

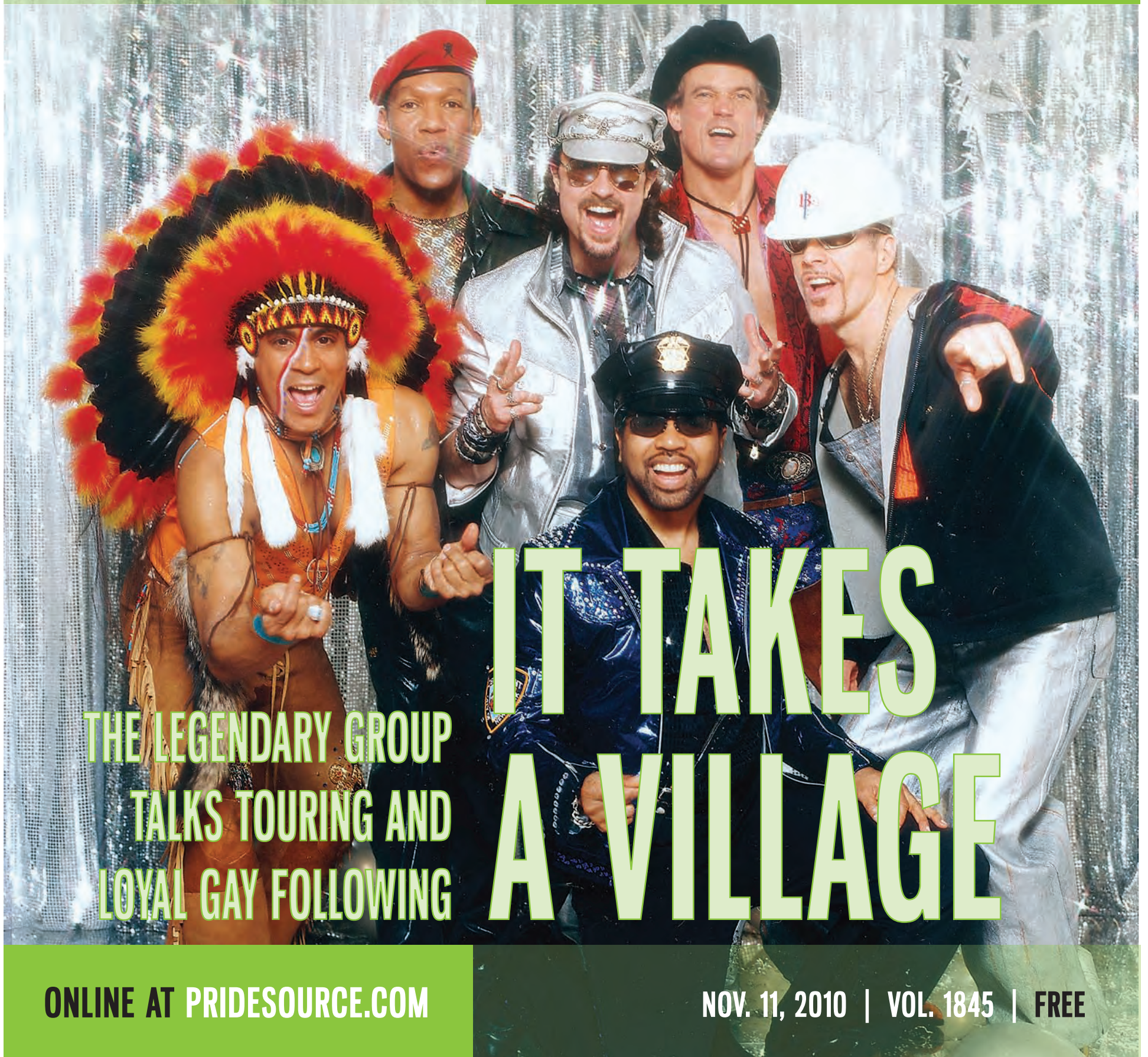
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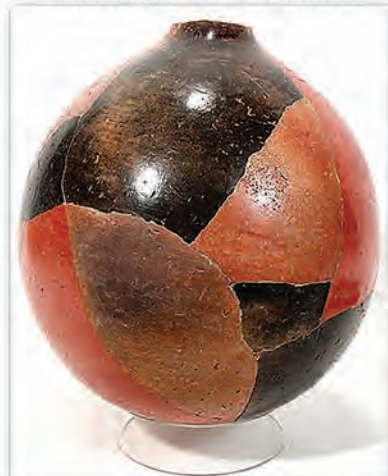
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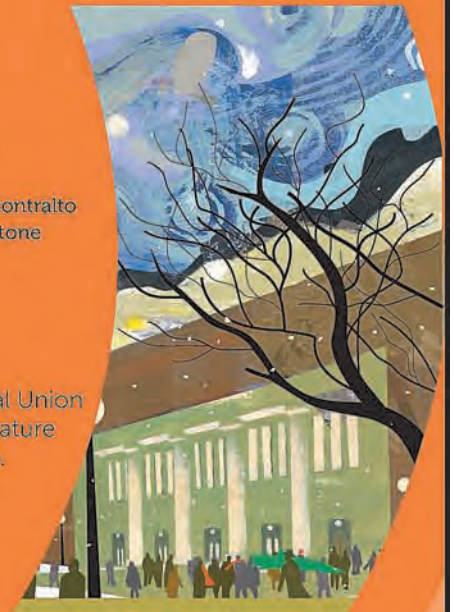
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Last Tuesday

The voters certainly decided they wanted a change last Tuesday. In Michigan and around the country, Republicans swept to big victories in the midterm elections, putting the GOP in charge of the U.S. House and sweeping all of the statewide offices here in our state, while also winning control of both chambers of the Michigan Legislature. Beginning in January, John Boehner (R-OH) will be the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives and Rick Snyder will be Michigan's new governor. Just two years after Barack Obama's historic election as president, the voters have put his adversaries into political power across the country.

Despite the Republican tidal wave, there were some bright spots for the Democrats in last week's elections. At the national level, the Democrats kept control of the U.S. Senate, denying the Republicans their hopes of having full control of the legislative branch. In Michigan, first-term representative Gary Peters (D-Bloomfield Hills) won a narrow victory in his race against Republican Rocky Raczkowski, though Rep. Mark Schauer (D-Battle Creek) lost his bid for a second term to former Rep. Tim Walberg (R-Tipton).

What does all of this mean for the LGBT community in Michigan and around the country? Unfortunately, history does not offer reassuring answers. The last time the Republicans controlled the U.S. House, they attempted to pass a Constitutional amendment to prohibit same-sex marriage in the United States. Republican leaders opposed hate crimes legislation in previous sessions of Congress, though thankfully, President Obama signed a hate crimes law last year. Republicans at the national level have frequently used the LGBT community as a political wedge in their efforts to divide the nation and win elections.

