-7333. www.thewhiting.com

University Musical Society "Once. More.: Once Then" Featuring faculty from the UM School of Music, Theatre & Dance; Creative Arts Orchestra: Digital Music Ensemble and Ann Arbor Improvisation Collective. Tickets: \$2. Rackham Auditorium, 915 E. Washington, Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Nov. 2. www.ums.org

University Musical Society "Once. More... Once Now" Featuring faculty from the UM School of Music, Theatre & Dance: Ann Arbor Improvisation Collective; Phoenix String Quartet. Tickets: \$2. Rackham Auditorium 915 F Washington Ann Arbor 8 p.m. Nov. 4. www.ums.org

University Musical Society "Once, More.: Finale" A free concert featuring faculty and students, Rackham Auditorium, 915 E. Washington, Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Nov. 6 www rims ora

THEATER

CIVIC/COMMUNITY THEATER

Escanaba in Love Dinner (pasties. vegetarian chili, salad bar, dessert and coffee, tea or soda) served one hour prior to show time; advance reservations required. \$23 dinner & theater; \$10-\$12 show only. Thebes Players at Larkins Restaurant, 301 W. Main St., Lowell. Nov. 5 - 20. 616-897-8545. www.lowellartscouncil.org

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

I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change \$20. St. Dunstan's Theatre, 400 Lone Pine Road, Bloomfield Hills. Through Oct. 30. 248-737-3587 www.stdunstanstheatre.com

Living the Dreams of My Ancestors \$20. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. Nov. 4 - 6. 517-482-5700 . www riverwalktheatre com

Reasons to be Pretty \$15. Peppermint Creek Theatre Company at Creole Gallery, 1218 Turner Street, Lansing. Oct. 28 -Nov. 6, 517-927-3016 www.peppermintcreek.org

Steel Magnolias \$15 Village Players 34660 Woodward Ave., Birmingham. Nov. 5 - 14. 248-644-2075. www.birminghamvillageplayers.com

The Cry \$10. Matrix Teen Company at Matrix Theatre, 2730 Bagley St., Detroit. Oct. 29 - 31. 313-967-0999. www.matrixtheatre.org

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

The Rocky Horror Show \$25. The Croswell Opera House & Fine Arts Association, 129 East Maumee Street, Adrian, Oct. 29 - 31, 517-264-7469.

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY THEATER

A View From the Bridge \$10. Lansing Community College Performing Arts Department at Dart Auditorium, 500 N. pitol Ave, Lansing. Nov. 5 - 13. 517-372-0945. www.artslansing.org

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

See Theater, page 30



Online at www.EncoreMichigan.com: 'Hot Mess Chronicles' at The Abreact

With friends like these...

BY MARTIN F. KOHN

The first bit of drama theory I ever absorbed came from my second grade teacher who informed us that the reason we laughed at silly comedians on TV was because we were so happy we weren't them. I immediately rejected her theory as a putdown: We liked the Three Stooges, and she was an old sourpuss with no sense of humor.

Still, I must say I laughed at the characters in Jeff Daniels' new comedy "Best of Friends" and I am mighty glad I'm not them.

And in return for that early lesson I proffer a theory of my own: the dramatic subspecies henceforth to be known as the Prepositional Couples Play, a play about two married couples whose title is evenly divided by a preposition, like "Dinner With Friends," "God of Carnage" and the mother of all prepositional couples plays, "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?" In each, the cou-

REVIEW

'Best of Friends'

The Purple Rose Theatre Company, 137 Park St., Chelsea. Wednesday-Sunday through Dec. 18. \$25-\$40. 734-433-7673.

www.purplerosetheatre.org

ples are symbolically balanced, attached at and separated by the prepositional fulcrum.

A subset of my theory is that the title of a prepositional couples play might be split at the middle and exchanged with another. Daniels' play, in its world premiere run at The Purple Rose Theatre, could be called "Who's Afraid of Friends?" Or "Dinner With Carnage." Friendship, dinner and things that go very, very wrong lie at the heart of "Best of Friends."

Daniels cheerfully acknowledges that this, his 14th play, was inspired by another



The Purple Rose Theatre presents its 39th world premiere, "Best of Friends," through Dec. 18.

play about two couples at war, Yasmina Reza's "God of Carnage," in which Daniels recently starred on Broadway.

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

Special vip reception, Thursday, Nov 11th at Swords into Plowshares

Peace Gallery. Meet Janis at this intimate gathering. Shared fundraiser with Equality Michigan. Donation of \$100, gets priority seating, ticket to concert and admission to the reception.

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An American Classic graces Hilberry stage

BY JOHN QUINN

John Steinbeck's cry for social justice, "Of Mice and Men," is a staple of high school literature classes across the country. It was Steinbeck's first attempt at writing a "novel-play," a novella that was ready for translation to the stage. Although stripped of the soaring descriptive passages in the book, the play is a thing of beauty, yet remains a stark account of lonely souls fruitlessly chasing the American Dream. It deserved the "Audience Choice" slot in the Hilberry Theatre season, and the company has done well by its patrons.