In Michigan, it's too early to tell what Gov.-elect Snyder's victory means for the LGBT community. Social issues were nowhere on the political radar screens of either Snyder or Democratic candidate Virg Bernero in their campaigns; they obviously focused on the state's difficult economy. Snyder has stated that while he does not support gay marriage, he favors the right of same-sex couples to have some legal rights. Given the hard-right positions of others in the Republican Party, Snyder's stance sounds tame, though Michigan's anti-gay marriage amendment limits the ability of any governor to expand rights in this area. However, governors can set an inclusive tone in their political appointments, something Governor Granholm has done during her eight years in office by selecting several qualified lesbian and gay people for positions within her administration. We should strongly urge Gov.-elect Snyder to do the same, while also protecting the employment rights of LGBT state workers.

Snyder has styled himself as a moderate Republican. The new governor will be under great pressure from social conservatives in his party who are salivating at the prospect of pushing radical social policies after Governor Granholm's two terms of progressive leader-

In Michigan, it's too early to tell what Gov.-elect Snyder's victory means for the LGBT community...

It is particularly important for members of the LGBT community who voted for Snyder to remind him of his moderate principles and help the new governor to stand up to the reactionary elements within his party.

ship. It is particularly important for members of the LGBT community who voted for Snyder to remind him of his moderate principles and help the new governor to stand up to the reactionary elements within his party.

Much attention will now shift to the upcoming "lame duck" sessions of Congress and the Michigan Legislature, when the current legislators meet before their terms end in early January. At the federal level, it is extremely important for Congress to finish the work of repealing the military's "Don't ask, Don't tell" DADT policy. At his post-election news conference last week, President Obama once again announced his support for ending this policy through the legislative process; the U.S. Senate needs to act quickly so the president can sign the repeal into law. In Michigan, the state Senate must approve the House-passed anti-bullying legislation, Matt's Safe School Act, and send it to Gov. Granholm for her approval.

Next year will bring big changes to our state and nation and the LGBT community must not shrink from the fight for equal rights. The Republicans won this year's elections because people are still suffering from the effects of the brutal recession. The two parties will continue to debate what policies should be enacted to end the economic suffering in Michigan and around the country. However, the Republicans have not earned a mandate to discriminate against any group of citizens, including the LGBT community. All of us need to stay engaged in the political debates over the next few years and remain vigilant in our struggle for true equality.



Contact Michigan's two senators and urge them to pass DADT during the lame duck session:
Senator Carl Levin: <http://levin.senate.gov/contact/>

Senator Debbie Stabenow: <http://stabenow.senate.gov/email.cfm>

Contact your Michigan State Senator in Lansing and urge him or her to quickly pass Matt's Safe School Act: Michigan Senate: <http://senate.michigan.gov/SenatorInfo/find-your-senator.htm>

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Election dashes hopes of passing anti-bullying legislation for now

GOP takeover makes passage during lame-duck session far less likely

BY TODD A. HEYWOOD

LANSING—The considerable and historic gains by Michigan Republicans in Tuesday's election is giving new voice to outgoing GOP members who say legislation to address bullying that has languished in the legislature for years is not going to be taken up in the lame duck session.

In an election night interview in Detroit, Sen. Wayne Kuipers (R-Holland) said he has no intention of bringing anti-bullying legislation to a vote in committee and to the Senate floor. Kuipers chairs the Senate Education Committee.

"I told them what language we would consider approving, and they were never willing to negotiate or compromise," Kuipers said. "So that causes a problem."

Asked what language for the legislation Kuipers and his fellow GOP members had recommended, he said, "We had crafted some language that had taken out specific references to specific lifestyles and just treated bullying as a problem area."

Lifestyles is a term Kuipers and other opponents of the legislation have consistently used to reference lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. The legislation does not specify any class, but does state that bullying based on any real or perceived characteristic was unacceptable.

"Bullying is bullying and it doesn't matter why you are being bullied, it should not be tolerated," Kuipers said. "That is what we were prepared to go forward with and they wouldn't take it. So I guess we'll have to wait for the next legislative body to do it."

"I think this became the sort of the cause celebre for a group, but I think most school

districts have a bullying policy of some sort."

Kuipers said that creating a policy was not going to stop bullying.

"The statement of creating a policy on bullying, if its not enforced properly, if it becomes an issue for trial attorneys to sue districts because they don't have it written properly or they aren't enforcing it properly, that doesn't help anybody," Kuipers said.

When asked if districts were already being sued over bullying incidents, Kuipers said "no," but when reminded of the bullying lawsuit in the Hudson schools, he shifted to focusing on the impact the lawsuit had on other districts.

"Some of them are. And to the extent that lawsuit forced other districts to get serious about adopting a policy, I think the issue is already being resolved," Kuipers said.

Michigan Democratic Party Chair Mark Brewer responded to Kuipers' statements Tuesday night by saying it was an example of the "right wing policies" the new GOP majority in state government will pursue.

What is past is prologue

Two years ago, advocates nearly passed the legislation in the final hours of the 2008 lame duck session, but Sen. Alan Cropsey (R-DeWitt) "killed the bill," as he said in an interview with Michigan Messenger.

Cropsey, as the majority floor leader, refused to let the bill be brought up for a vote, even after it had passed the Senate's Education Committee by unanimous vote. The 2008 late night battle was the closest the legislature has come to passing anti-bullying legislation.

"The idea that there is not enough time to devote to this issue is absolutely ridiculous. All of the concerns on this bill have been in play for over six years."

- Kevin Epling, co-director of Bully Police USA

And while advocates are hoping to get a vote in the Republican-dominated Senate, Cropsey said the lame duck is not the right time to move the bill.

"There ought to be a discussion about this during the regular session," Cropsey said in an exclusive interview with Michigan Messenger. "This is not something that should be done in the middle of the night."

"The idea that there is not enough time to devote to this issue is absolutely ridiculous. All of the concerns on this bill have been in play for over six years," says Kevin Epling, co-director of Bully Police USA. "Sen. Cropsey was approached by members of his own party asking for a vote which he denied, citing at the time that he had not had time to review it. So now he says in an additional two years he still has not had any time to review a two page bill?"

Epling lost his son Matt to suicide. That suicide has been attributed to bullying, and Epling and his wife Tammy have become vocal

advocates for anti-bullying legislation as a result. The legislation being considered by the Senate, which has already passed the Democratically-controlled House, is named for the Epling's son - Matt's Safe Schools Law.

Cropsey called bullying a "serious problem" and noted that "almost every kid is bullied." But, he said, rushing the legislation without having his questions answered would not be in the interest of the voters or the students the legislation is designed to protect.

For Cropsey, there are lingering concerns that he says still have not been addressed. First, Cropsey said he is not sure the legislation is necessary.

"The legislation is saying to school administrators, 'you must have a policy,'" Cropsey said. "My school superintendent told me we have a policy. So I want to know how many districts don't have a policy. I have never been given a list. If you are going to do something with the law, you need to know what the problem is and that the solution will address it."

Epling says he and his wife talked with Cropsey and his staff about the number of districts with policies in place. He said he shares that concern, but elevates it one more step and asks how many policies are there, but how effective they are. He says if Cropsey truly wanted that information, he could have gotten it.

At what cost?