Two migrant workers, George (Peter Prouty) and Lenny (Erman Jones), are new arrivals at a harvest in California farm country. George is big brother and nanny to the mentally challenged Lenny, a giant man-child but still a valuable worker.

REVIEW

'Of Mice and Men'

Hilberry Theatre, 4743 Cass Ave., Detroit. Plays in rotating repertory through Feb. 5. \$25 - \$30. 313-577-2972.

www.wsushows.com

Unlike the usual migrant, they dream of making enough to buy a small farm and get off the road for good. The job, though, is a field of broken dreams and toxic emotions, an inevitably lethal combination to innocents like George and Lenny. "Of Mice and Men" is a testament of the killing hopelessness of the Great Depression.

While Prouty ably does the heavy lifting with fast-talking George's massive dialogue, it is Erman Jones' non-verbal communication that stands out. Anyone



Peter Prouty (George) and Erman Jones (Lennie) in "Of Mice and Men" at the Hilberry Theatre. Photo: Nikki Allen

who knows the developmentally disabled will recognize the reality in Jones's gestures, grimaces and tics - even the gentle, childlike voice is dead on.

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

Murder, mystery & Moriarity in Eastpointe

BY DONALD V. CALAMIA

A decades-long battle of wits between two of the most brilliant minds in 19th century England is temporarily halted when the evil Professor Moriarity signals his intention to retire from his life of crime. So a truce is arranged with his nemesis Sherlock Holmes to work out the details. But when familiar comrades begin dropping like flies - and the notorious villain is seemingly innocent - who will the great detective call upon for assistance in solving their apparent murders?

The audience, of course, which in Dennis Wickline's "Sherlock Holmes is Coming to Dinner" at Broadway Onstage in Eastpointe plays two groups of observers - Moriarity's henchmen and Holmes' Baker Street Irregulars - who are called together for this extraordinary meeting. It's a (thankfully) sparingly used "hook" to this enjoyable night of "whodunit" at the

REVIEW

'Sherlock Holmes is **Coming to Dinner'**

Dennis Wickline Productions, Inc. at Broadway Onstage Live Theatre, 21517 Kelly Rd., Eastpointe. Friday-Saturday through Nov. 20. \$16. 586-771-6333.

www.broadwayonstage.com

theater – but it does present a challenge for theater critics who don't want to spoil the fun by giving too much away to potentially interested theatergoers!

So all I'll say about the plot is this: There are more surprising twists and turns to the story than you'll anticipate – right up to the final revelation that closes the show.

To be honest, I'm not a fan of audience-participatory murder-mysteries since most are terribly hokey - and the only mystery is why customers keep flocking to



Sherlock Holmes, Prof. Moriarity and friends come together for a unique dinner at Broadway Onstage in Eastpointe. Photo: Dennis Wickline Productions, Inc.

them. But Wickline has crafted a delightful script that plays homage to Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's beloved detective AND toys with his eccentricities. The result, then, is a carefully plotted (yet thoroughly improbable) mystery that - like pretty much every Holmes story ever written - only the eagle-eyed detective can solve.

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







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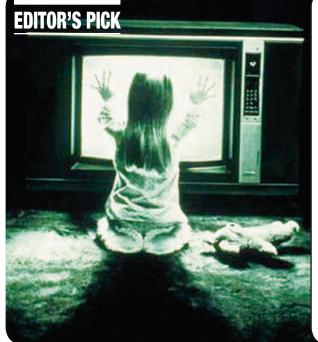
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Happenings



They're here!

In 1982, director Steven Spielberg released a film that told a ghost story unlike any other before it that would terrify audiences for years to come. On Oct. 30 and 31, old and new fans alike can witness the ghouls of "Poltergeist" again when Friends of the Penn brings the classic film to Plymouth's Penn Theatre.

The film is showing as the last event in the Penn's Shock-tober Classics Series. As a Halloween weekend special, audiences will have four chances to see little Carol Anne and her family grapple with ghosts in "Poltergeist."

The film is showing at 7 and 9:10 p.m. Saturday and at 5 and 7:10 p.m. Sunday. All seats are \$3.

► Theater

Continued from p. 29

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

She Stoops to Conquer \$20. University Theatre at Gilmore Theatre Complex's Williams Theatre, 1903 W. Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo. Oct. 28 - Nov. 7. 269-387-6222. www.wmutheatre.com

PROFESSIONAL

A Strange Disappearance of Bees \$17, \$20 at the door; \$70 New Year's Eve. Detroit Repertory Theatre, 13103 Woodrow Wilson St., Detroit. Nov. 4 - Dec. 26. 313-868-1347. www.detroitreptheatre.com

Among Friends \$25 Regular, \$15 Student. Stormfield Theatre, 201 Morgan Ln., Lansing. Through Oct. 31. 517-372-0945. www.stormfieldtheatre.org

Best of Friends \$25-\$40. The Purple Rose Theatre Company, 137 Park St., Chelsea. Through Dec. 18. 734-433-7673. www.purplerosetheatre.org

Cat on a Hot Tin Roof \$15. Matrix Theatre Company at YMCA Boll Family Theatre, 1401 Broadway, Detroit. Through Nov. 14. 313-967-0599. www.matrixtheatre.org

Chris And The Wonderful Lamp \$15. Comic Opera Guild at Northside Community Church, 929 Barton Drive, Ann Arbor. Nov. 6. 734-973-3264. www.comicoperaguild.org

Cloud Tectonics Previews Nov. 3-4 (pay-what-you-can). \$15. The New Theatre Project, Pot & Box, 220 Felch St., Ann Arbor. Nov. 3 - 15. 810-623-0909. www.thenewtheatreproject.org

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

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

Driving Miss Daisy \$23-\$25. Farmers Alley Theatre , 221 Farmers Alley, Kalamazoo. Nov. 5 - 21. 269-343-2727 www.farmersalleytheatre.com

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

Fridays and Saturdays at Go Comedy! \$15 per show; "Dark Matter" is free. Go Comedy! Improv Theater, 261 E. Nine Mile Rd., Ferndale. 248-327-0575. www.gocomedy.net Hay Fever \$20-\$30. Hilberry Theatre, 4743 Cass Ave., Detroit. Plays in rotating repertory through Dec. 4. 313-577-2972. www.wsushows.com

Hot Mess Chronicles II Free; by donation. The Abreact Theatre, 1301 W. Lafayette, #113, Detroit. Through Nov. 6. 313-485-0217. www.theabreact.com

Mary Poppins \$17.50 and above. Wharton Center, Cobb Great Hall, Michigan State University, East Lansing. Nov. 4 - 21. 1-800-942-7866. www.MaryPoppins.com

Nightmare Box \$20. Planet Ant Theatre, 2357 Caniff St., Hamtramck. Through Nov. 6. 313.365.4948. www.planetant.com

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

Sherlock Holmes Is Coming To Dinner \$16. Dennis Wickline Productions, Inc. at Broadway Onstage Live Theatre, 21517 Kelly Rd., Eastpointe. Through Nov. 20. 586-771-6333. www.broadwayonstage.

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

Spring Awakening \$25-\$50. Miller Auditorium, 2200 Auditorium Dr., Kalamazoo. 7:30 p.m. Nov. 4. 269-387-2300 . at www.millerauditorium.com

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

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

The Great Game Show Fiasco \$19. Van Buren Street Theatre, 701 N Van Buren St., Bay City. Through Oct. 30. 989-893-9399. www.vanburenstreettheatre.com

The Prodigal Son \$10. Shawn P Entertainment at the International Institute, 111 E. Kirby, Detroit. 7 p.m. Oct. 30. 313-433-8384. www.necwerkproductions.com

The Rose Of Castile \$15. Comic Opera Guild at Northside Community Church, 929 Barton Drive, Ann Arbor. Nov. 3 - 5. 734-973-3264. www.comicoperaguild.org

The Turn of the Screw A staged reading; "pay-what-you-can" with a suggested donation of \$10. Performance Network Theatre , 120 East Huron, Ann Arbor. 7 p.m. Oct. 31. 734-663-0681. www.performancenetwork.org

The Who's Tommy \$20. The Bon Ton Room, 3017 Wildwood Ave., Jackson. Through Oct. 30. 517-787-6733. http://bontonroom.com Thursdays at Go Comedy! \$10 for the evening. Go Comedy! Improv Theater, 261 E. Nine Mile Rd., Ferndale. 248-327-0575. www.gocomedy.net

Topdog/Underdog Previews Oct. 28-31 (\$10-\$20). \$15-\$25. The Blackbird Theatre, 325 Braun Ct., Ann Arbor. Oct. 28 - Nov. 20. 734-332-3848. www.blackbirdtheatre.org

THEATER FOR YOUNG AUDIENCES

Banana for Turtle \$10 adult, \$5 child. PuppetART, Detroit Puppet Theatre, 25 E Grand River Ave., Detroit. Saturdays through Oct. 30. 313-961-7777. www.puppetart.org

Cinderella Center Stage Jackson at Grass Lake Center for the Performing Arts, 11500 Warrior Trail, Grass Lake. Nov. 5 - 14. 517-522-5695. www.centerstagejackson.org

Curious George Live! \$12-\$25. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave, Detroit. Nov. 5 - 7. 1-800-745-3000. www.OlympiaEntertainment.com

Looking Glass Land \$5. Ann Arbor Civic Theatre's Junior Theatre at WCC's College Theater, 4800 E Huron River Dr, Ann Arbor. Nov. 4 - 7. 734-971-2228. www.a2ct.org

Mickey's Magic Show \$19-\$40. The Palace of Auburn Hills, 6 Championship Drive, Auburn Hills. Nov. 6. 1-800-745-3000... www.Palacenet.com

Oh, Ananse! \$10 adults, \$5 children. PuppetART, 25 East Grand River, Detroit. Saturdays through Nov. 27. 313-961-7777. www.puppetart.org/

Sleepy Hollow, A Musical Tale \$7. Kalamazoo Civic Youth Theatre at The Kalamazoo Civic Theatre, 329 S. Park St., Kalamazoo. Oct. 29 - Nov. 6. 269-343-1313. www.kazoocivic.com

Time Machine \$7 adult, \$5 ages 17 and under. All-of-us Express Children's Theatre at Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Rd., East Lansing. Nov. 5 - 13. 517-333-2580, ext. 0. www.cityofeastlansing.com/allofus

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

AUDITIONS

THE CROSWELL – auditions for the all-area high school musical "Footloose," Nov. 13-14, 517-263-6868.