"After 9 years every school should have a

See Bullying legislation, page 10

\$100K grant to Ruth Ellis Center addresses bullying

Funds support leadership development, advocacy training for LGBTQ youth

BY BTL STAFF

HIGHLAND PARK – The Ruth Ellis Center, one of the nation's three agencies solely dedicated to homeless, runaway and at-risk youth who are lesbian, gay, bi-attractional, transgender or questioning, has been granted \$100,000 from the Arcus Foundation. The grant will be used to launch a curriculum that uses experiential and mentor-based learning tools to train LGBTQ youth to advocate for anti-bullying policies.

"Almost all of the young people who come to the Ruth Ellis Center are harassed and bullied, not only in their schools, but even in their homes and as they walk down the streets," said Laura Hughes, REC's executive director.

The new project, Out and Upfront: Youth Leadership & Advocacy, was created to meet the need for local anti-bullying protection and representation to include LGBTQ youth in developing current advocacy policies and leadership.

"The Ruth Ellis Center recognizes that it is our youth's voices that are the most powerful for shaping future legislation, community engagement and LGBTQ rights in Michigan. This program gives our youth the tools to get their voices heard and we couldn't be more appreciative to the Arcus Foundation for their support."



- Laura Hughes, executive director, Ruth Ellis Center

The 12-month project will train youth to develop blueprint recommendations for remediation of offenders and education for policy leaders, including the Detroit and Highland Park School Boards. The youth will be trained through experiential learning, intergenerational mentor-

ship, civic engagement, social action, advocacy training and peer opinion leadership.

"The Ruth Ellis Center recognizes that it is our youth's voices that are the most powerful for shaping future legislation, community engagement and LGBTQ rights in Michigan. This

program gives our youth the tools to get their voices heard and we couldn't be more appreciative to the Arcus Foundation for their support," said Hughes.

REC is partnering with national organizations to implement the program including Gay Lesbian and Straight Education Network, the National Youth Advocacy Coalition, the National Alliance to End Homelessness as well as local partners such as the ACLU of Michigan, Detroit Summer, Equality Michigan and the NAACP.

"The Ruth Ellis Center's focus on at-risk LGBTQ youth provides a unique opportunity to cultivate strong leaders with diverse experiences," said Johnny Jenkins, Michigan LGBT Rights program officer at the Arcus Foundation. "Advancing equality in Michigan requires investing in tomorrow's leaders."

For more information visit Ruth Ellis Center's website or Facebook page.

UM student harasser Shirvell fired Panel rules ‘conduct unbecoming’

BY SUSAN HOROWITZ

Andrew Shirvell, Michigan’s assistant state attorney general, was finally fired on Monday. Shirvell made national news after word spread of his anti-gay blog attacking University of Michigan Student Assembly President Chris Armstrong. Shirvell had been on a paid leave of absence since late September.

Last Friday Shirvell faced a hearing under Michigan Civil Service rules. The hearing was closed to the public. On Monday, according to Shirvell’s attorney, Philip Thomas, he was called into the attorney general’s office at 1:30 p.m. and told by staff that “his actions made it impossible for him to continue” in his job with the state.

Attorney General Mike Cox released a statement which said Shirvell used state resources in his campaign against Armstrong and lied to investigators during his disciplinary hearing.

“The cumulative effects of his use of state resources, harassing conduct that is not protected by the First Amendment, and his lies during the disciplinary conference all demonstrate adequate evidence of conduct unbecoming a state employee,” the statement said. “Ultimately, Mr. Shirvell’s conduct has brought his termination from state service.”

“This clearly is the correct decision by the Attorney General’s Office. The next step must be a complete retraction of all the malicious lies and fabrications by Mr. Shirvell, and a public apology to Chris Armstrong, his family and the others Mr. Shirvell slandered,” said Armstrong’s attorney Deborah Gordon in a statement following the firing.

Bully emerges nationally

In May, *Between The Lines* identified Shirvell at a rally held outside of the Ann Arbor Civic Theatre’s production of “The Laramie Project,” where members of Westboro Baptist Church were expected to be protesting the play.

Instead, the rally was faced with a different foe: Shirvell, who spent his time there interrupting a speech given by then newly elected student president Chris Armstrong, and holding a sign calling Armstrong a “racist liar.”

Further investigation revealed that Shirvell ran a blog called “Chris Armstrong Watch,” on which he posted photos and comments about the openly gay student president, who Shirvell frequently referred to as a “radical homosexual activist.”

The country caught word of Shirvell’s antics when he was interviewed on “Anderson Cooper 360” Sept. 28.

Cooper grilled Shirvell, reading him definitions of the words “bigot” and “cyber-bullying” and asking him if he thought either term applied to him.

Cox also appeared on “AC 360” Sept. 29, saying that Shirvell’s blogging is protected under the First Amendment and that his job is safe.

“Mr. Shirvell is sort of a front-line grunt assistant prosecutor in my office,” Cox said. “He does satisfactory work and off-hours, he’s free to engage under both our civil service rules,



Andrew Shirvell harassing Chris Armstrong last May. BTL file photo.

Michigan Supreme Court rulings and the United States Supreme Court rule.”

Cox, however, changed his tone as things continued to heat up, admitting to the *Detroit News* Sept. 30 that he hadn’t yet read all of Shirvell’s blog when he made his comments on Cooper’s show. “I’m at fault here,” Cox said. “I’ve been saying for weeks that (Shirvell’s) been acting like a bully, that his behavior is immature, but it’s after-hours and protected by the First Amendment.”

However, news that Shirvell was “suspended” was quickly rebuffed by Cox’s office, who said that Shirvell’s temporary departure was his decision.

Mounting pressure

Community response to the issue was centered around two key points: support Chris Armstrong and fire Andrew Shirvell. Both points generated responses from various UofM officials, as well as the school’s LGBT office, the Spectrum Center, and innumerable LGBT and allied citizens in Michigan and beyond.

The bullying meme had been hitting headlines across the nation, with reports of increased LGBT suicides. The idea that an assistant state attorney general was bullying a 21-year-old college student drew immediate national attention.

The response on social media networks was overwhelming, ranging from reposts of stories and videos about the battle to the creation of several popular Facebook groups. In early October the group “Fire Andrew Shirvell” had over 14,000 fans; “We Support Chris Armstrong” had over 15,000.

Several Michigan politicians and hopefuls have also joined the debate.

On a national level, U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan released a statement Oct. 1 addressing both the recent slew of suicides related to anti-gay bullying and the situation with Armstrong.

“This is a moment where every one of us – parents, teachers, students, elected officials, and all people of conscience – needs to stand up and speak out against intolerance in all its forms. Whether it’s students harassing other students because of ethnicity, disability or religion; or an adult, public official harassing the president of the University of Michigan student body because

Cox’s investigation findings

• Shirvell showed up at Armstrong’s home three separate times, including once at 1:30 a.m. “That incident is especially telling because it clearly was about harassing Mr. Armstrong, not engaging in free speech,” the statement said.

• “Engaged in behavior that, while not perhaps sufficient to charge criminal stalking, was harassing, uninvited and showed a pattern that was in the everyday sense, stalking.”

• Harassed Armstrong’s friends as they were socializing in Ann Arbor.