ART'N' AROUND

ART & ARCHITECTURE

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

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

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

Detroit Institute of Arts "Museum Mystery Tour" A family-friendly Halloween-themed tour of the galleries. Ages 5 and up welcome. Detroit Institute of Arts, 5200 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 1 p.m. Oct. 31, 313-833-7900, www.dia.org

Downriver Council for the Arts

"Emerging Artists Exhibition" This year's show features the work of Gail Bell, Roberta Harris, Kim Hildebrandt and Jennifer Mizak. Wyandotte Arts Center, 81 Chestnut, Wyandotte. Oct. 15 - Nov. 12. 734-720-0671. www.downriverarts.org

Downriver Council for the Arts "Day of the Dead" A painting exhibit depicting and illustrating Day of the Dead. Wyandotte Arts Center, 81 Chestnut, Wyandotte. Oct. 20 - Nov. 12. 734-720-0671. www.downriverarts.org

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

Gallery Project "What's So Funny?" A show of humorous works by various artists. The Gallery Project, 215 S. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. Oct. 20 - Nov. 28. 734-997-7012. www.thegalleryproject.com **Holocaust Memorial Center**

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

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

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

Kalamazoo Institute of Arts "In Focus: National Geographic Greatest Portraits" A traveling exhibition created by National Geographic and the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History. Free. Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, 314 S. Park, Kalamazoo. Oct. 30 - Jan. 2. 269-349-7775. www.kiarts.org

Kerrytown Concert House "Finding My Way" Acrylic and mixed-media works by artist Rita Malone. Reception held 5-7 p.m. Nov. 7. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. Oct. 26 - Nov. 29. 734-769-2999. www.kerrytownconcerthouse.com

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

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

Lawrence Street Gallery "Glenn "Fuzz" Corey and Gary Van Gorp" An exhibition of new works by the resident artists, including drawings and paintings. Lawrence Street Gallery, 22620 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Sept. 29 - Oct. 30. 248-544-0394. www.lawrencestreetgallery.com

Lawrence Street Gallery "Nature 2 Nature" Works by artist Tim Marsh. Opening reception held 6-9 p.m. Nov. 5. Lawrence Street Gallery, 22620 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Nov. 3 - Nov. 27. 248-544-0394. www.lawrencestreetgallery.com Macomb Center for the Performing Arts "BASEDONATRUESTORY! Pt. 1" Works by Joseph Bernard. Macomb Center for the Performing Arts Gallery, 44757 Garfield Road, Clinton Township. Oct. 11 - Nov. 10. 586-286-2089.

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

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

Riverside Arts Center "Live Inspired Art" Works by Ypsilanti artist Steve Allen. Reception held 5-7 p.m. Nov. 6. Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron, Ypsilanti. Nov. 4 - Nov. 21. 734-480-2787. www.riversidearts.org

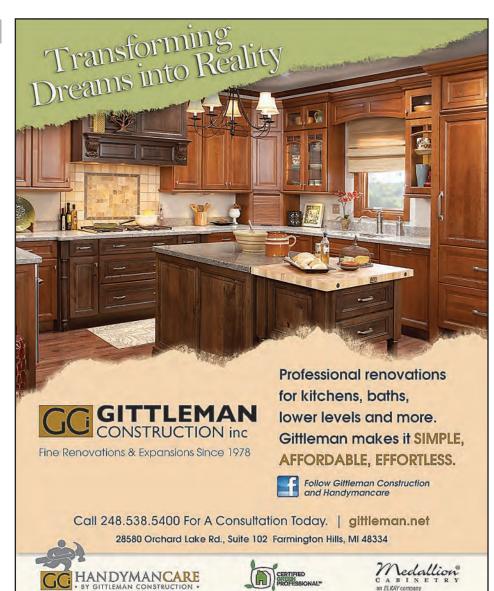
Swords Into Plowshares Peace Center and Gallery "Picking Up the Pieces" With works from the Mariner's Inn and N.O.A.H./Art & Soul participants. Swords Into Plowshares Peace Center and Gallery, 33 E. Adams, Detroit. Oct. 23 - Dec. 4. 313-963-7575.

The Henry Ford "George Washington Carver" An exhibit celebrating the work and life of the extraordinary American. Admission: \$15 adults, \$14 seniors, \$11 youth. The Henry Ford Museum, 20900 Oakwood, Dearborn. Nov. 1 - Feb. 27. 313-982-6001. www.thehenryford.org

University Musical Society "Once. More.: An Exhibition" Original programs, manuscripts and photographs document the influential avant-garde ONCE Festival held annually in the early- to mid-1960s in Ann Arbor. UM Institute for the Humanities, 202 S. Thayer Street, Ann Arbor. Oct. 1 - Nov. 4. www.ums.org

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

University of Michigan Museum of Art "Simon Dybbroe Moller" Sculptures and other works by the Danish-born artist. University of Michigan Museum of Art, 525 S. State, Ann Arbor. Nov. 6 - Jan. 30. 734-763-UMMA. www.umma.umich.edu







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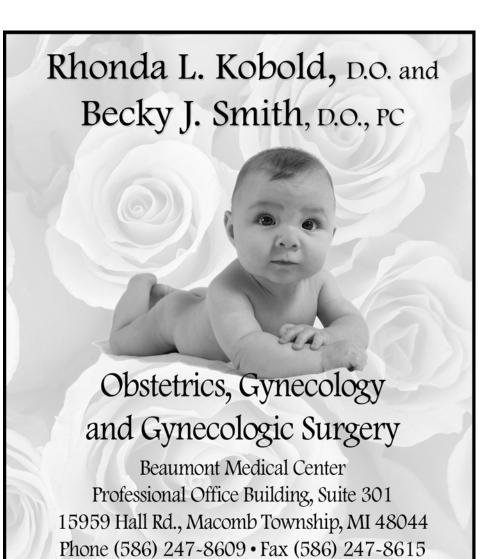


Peppermint Creek Theatre Company presents the second show of its 2010-11 season, Neil LaBute's "Reasons to Be Pretty," on Oct. 28-31 and Nov. 4-6 at the Creole Gallery in historic Old Town Lansing.

"Reasons to be Pretty" is a gorgeous play with one ferocious bite. A love story about the impossibility of love, Greg really, truly adores his girlfriend, Steph. Unfortunately, he also thinks she has a few physical imperfections, and when he casually mentions them, all hell breaks loose

This local production, a Michigan premiere, is staged by guest director Deb Keller and stars JC Kibbey, Chelsea Witgen, Mary Wardell and Jesse Deardorf-Green.

Creole Gallery is located at 1218 Turner Street, Lansing. Tickets are \$15 general admission and \$10 for students and seniors 55 and over. For tickets or information, call 517-927-3016





Rear View DEAR JODY



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

Move on already!

• I've been invited, along with my boyfriend • "Jon," to a Halloween party. It's at the same guy's place where we went last year at Halloween. I had a great time last year, but Jon didn't like it. He says that these parties are just an excuse to have sex with someone else other than your boyfriend, which is, regrettably, what happened to him last year - meaning, I was the one who had sex - with "Batman." Believe me, I didn't plan on having sex, it just happened because I had too much to drink and Batman began looking better and better – people kept refilling my beer glass. I know that we (Jon and I) have a monogamous agreement, but I was bombed. What else can I say? I'm not a big drinker so it didn't take much to put me under the table – with Batman – veah, that's where it happened. At the time. I thought the table covering, which extended down to the floor, would keep eyes off us, but we got a little wild and the table went over for all to see. So not only did Jon see us, but everyone got a show.

Jon said that he was humiliated as well as angry, but I was certainly not the only one finding bedrooms, corners, closets, whatever, to get it on. It's just that Batman and I were exposed - and became the floor show of the party.

OK, that was a year ago and you'd think that Jon would get over it. Hanging on to anger is not good for anyone, right? We didn't talk about it at the time; Jon gave me the silent treatment for a month, and then he got over it - at least I thought he had. I have been a pretty good boy ever since. We've been to several parties and nothing has happened.

But now, I guess Halloween is something I'm supposed to give up this year and not have any fun. I promised Jon that nothing would happen, again. But he said that he wasn't "in the mood" for it. Well, I am, and if I can forget it and go on with my life, shouldn't he?

Not Looking for Batman

• I really wonder about your emotional IQ; you A • have the emotional maturity of a 15-year-old. I'm surprised that Jon is still with you – not so much for what you did, but because you take no responsibility for what you do. You seem to think life just happens to you, and that you have no control over your reactions or behaviors: it's like you're just swept along in the wind, like a leaf. You don't even seem to be sorry for what happened last Halloween, or how you hurt Jon.

Your promises aside, there is nothing you have said that would assure me that you wouldn't cheat on Jon, given the right circumstances – since you are ruled more by events than by your own resolve to act in a certain way when events occur.

You also seem to be suffering from a sensitivity deficit. I heard nothing from your e-mail that you care about Jon's feelings; you appear to be only focused on what you want in life.

Frankly, if Jon were writing to me, I'd be advising him to get into the rapy, find his self-respect, and get away from you as soon as possible.

Note: In my response to the writer in this column, I talk about Emotional Intelligence. Arguably, success in life may well be more a function of our Emotional Intelligence than the kinds of "intelligence factors" that are measured on standardized IO tests. If you want to learn more about Emotional IQ, and take a quick test, visit "Dear Jody Valley" on Facebook and click on the link.

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



by Jack Fertig

Be yourself, Scorpio!