• Called Speaker Nancy Pelosi’s office, Armstrong’s employer, in an attempt to slander Armstrong and ultimately attempting to cause Pelosi to fire Armstrong.

• Attempted to “out” Armstrong’s friends as homosexual – several of whom aren’t gay.

he is gay, it is time we as a country said enough. No more. This must stop.”

On Oct. 18, the Ann Arbor City Council passed a resolution condemning the actions of Shirvell. Armstrong was on hand to receive the resolution from Mayor John Hieftje who simultaneously proclaimed October LGBT History Month. The idea for the resolution first came from Council Member Sandi Smith.

Legal actions

Prior to the national media attention, matters had gotten so bad for Armstrong that he decided to file a restraining order against Shirvell. 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 day of the hearing, 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.

With the case dismissed, Shirvell’s attorney immediately threatened to sue UofM for banning Shirvell from the campus when it issued a trespass warning Sept. 14. Last week the UofM Department of Public Safety modified the order to allow Shirvell on campus as long as he stayed away from Armstrong.

Shirvell is now facing complaints before the Michigan Attorney Grievance Commission. Armstrong and his attorney have asked the commission to disbar Shirvell.

“It is past time for Shirvell to realize that there are consequences for his reckless, outrageous statements and actions and that he is solely responsible for those consequences,” said Gordon.

Additional reporting by Jessica Carreras and wire reports.

Howell schools suspend teacher for enforcing anti- bullying policy

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

A Spirit Day incident at Howell High School has erupted into a controversy over who is bullying who in the school district. Is a student bullying others when he declares in class that he does not support homosexuals? Is that teacher bullying the student when he throws them out for disrupting class?

Howell Public Schools has a clear policy on bullying. Board Policy 5517.01 states, in part: “Bullying is any gesture or written, verbal, graphic or physical act (including electronically transmitted acts - i.e. internet, telephone or cell phone, personal digital assistant (PDA), or wireless hand held device), that is reasonably perceived as being motivated either by any actual or perceived characteristic, such as race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression or mental, physical, or sensory disability or impairment; or by any other distinguishing characteristic. Such behavior is considered harassment or bullying whether it takes place on or off school property, at any school-sponsored function, or in a school vehicle.”

It was under this policy that teacher Jay McDowell removed two students from class because they persisted in saying that they do not support gay people, even after being warned twice that such comments were not allowed in class.

And it was under this policy that McDowell was later disciplined with a day suspension without pay, because the District contended that he violated the rights of the students to express their religious beliefs.

“You can’t say ‘I can’t accept blacks’ in class, or ‘I can’t accept Jews.’ It falls under bullying. Sexual orientation is part of the policy,” McDowell said.

The incident took place on Oct. 20, which is nationally celebrated Spirit Day, in which students and adults wore purple in memory of young gay people who took their own lives after being bullied. McDowell wore a purple shirt, as did many of the students.

“There is a female student who routinely wears a Confederate flag belt buckle to class,” McDowell said. “She knows that it is not allowed. It is not allowed because about a year ago there was a group of students who made a hate group on Facebook and used the Confederate flag as their symbol. So this is definitely not allowed, but it’s kind of a running thing with her. She wears it to class and the teachers ask her to remove it. She takes it off and puts it in her purse until later. There usually isn’t a problem. But on Spirit Day one of the male students made a comment asking why she can’t wear the Confederate flag but other students can wear the rainbow flag.”

McDowell said he explained the history of hate associated with the Confederate flag, and the reason why it is not allowed in the classroom. The student then said, “I do not accept gays.”

McDowell told the student that it wasn’t

See Howell teacher, page 10



BTL EDITORIAL

Shirvell is nuts, and he's not alone

It took too long for Attorney General Mike Cox to finally fire Andrew Shirvell. Shirvell had quickly become a national symbol for everything that's wrong with ideologically-driven government. He is a right-wing nut and a strong Mike Cox supporter who clearly went over the edge of both reasonable thought and behavior. After embarrassing the state, his office and his profession by stalking and harassing a college student, it took Cox six weeks to fire him, a period Shirvell spent collecting a paycheck while on leave. Cox could not possibly have retained Shirvell for his legal acumen – it's hard to believe that someone as unhinged as Shirvell would be capable of responsibly representing the state in complex legal proceedings. Cox defended him at first, until his own office's disciplinary hearings revealed how badly Shirvell behaved on the taxpayers dime.

The most outrageous aspect of Shirvell's stalking behavior was his choice of victim. Chris Armstrong, the University of Michigan student body president and the object of Shirvell's unwanted attentions, is 21-years-old. He's been subjected to Shirvell's tyrannical protests and blogging, as if destroying Armstrong would somehow destroy the "Gay Agenda."

In stark contrast, Armstrong has behaved with dignity and restraint through this entire affair – a time that has surely been distracting and upsetting for him, his family and his friends. With Shirvell now out of his life (and we hope he does stay away), Armstrong can get back to being a student government leader and hitting the books.

Shirvell's firing came at the end of a week in which all three branches of the state's government and the U.S. congressional delegation are now firmly in the hands of the Republicans. With these election results we expect a sharp, right turn in government policies over the next two years. However, we hope that the ridiculous Shirvell incident will remind conservatives that

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it is possible to go too far. Elevating people who have real hate in their hearts to positions of authority is dangerous. Conservatives will be making hundreds of appointments in the coming months and hiring contractors for a wide range of services – including social services that directly impact the lives of minorities, women, LGBTs, youth and other vulnerable communities. We call on the new leadership to be careful and select wisely.

There are plenty of other Shirvels out there who are just waiting for a chance to flex their political muscles against the scary demons they see lurking behind every Obama sticker. Now that they have the power, we hope the Republicans will use that power to move the state's agenda forward for ALL citizens; to rebuild our economy, rebuild our infrastructure and make sure that every child in Michigan has access to a first-rate education without bullying.

If the Republicans listen to the crazy right wing of the party and allow themselves to become embroiled in anti-LGBT, anti-woman, anti-youth and anti-anything then we are all in trouble. Instead, we hope the Republicans take this opportunity to select leaders that can tolerate new ideas and people. It's a chance for conservatives to show that they can be reasonable, responsible and not crazy wing-nuts like Andrew Shirvell.

VIEWPOINT



Voting's over now what?

How did we lose the evolutionary social momentum so evident in the 2008 election and how do we regroup to get back on the right path between now and 2012?

BY MICHELLE E. BROWN

By now we have all had time to recover from "Red Tuesday." Whether it's from a hangover from drowning your sorrows or celebrating your successes over the mid-term elections, everyone should have stopped hyperventilating, dried their tears and accepted that it is what it is.

The Republicans have control of Congress with 239 seats. The Democratic majority has decreased in the Senate to only 53 seats. Republican Rick Snyder is governor-elect. The state Supreme Court swung back to the right. Republicans swept most of the other state races. And the scariest result of all, Tim Walberg is going back to Washington, DC.

There are a few bright spots. Gary Peters, who has been a champion for the LGBT community was reelected and along with Dale Kildee, John Conyers and Sander Levin. They will return to represent Michigan. Our gay uber-politician Craig Covey was elected to the Oakland County Commission as well as several other openly gay candidates running in other races.