Venus and Sun line up in Scorpio promoting extreme sexiness, or at least egotistical efforts. They're both sextile to Pluto and the North Lunar Node, so the responsibilities of eros may be strongly felt. It can be a good time to make a commitment to one you feel passionate about, or to sexual health and responsibility.

ARIES (March 20 - April 19): You may be too sexy to be resisted, but will you use that power for good or for evil? Sublimate that energy into your work and you could open doors that lead through tremendous challenges to great success.

TAURUS (April 20 - May 20): A mad new infatuation is probably just that, but the stars just might line up for something more solid. Whether you believe in love at first sight, make sure to take a good, critical second look.

GEMINI (May 21- June 20): Dedication to hard work will pay off in the long run, but that will take time. Obsessing on goals now will only burn you out. Pace yourself and remember to take time out to refresh both body and soul.

CANCER (June 21- July 22): It's a great time for a hot new love affair, but what would your partner say? If you can't talk your baby into doing something new and different, let your honey make suggestions. At the very least, take them as a creative challenge.

LEO (July 23 – August 22): Look into your family's medical history. The stars suggest clarity, not danger. This is not a time to worry, but careful investigation now can help you make better choices to head off trouble later.

VIRGO (August 23 - September 22): Being charming, witty and playful can come off as more flirtatious, even more lascivious than you intend. In some places, that can get you in trouble, so think before speaking! Elsewhere it will get you into all the trouble you want. Have at it!

LIBRA (September 23 – October 22): Take a good, hard look at household finances. The uglier the mess seems to be, the likelier you will find yourself in better shape than you thought. There are probably

some hard truths there, but you can't feather your nest making like an ostrich.

SCORPIO (October 23 - November 21): You are a lot hotter than you realize. "Working it" will just come off as excessive. Relax, be yourself. Applying yourself intellectually is sexy. Speaking up politically will help you win the day and score into the night.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 - December 20): Differentiating between sexual liberation and sexual exploitation can be tough. Take time out to consider your own values and aesthetics. You're not shy about being unique, but sometimes being true to yourself takes reflection and effort.

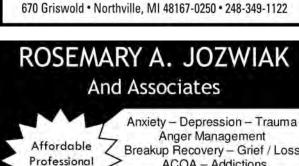
CAPRICORN (December **21 – January 19):** Why do you have such beautiful and charming friends? Consider that you fit in well with that crowd. Give yourself credit and use that selfassurance to challenge yourself to accomplishing something more solid.

AQUARIUS (January 20 - February 18): Focus on inner strengths and counterproductive quirks that affect your career. Welcome criticism, supportive or not, as keys to improvement. What you learn from self-examination can prove powerfully helpful.

PISCES (February 19 -March 19): Be willing to be wrong. Accept challenges to any of your ideas as an opportunity to dig further into your ideals, to reassess long-held beliefs and bring them into balance with reality.

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





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Solution to puzzle from page 34





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On Your Knees

Across

- 1 Sex at the end of a date, in slang
- 8 Appoints
- 15 Barney Frank, frequently 16 Bear's fur?
- 17 Church with the country's largest gay congregation
- 19 Baseball great Mel
- 20 "Put roses on the piano and tulips on the
- 21 Nonvulgar swearing
- 22 Get straight
- 25 Canon camera
- 26 Nobel physicist Bohr
- 28 Painter of ballerinas
- 30 Painter Matisse
- 31 Location of 17 Across
- 35 Part of a Stein line 37 Airborne Amelia
- 38 Stud site
- 41 Where they yell "Cut!"
- 43 Fag hag on a date, perhaps
- 44 Start fishing

- 45 Sheila of the California State Assembly
- 47 Hawk-chicken difference
- 48 Blow job and more 49 BB propellant
- 51 Third word of Katharine Lee Bates' "America"
- 52 Designer of 17 Across
- 59 Color purple
- 60 Dinah of a golf classic
- 61 Sphincter opening? 63 Infatuated with Mr. Right
- Now 64 What hangs over and
- sometimes drips on you
- 65 The sound of music
- 66 Tommy's gun 67 Ancient erection
- 68 Poet Kitty

Down

- 1 Furnishings
- 2 Tickled pink
- 3 Prepare to become wife

- and wife
- 4 Univ
- 5 Hot time for Colette
- 6 What "let" means to Mauresmo
- Haute, Indiana
- 8 Charles, who could make you a man
- 9 Shakespeare's "anon' updated
- 10 Sunblock letters
- 11 First person in Berlin 12 Take a trip with your first
- mate? 13 Seaport of Italia
- 14 Places for commercial intercourse
- 18 In days past
- 23 Eastern title 24 "Show Boat" bundle
- 26 Barber's cry
- 27 One-million link
- 29 Big piece of meat
- 30 Crowd at the gay rodeo? 32 Field of study