Unfortunately only 45 percent of registered voters in Michigan showed up at the polls (in Detroit it was less than 25 percent). Any hope for passing a substantive anti-bullying bill seems dashed; It will be a steep uphill climb for any environmental legislation and restricted campaign donations do not bode well for progressive/LGBT PACS.

Starting to hyperventilate again? Quick grab the bag to breathe in and hold on progressives – "it's going to be a bumpy ride!"

So what went wrong? Just about everything it seems.

The Republicans worked it like a hooker in the Red Light District. They appealed to every fear American's have been facing - unemployment, immigration, gay rights, Iraq, Afghanistan and all topics in between. Whether truthful or not, they worked their base, riled up by the Tea Party and pulled it off. More importantly they got supporters to the polls.

Where were we – youth, gay, progressive voters? Probably sitting at home, part of that 55 percent of registered voters who stayed home on Nov. 2.

Did we go down without a fight? Were we so intimidated, disempowered, disenfranchised by the predictions of pollsters and pundits that we forgot that the battle for equality wages on? Did we forget about the rash of young people across the country and right here in Michigan who took their own lives because the thought of continuing to live in a country where hate speech, homophobia and bullying run amok unabated, was intolerable?

I listen to the Diane Rehm show most mornings and almost had to pull over to the curb when

a caller asked why she should vote since pundits and pollsters had already called the election. Unfortunately I know she wasn't alone in thinking this way and the numbers prove it.

What the holy heck happened? Let's rewind to Nov. 4, 2008.

Like most of the world, I was dancing around the room singing Will.I.Am's "It's a New Day!" It was especially joyful as I was dancing with my 92 year-old aunt who remembered segregation and discrimination; who saw women and African Americans attain civil rights but never expected to see a woman running for president or vice-president and in her wildest dreams could not imagine a Black President.

But it happened and we danced around her apartment singing "It's a New Day" and chanting "Yes we can!"

We all wanted change we could believe in. We all wanted a change from the same old politics as usual with its partisan bickering. We all wanted a change to the social, racial and economic divisions tearing our country apart.

We took all of these hopes and dreams to the polls and got what we wanted. We elected not just a Democratic, but the first Black president and sent him a Democratic majority to support moving a progressive agenda.

But apparently no one told the universe that it was a new day and the crap that had been plaguing us for the previous ten years continued its march of destruction - the economy tanked, unemployment and foreclosure soared to new heights.

Many things were promised during that campaign – over 500 – including closing the revolving door for lobbyists, revoking special interest tax loopholes, regular bi-partisan sessions on foreign policy but perhaps the most important promise to the LGBT community was the expansion of hate crimes legislation to include sexual orientation and gender expression, overturning the 1996 Defense of Marriage Act and rescinding the 1993 "Don't Ask Don't Tell" policy.

The Obama administration has done a lot in its first 21 months including hiring more openly gay officials; conceiving a National Resource Center for LGBT elders; issuing passports and providing other benefits to the partners of LGBT foreign service staff; signing the Shepard /James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act and testifying in favor of ENDA. It pushed through Healthcare Reform, saved jobs in the auto industry while fighting to create new jobs and reining in Wall Street.

But for most Americans, the bad economy and other societal ills trumped our altruistic hopes for equality and justice. We abdicated our political gains to the louder, more vocal and hate filled members of the right-wing and the

See Brown: Now what?, page 10

She/He Said

GOP and the gays, Pope kisses, Melissa

COMPILED BY HOWARD ISRAEL

"Gay men, lesbians and bisexuals who self-identified to exit pollsters made up 3 percent of those casting ballots in House races on Tuesday, and 31 percent of them voted Republican. By itself, that number is amazing, especially when you consider that way too many people think being gay and voting Democratic are one in the same. But that percentage is ominous news for a White House viewed with suspicion by many gay men and lesbians, because that's four percentage points higher than the change election of 2008."

- Jonathan Capehart, in his column titled "GOP: Gay Old Party? More gays voted Republican than in 2008," <http://voices.washingtonpost.com>, Nov. 4.

"We are here for a peaceful protest. The church oppresses us and doesn't respect us...We can't tolerate this sort of Pope in the 21st century."

- Eduardo Prado, one of the 200-300 participants in a public kiss-in, organized by a Facebook group called Queer Kissing Flashmob, protesting Pope Benedict XVI's visit to Spain and the Catholic church's policies about gay people, www.nydailynews.com, Nov. 7.

"Black parents were less likely than their white counterparts to report that they mourned the loss of a normal life for their children when they initially learned they were gay. Considering the elevated risk for poverty, illness, and incarceration faced by blacks, such a 'normal' life was perhaps less a sure thing all along... Black parents might be more concerned with issues of survival - such as avoiding jail, poverty, and violence. Parents of black gay and lesbian youth knew that their children would be facing a double stigma - one related to race and the other to sexual orientation, and understandably, this worried them."

- Michael C. LaSala, in his column titled "African American Gay Youth and Their Parents: Coping with Double Stigma," about a study describing the experiences of white and black families and their responses to a gay son or lesbian daughter, www.psychologytoday.com, Oct. 21.



"She stood up and said, 'This is who I am.' When someone does that, it changes the world. It gives hope."

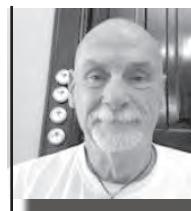
- Melissa Etheridge, singer, about Constance McMillen, as a high school senior, fought her school district's decision to prohibit her from bringing her girlfriend to the prom, named Glamour magazine's 2010 Woman of the Year for her fight against intolerance, www.glamour.com, Nov. 1.

me half my life ago.

Born in a recession and faring worse than my parents did, I do understand the concepts of sustainability and doing more with less - and I hope that Affirmations learns to do so, too - without displacing the staff who work where the rubber meets the road or the populations that those folks serve. I understand that donations are down, but also that stress is rising. The need for safe space and friendly services is more necessary than ever - as economic fears and the reality of bullying keep more of us in the closet at work, in school, and in our neighborhoods. The need will be even more pressing as we re-enter the dark days of conservative governmental control.

As an advocate and activist, my grassroots are far too long to overlook the fact that the organization now is seemingly top-heavy. "Pay cuts and reductions in hours" aside, the paradigm is difficult to accept, as is the way the organization chose to trim the fat. I'm saddened to see it in a place I've called home for all of my gay days. Cuts at the bottom nearly always arise from issues that begin up top. Should we rename the center "Administrations LGBTQ Community Center"? Houses are built with a strong foundations for good reason.

Sara Louise
Sterling Heights



Parting Glances Then & Now

BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

Three arfs for BARK!

A pre-Obama administration federally funded study by the Bureau of Animal Record Keeping finds that "persons of rainbow personality make the best dog owners but have little influence on cats."

Anticipating outcry from gay activists who own feline breeds, the BARK study adds, "This state of petulant attitude shouldn't be misconstrued as homophobia on the part of America's cat populations. Their disdain is accorded to straights as well."