- 33 Ball or chase balls
 - 34 Conveyance weight
 - 35 Same kind
 - 36 Coin of Foucault
 - 39 Part of DADT
 - 40 ACLU concern
 - 42 "Hairspray" scorer Marc
 - 44 Impressionist Mary
 - 46 Adjective for Abner
 - 48 Metal container
 - 50 Gets up
 - 51 "If ___ Walls Could Talk"
 - 52 Dreadlocks feature
 - 53 Likely to break the condom, perhaps
 - 54 Excellent, in slang
 - 55 Zeus, to Romans
 - 56 Hurler Hershiser
 - 57 Bottoms' description of
 - 58 When doubled, Mork's good-bye
 - 59 Mag. leafs
 - 62 Non-Judy garland

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Sully is a year-old Pug/Jack Russell Terrier mix with an adorable smushed face and lots of love for everybody he meets. At 18 pounds, Sully may be small, but he's got a ton of energy and would do best with an active family that gives him lots of attention and TLC. The adoption fee includes sterilization, age-appropriate vaccinations and much more. Call or visit the Michigan Humane **Society's Detroit Center for Animal Care at** (313) 872-3400 and provide the pet ID number, 11684527.























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We want to help other kids fight bullying

• It's been so upsetting to the queer kids at • my middle school to hear about all the teen suicides lately and the awful bullying going on. One guy I know got punched in the face recently and his Facebook page was smeared with homophobic comments like "faggot." What can we do to help our friends?

 $_{\bullet}$ That's really admirable that you want to reach A • out to other kids in trouble. This recent series of high-publicity gay teen suicides has lots of people asking that same question: "What can we do?" And while the answers at first feel overwhelming, my advice in this situation is quite clear: It's everyone's responsibility to help fight public and private expressions of homophobia and transphobia, especially when violence is involved or could be anticipated

The truth is that you and your friends may

already be doing the two most important things: Being yourselves and supporting each other. But there's always more.

In the case of your friend at the other school, you could certainly help him if you suggested that he talk to his parents or school officials about reporting that assault – yes, he was assaulted. I know that can be hard to do, but you can't stop bullying unless he (or she) is called on it.

That Facebook mess is an example of how "direct" confrontation has its place: Without saying anything threatening or targeting individuals by name, go ahead and post some supportive messages on the guy's page. Make sure that lots of your other friends do that too. You can also report the individuals making the hateful comments to Facebook, who will cancel their accounts.

Dad just told us he's gay

On National Coming Out Day, my father • recently told the family that he's gay. To be honest, I didn't know what to say back to him. What would you have suggested?

A • In a dream world, you'd be genuinely happy
• for your father and shout "Mazel tov" or "Congratulations" and give him a big hug. And it would be but one supportive voice among many, with warm wishes from friends, colleagues and other relatives alike. But if that's not in your heart right now, at the very least I'd suggest you thank your dad for being open and honest with you and tell him that your love for him has not changed. Most LGBT people – yes, even our fathers and mothers – fear rejection more than anything else when they're coming out. By the way, it's not too late to take my advice and speak with your dad.

My best friend's lover is fooling around

• The other day my friend, Stan, invited me over for drinks. When I got to his apartment, Barry, who is partnered with my best friend, had just come out of the bedroom wearing a towel. It was really awkward and Stan was shocked that I know Barry and his partner. Barry and my best friend have been together for years and their relationship is supposed to be monogamous: Do I tell my friend, yell at Barry or just keep my mouth shut?

A. Yikes! What's up with Stan that he invited you over while he still has a paramour on the premises?

If you step back from the situation a little, however, you'll realize the best thing that could happen would be for Barry to let you know that he's going to fess up to his partner so that 1) you don't have to and

2) you won't have to have a guilty conscience about saying nothing to your friend. With any luck, Barry will reach out to you with this plan. But, if he doesn't, call him and let him know "what a good idea" you'd think it would be for him to "do the right thing." Obviously, the implied threat is that if he doesn't speak up, you will. But I wouldn't actually say that.

Still, Barry may call your bluff by not saying anything. Then, I'd fold and sit it out on the sidelines because you're really in a no-win situation. If you turn Barry in, there's the slight possibility that your understanding of their monogamous status was wrong in the first place – or that sharing this information wasn't what your friend would have wanted. Perhaps, ignorance may be bliss for him.

Finally, I'd be remiss if I didn't point out that couples often do "kill the messenger" in a charged situation like this. If these two fellows get through this rough patch and back to trusting each other, there's a real possibility they will both view you as interfering or as a troublemaker. In the end, if your friend does find out that you knew about his philandering partner and didn't say anything, tell him the truth: That was Barry's responsibility.

Steven Petrow (www.gaymanners.com) is the author of "The Essential Book of Gay Manners & Etiquette" and a regular contributor to Huffington Post and GayWeddings.com. Send him your questions: ask@gaymanners.com.





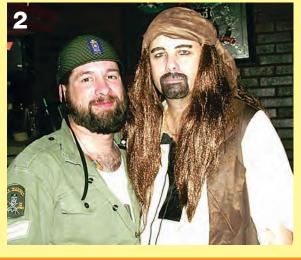
BTL photos by Danielle







- 2. Bian and Brian
- 3. Necrophilia and Mike





Send your Halloween party pics to editor@pridesource.com by Nov. 1 and look for yourself right here on this page.