The study also finds, "dogs owned by LGBTs are happier, better mannered, more likely to heel and fetch than dogs reared by straight breeders. They also, for whatever reasons of LGBT master-induced imitation, shed less during summer months and do sniffing and tree marking in a covert, more decorous manner."

Interestingly, too, is BARK's finding that all breeds (exceptions: Pekinese, Chihuahua, dachshund) show marked sporting instincts (catching Frisbees, treeing squirrels, chasing unmarked police cars) when raised by lipstick lesbians in committed relationships.

Rottweilers, "when dyke raised tend to be exclusively a one-owner breed. They're loyal to a fault." (The dogs, not the dykes.) "It's also a matter of record that Doberman Pincers are frequent enthusiastic sidecar companions for the lesbian subculture known as 'Dykes On Bikes'."

"Breeds raised by gay men seldom whine - or, if they do, it's in quieter whimpers, and are less likely to eat ill-prepared dinner scraps. They also show preference for dog houses painted in warmer tones, tastefully edged with white lattice work. Collar choices are sequins and/or rhinestones, with ID owner contact availability numbers."

(Note: There is contention to this latter finding on the part of leather community members. According to a number of Alaskan huskie S/M owners - admittedly a small but vocal minority - leather-lined dog houses with accessible slings and spike collars are standard accessories for this dominant breed. Neutering optional.)

The big disappointment of the BARK study is with the finicky cat population. It's determined that cats raised by LGBTs are just as likely to be as avidly, 'get-you-Mary' independent as cats raised by straights.

"The scientific/sociological truth is that cats just don't give a rat's winkie if you're straight or gay. If you feed them on time - or, preferably laced with catnip - they couldn't care less about one's sexual orientation or what goes on in the neighboring bedroom. Provided it's done quietly, presumably safely, non-doggie style."

There's a note of promise, however. For some odd reason alley cats seem to live longer when kept by gay single males. This applies whether neutered or not. (The cats, not the single gay males.)

Not everyone is pleased with BARK data. In The Family Way, a right-wing, stray vigilante organization, headquartered in Free Fall, Montana, expresses outrage and some umbrage in its monthly newsletter, "The Litter Box." (Sorry: "The Letter Box")

"The Gay Agenda stops at nothing," opines its editorial, accompanied by a picture of a pink poodle with rhinestone collar. "Not only do gays want special rights to marry, adopt children, now they want to raise America's inarticulate majority - innocent dogs and cats - as same-sex household pets."

The diatribe indulges in the usual lies and half-truths: "Gay men have used poodles to thumb their collective noses at society for decades." "Dog shows are breeding grounds for sodomy!" "Rainbow scarves and doggie jackets are bringing America to its knees." "Would you want a leader dog for the blind trained by a lesbian or gay person?"

The editorial ends with the usual request for money in "the ongoing war to save our four-footed friends from a life of sin, pampering, weekly grooming, twinkie names. God loves a cheerful giver."

That S/HE does! Give a pup or kitten a loving home. Pets (unlike some flea-bitten, ferral, biblical biped, hound dogs) are traditionally lgbt friendly. And cuddly. Call your Humane Society.

Charles@pridesource.com, Facebook too.

Letter: Affirmations screeching halt

An era of growth and expansion has come to a SCREECHING halt...to say the least.

Taking a 'step back' is an understatement. Affirmations has displaced its most financially vulnerable (and arguably most devoted and energetic) staff who held positions at the lowest levels of the organization, giving them 3 days notice. Anyone who has ever worked within the non-profit sector does not do so for economic reasons. In addition to low pay, shoddy benefits, erratic work schedules (nights and weekends, a must!), these people have also shown great love and passion for the LGBTQ community by organizing, financially supporting, and volunteering for the many events that we celebrate and enjoy.

"Streamlining" services is another term to minimize the impact that eliminating services will certainly have on the most at-risk populations that depend on Affirmations for basic needs - a shower, clothing, social support, and safe space. I'm grateful for the privileges that I inherently have and have afforded myself through higher education. Privileges that allow me to use the center in a recreational manner. However, there was a time when Affirmations was the ONLY outlet that I had as an at-risk queer youth. Now that I have achieved a small measure of success, I make sure to give back and give big to the organization that saved

Jackson Day of Remembrance Vigil

PFLAG Jackson, the Jackson Human Relations Commission, area churches, the Jackson High Gay-Straight Alliance, and the Jackson Community College Gay-Straight Alliance are sponsoring a vigil for all LGBT victims of violence. Young victims of bullying and violence have been in the news this fall, but also many more go unnamed and unnoticed. The event is open to the public and will be held on Friday, Nov. 19 at 7 p.m. at the Westminster Presbyterian Church, 2310 Ridgeway. For more information please e-mail pflag_jackson@yahoo.com or call 734-750-3045.

Turkey with S.P.I.C.E.

S.P.I.C.E. is offering Thanksgiving Basket giveaways to families in need in the Detroit metropolitan area. The organization is asking the public to submit names of families who can truly benefit from assistance during these challenging economic times. Responses must be received by Nov. 14. Please provide the family's name and phone number to flash@spiceonline.org. Families selected will be notified by Nov. 17.

Paint with purpose

On Saturday, Nov. 20, Ferndale's Painting with a Twist art studio will host the first Paint with a Purpose class to benefit Higher Ground. Up to 60 percent of the class proceeds will be donated to the Royal Oak-based non-profit organization that works with people living with HIV/AIDS.

The inaugural Paint with a Purpose class follows the tradition set by the founders of Corks N Canvas – (the parent company of Painting with a Twist) which was established to provide post-Katrina victims with an artistic outlet as well as an enjoyable social experience. Lewis' Ferndale studio aims to do the same for metro Detroit residents by giving them a place to explore their creative side and interact with friends and area residents over a bottle of wine, all while supporting a great cause. Painting with a Twist is located at 320 W. Nine Mile Road. For more information or to register for Paint with a Purpose, call 248-850-7182 or visit www.paintingwithatwist.com/ferndale. For information on Higher Ground, visit www.hghiv.org or contact Rick Henning at 586-427-1259.

Volunteering in a fabulous city

The city of Ferndale is partnering with Affirmations, FernCare, Ferndale Community Foundation, Friends of the Ferndale Library and the Midwest AIDS Coalition to create a unique volunteer open house. The gathering will help people who want to volunteer learn more about where, how and why volunteering makes a difference. Learn about some of the organizations and opportunities around Ferndale. The event is planned for Monday, Nov. 15 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Blumz by JR Designs located at 503 E. Nine Mile. To learn more call Ferndale DDA at 248-546-1632.

► Howell teacher

Continued from p. 7

appropriate to say that in class. "It may be your opinion, but you can't say it in class."

The student repeated it and another male student joined in, expressing the same sentiment. "I don't accept homosexuals because I'm Catholic," the first student said again.

The students were sent to the principal's office, and McDowell spoke with parents later. "I thought everything was fine, but then I was suspended for a day without pay and written up. It was a bad decision by the school board. The student said something that was inappropriate and I followed the board policy. They accused me of violating free speech. What does that mean in terms of what we have to accept in class? Where is that line now drawn for teachers if they can be punished for following the rules?"

Superintendent Ron Wilson defended the action and sent along the following statement, "As the Superintendent of Howell Public Schools it is my responsibility to assure the fair and respectful treatment of all students and staff. In keeping with this responsibility, I disciplined

a teacher consistent with board policy.

The U.S. Constitution guarantees the right of free speech. The first amendment and its application in schools has been tested and upheld by the courts as long as it is not disruptive to the delivery of education. Defending everyone's right to free speech is not always easy, but living in a democracy rarely is easy. Regardless of my personal feelings, I must defend the rights of all students.

The staff, administration and Board of Education of Howell Public Schools have worked diligently to promote a culture of tolerance and assure that every student and staff member feels safe in school.

Ridding our schools of bullying and promoting a culture that celebrates diversity is an on-going challenge. We recognize that there is an inevitable tension between the right of free speech and efforts to stop bullying. It is my deep commitment to the students, parents and staff of Howell Public Schools to continue to move our district forward in the pursuit of what is fair and respectful to all."

In response to Between The Lines questions, Wilson also sent an opinion piece written by a conservative education reform group MEA

► Bullying legislation

Continued from p. 6

policy. It is seen only as a suggestion and not a requirement. Our schools are already required by law to provide a safe and secure environment, having such a policy helps schools and parents work together on the same page. Without a policy schools can simply keep changing the rules and keeping the parents in the dark," Epling said.

The legislation would, Epling said, address some concerns because it would require the school district to hold a public hearing on the new policy to seek input from students, staff and the community about bullying and how to address it as a community issue.

"Again, having a policy is one thing, implementing it is another, which is the deeper issue," said Epling. "How can you tell schools to enforce a policy when you are only suggesting that they acknowledge the problem? It doesn't work and it hasn't worked."

The new law would also mandate that schools define bullying, make sure that everyone involved in the school gets the policy annually and that the policy be filed with the Michigan Department of Education, which would create a database of policies.

And the issue that has really pushed Cropsey to blockade the legislation is in the defini-

tion. The current legislation would prohibit bullying on the basis of any real or perceived characteristic.

"The question becomes, if you start listing characteristics, where does it stop?" Cropsey said. "I am willing to go along with it if you take characteristics out of the equation."

"This greatly baffles me. The line in question has been in the bill since before it was passed out of committee, now it is being pointed out as if it was never there before. It is another last ditch effort to slow down passage of the bill and put more children at risk. Sen. Cropsey and others see 'perceived characteristic' as meaning gay, when it means for any reason," Epling said. "Children bully each other because there is a difference, there is something that pits them against each other -- be it their clothes, their friends their hair, their religion, for every reason. Kids never bully for 'no reason.' If we don't begin to get to the root of why kids do this then we will fail."

Cropsey also said he had concerns the legislation would cause undue expenses as unfunded mandates from the state. He says he has consistently asked what the cost would be to schools, but "no one has told me."

Epling said that the policies can have a range of costs from free on up, based on what the local districts decide.

Ultimately, however, Epling said which is more - the cost of a policy implementation, or the loss of a young life?

► Brown: Now what?

Continued from p. 8

Tea Party.

In his Gettysburg Address Lincoln reminds us that this country was "conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all ... are created equal." This we believe. But we let the louder voices of those who would attack our rights, preach homophobia and practice xenophobia in immigration policies, take the high ground.

How did we lose the evolutionary social momentum so evident in the 2008 election and how do we regroup to get back on the right path

between now and 2012?

It's been said this election was not so much a mandate for the Republican Party as it was frustration with the slow economic recovery.

Now that we've vented, it's time to get to work.

Start by contacting your state legislature, governor, senator, congressman even the White House and let them know you VOTE (whether for or against them) and that you are holding them accountable. Then do it. Vote in every election; lobby in your district and in Washington.

Show up at town halls, public hearings, etc. and make sure your voice is heard over the crazies. Support organizations that represent

(Michigan Education Association) Exposed, which spins the issue as one between labor and leadership, and generously paints himself as a hero in a battle with the teachers. <http://www.mealexposed.org/wordpress/?p=271>.

The Howell Education Association issued a statement saying they "are proud that Mr. McDowell has the moral fiber and integrity to stand up to intolerant speech as well as symbols of hate in our community and in our classrooms." There has also been a Facebook page launched in McDowell's honor, which shows the intensity of arguments from both sides of this debate.

The District will be holding a public forum to discuss diversity on Nov. 15 at 7 p.m. at the Howell High School Freshman Campus cafeteria, 1400 W. Grand River Ave.

Go to the OnlineXtral

<http://www.pridesource.com>

School board meeting

See more on this developing story at our website where coverage of the Nov. 8 school board hearing is reviewed.

"A single child's funeral expenses are close to \$10,000 today, spending a few hundred dollars over the course of the year is well worth the trade," Epling said. "Since 2001 we've lost 8 children to bullycide, or close to \$80,000 in funeral costs, while hundreds of thousands of dollars in educational support have been slashed from our schools by our legislators. Yet this says nothing on the emotional toll on the families and communities due to unexpected loss."

Cropsey also contends that it is possible that by passing the law, it could open the state up to being defendants in lawsuits, such as the one where a Hudson student sued over bullying.

"If the state has a law mandating that a school have a policy, and the policies fail, or the school fails to enforce the policy, does the state end up picking up part of the costs?" Cropsey said. "I don't know the answer to that."

"Any school can be sued currently and by having a policy and working with parents on how the policy is implemented can actually limit schools from being sued because there will be the paper trail of everything that was done within the terms of the policy. Follow the rules step by step, and you can show that you have a greater immunity," Epling said.

This story originally appeared on www.michiganmessenger.com

values YOU believe in. Run for office and/or support candidates who represent your values in local, statewide or national elections.

Lincoln in his address also said "we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether this nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated can long endure."

This is a war - A war for our freedoms, our equality, and our children. So what are YOU/WE going to do to be the change we believe in? There's no turning back.

Michelle E. Brown is a community activist, an authentic speaker, a dynamic leader, and a true

State's Republican sweep a challenge for LGBT equality

'Nobody has given up,' legislative hurdle larger

BY JAN STEVENSON

On Nov. 2, Republicans captured control of all three branches of Michigan state government, effectively securing their power over all state business for the next two years.

An analysis of the election results in the state showed that more candidates won who were endorsed by the conservative, anti-LGBT Citizens for Traditional Values than who were pro-LGBT and endorsed by BTL. This spread was particularly striking in the State Senate races, where only eight candidates endorsed by BTL won their races, but 20 candidates endorsed by CTV won, indicating a sharp shift to the far-right in that chamber. In the House the results were more balanced, where 32 candidates endorsed by BTL won their races and 35 candidates endorsed by CTV won. The remaining 43 winning candidates in the House were endorsed by neither BTL or CTV, suggesting that the House may become the more centrist chamber.

LGBT activists and allies expressed their concern that rights and protections could be threatened under the state's new, more conservative leadership.