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Anderson Cooper wants to be the new Oprah

The version of silver fox Anderson Cooper you see on Anderson Cooper 360 is the all-news, all-the-time guy. But watch him interact with Kathy Griffin or talk "Real Housewives" with Ellen and you'll see a fluffier side of the CNN anchor. It's clearly a side of himself he wants to indulge on the air. And why not get paid to do it?

In other words, somebody wants to fill Oprah's empty chair. That's why in fall 2011 you'll get even more Cooper than you ever thought you wanted. He's going to host his own, as-yet-unnamed daytime talk show that will focus on social issues but also celebrities and other soft topics. Now, the real news is will he officially come out to help promote it? Will he just live the openlynot-talking-about-sexual-orientation life he's perfected instead? And will any of that matter when he's got NeNe from "Real Housewives of Atlanta" on his couch and they're gushing about how much they love each other? Stay tuned.

The Mississippi Hate Prom is coming to TV

You may remember earlier this year when Mississippi high school student Constance Mc-Millen sued for the right to take her girlfriend to her prom. You may also remember that not only was she subjected to intense bullying but that her school canceled the prom rather than allow her to come as she was, then turned around and set up two proms, one for the "normals" and one for McMillen and the special ed kids. You couldn't really ask for a more dramatic and

insane scenario, so it was only a matter of time before the TV movie about the subject went into production. And that TV movie will be produced by cool Hollywood power-gays Craig Zadan and Neil Meron. No title, no cast, no nothing just yet. But it's happening. And when it finally airs, the creepy, anti-gay people can just sit around wondering why they didn't get more flattering screen time.

'Rampart' full of lesbian crushes

The new film "Rampart," currently in preproduction from director Oren Moverman, has a serious pedigree. It's about the LAPD's notorious Rampart division in the 1990s, the same one that served as inspiration for "Training Day," and it has a script form "L.A. Confidential"'s James Ellroy and Moverman. Moverman is also responsible for the Oscar-nominated "The Messenger" and is currently working on an adaptation of the William S. Burroughs novel "Queer." So this is no TV movie. It'll star Steve Buscemi, Woody Harrelson. Ben Foster and Ice Cube. But what the lesbians are going to like is that it also stars Sigourney Weaver, Robin Wright, Anne Heche

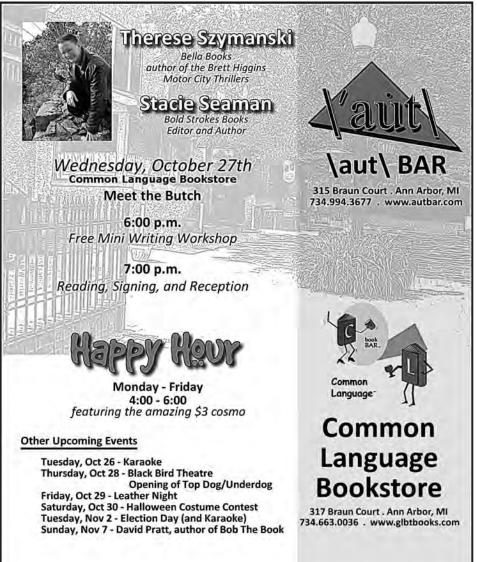
and Cynthia Nixon, two of whom are formerly or currently in same-sex relationships and all of whom have more than a few lesbian fans. Actually, the fact that there are even going to be four women starring in a dude movie like this is news that should make anyone happy.

Sara Rue Learns The 'Rules'

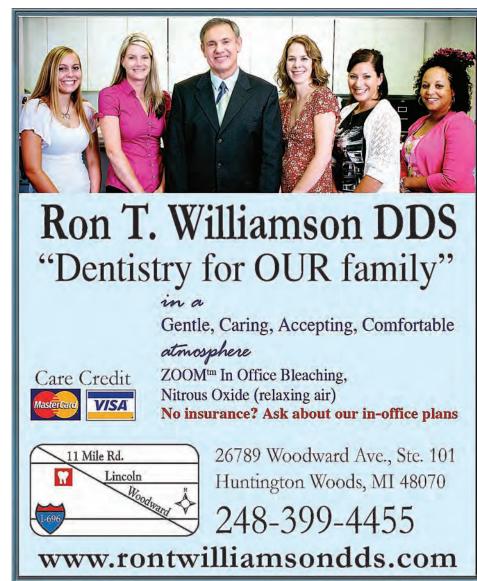
Anyone out there watching the CBS sitcom "Rules of Engagement"? Anyone? Well, it may not be must-see viewing for a lot of the lesbian and gay TV audiences out there, but someone is certainly tuning in. They're halfway to a hundred episodes at this point, which means the inclusion of a new gay character is nothing to sniff about. And that's what's about to happen. Sara Rue, former star of "Less Than Perfect" and "Popular." will join the cast as a lesbian surrogate mother. Does that mean she'll be carrying a fertilized egg for stars Patrick Warburton or David Spade? Or someone else? Who knows. Romeo just learned that this show even existed OK

Romeo San Vicente was always on Team Heche. He can be reached care of this publication or at DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com.















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