Jay Kaplan, staff attorney at the ACLU of Michigan's LGBT rights project, is worried that the new Supreme Court may expand the reach of the anti-marriage constitutional amendment to further restrict benefits for public employees.

"The (2009 Supreme Court) decision basically said that public employers can't offer benefits based on domestic partnerships. In response, many universities and other employers created new 'alternative eligibility criteria' so they could continue the health and other benefits that they had offered under their domestic partnership benefits programs," explained Kaplan. "We once again have solidified the conservative majority on the Supreme Court and I don't know if another case were to come before them if they would further expand the reach of the anti-marriage amendment. Young was reelected and the new Justice Kelly is very conservative. Both have made public statements that they believe the anti-marriage amendment ought to be interpreted broadly."

Kaplan is also concerned about the impact that the new conservative Attorney General Bill Schuette will have on domestic partner benefits in Michigan.

"In 2009, Republican State Rep. Meekhof requested Attorney General Mike Cox to issue an opinion on the constitutionality of the universities offering benefits based on this alternative eligibility criteria. Cox never issued that opinion, and whether or not Bill Schuette would wade into these waters if he were requested, we don't know. He is certainly as conservative



"This November's election results have done nothing to change my own personal commitment to LGBT causes or my role as a lobbyist for Equality Michigan. I wake up every morning with social justice on my mind and always have. That doesn't change because a wave of Republicans were dropped on my doorstep."

- Emily Dievendorf, policy director at Equality Michigan

as Mike Cox on social issues and especially LGBT rights," said Kaplan.

The new team at Equality Michigan is figuring out how to approach the legislative agenda with such a staunchly conservative majority in both chambers.

"I realize that the progressive community has taken this last week to regroup but it is also clear to me that nobody has given up," said Emily Dievendorf, policy director at Equality Michigan, the newly-formed LGBT rights group from the merger of The Triangle Foundation and Michigan Equality. "The Republican sweep of Michigan government has accomplished the opposite of making progressive causes irrelevant. In 2011, it will be all the more necessary that we are an active and resourceful part of the policy dialogue."

Not daunted by the challenge of an unfriendly state government, Dievendorf said she is ready to press forward. "This November's election results have done nothing to change my own personal commitment to LGBT causes or my role as a lobbyist for Equality Michigan. I wake up every morning with social justice on my mind and always have. That doesn't change because a wave of Republicans were dropped on my doorstep," she said.

In 2009, Rep. Alma Wheeler Smith introduced a bill to permit second-parent adoption. It got through the House Judiciary committee and was referred to the full House for a vote, but was not taken up by the leadership. Wheeler Smith is doubtful that this important legislation that would protect LGBT families will go anywhere in the new Republican controlled legislature.

"I don't see the Republican majority taking up this issue. It flies in the face of their conservative base," said Wheeler Smith. "Also, they won't want to put their new Republican governor in the position of aggravating their base."

Wheeler Smith lamented that the state legislature trails the general public on so many issues.

"It's too bad when the public leads the legislature, but the legislative role has

always been to protect the status quo - they aren't going to shake up the world. Until the grassroots understands that power and acts on that power, we are going to continue to be conservative here in Michigan," she said. Wheeler Smith is termed out of the state legislature, and is currently weighing options for her next venture.

The Numbers

Republicans take over all three branches of state government and capture congressional delegation

In the executive branch, Rick Snyder won the race for governor and Republicans won in the elections for attorney general and secretary of state. In the legislative branch, Republicans increased their majority in the Senate from a 22-16 GOP majority to a 26-12 GOP super-majority. The House went from a 64-42 Democratic majority with four vacancies to a 61-44 GOP majority, with five races yet uncalled. In the judicial branch the Republicans regained their 4-3 majority on the Michigan Supreme Court when GOP candidates won the two seats up for election this year.

Republicans also swept the educational leadership races. The GOP won two seats on each of the boards of Michigan State University, Wayne State University and the University of Michigan. The State Board of Education went from a 6-2 Democratic majority to a 5-3 one after Democratic incumbent Elizabeth Bauer said she wouldn't contest Republican Richard Zeile's lead.

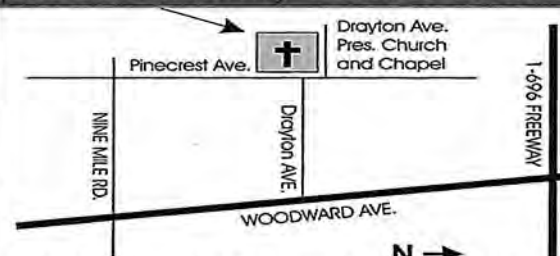
At the federal level, the Michigan delegation to the U.S. House of Representatives went from an 8-7 Democratic majority to a 9-6 Republican majority. The one bright spot for Democrats in the U.S. House races was Gary Peters' hold of his seat in the 9th District.



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Robert Maginnis

The majority of soldiers and their families think having openly gay guys and gals in the military isn't that big a deal. This is good news. Unless, of course, you're the Family Research Council.

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

Everyone knows that United States soldiers hate gay people. They hate them more than they hate terrorists, even, because at least terrorists aren't trying to legalize terror.

So obviously if you took a poll of soldiers regarding whether or not to repeal "Don't Ask Don't Tell" they're going to be in favor of keeping homos out of fox holes by a landslide. Right?



Robert Maginnis

Wrong. Results of a survey done by the military as part of a feasibility study have been leaked and guess what? The majority of soldiers and their families think having openly gay guys and gals in the military isn't that big a deal.

This is good news. Unless, of course, you're the Family Research Council. Then you're pissed, because that's not the answer you wanted at all. And if a survey doesn't get the results you want, there's only one thing to do: blame the survey. As Right Wing Watch pointed out, FRC is crying that "the survey is flawed and cannot be trusted."

And thus Robert Maginnis's seven pages of teeth gnashing and foot stomping was born and published on the FRC website.

Maginnis complains that the surveys sent to soldiers and their families don't ask if the respondent is "one of them." Because gays are clearly biased and their responses shouldn't count.

The surveys also don't define "homosexual," Maginnis laments, and treat homosexuality like it's a (gasp!) "neutral factor."

He also bemoaned the lack of choices regarding privacy concerns. One soldier's wife who responded to the survey told him she "would not take her children to unit activities where there might be open homosexuals." Because to see gay is to be gay. She also "was very concerned that her husband would have to share a room with an open homosexual during deployment." God only knows what she thinks will happen. Maybe she just doesn't trust her husband.

Maginnis is also upset that the surveys fail "to address religious and moral objections to homosexuality." Because it's okay to discriminate someone as long as God says it's okay.

Using the strictest research methodology I've created a survey that I think would be up to Maginnis's standards. And it's much more concise than both the military's 32 page soldier survey or the 11 page family survey. Please use a #2 pencil.

1. I am a:
 - a) heterosexual, right with God.
 - b) godless homosexual. Please destroy my survey.
2. Fill in the blank. Homosexuals make me _____.
 - a) puke.
 - b) cry.
 - c) both a and b.
3. When you're around a homosexual you better:
 - a) Hide your kids.
 - b) Hide your wife.
 - c) Hide your husband.
 - d) 'Cause they're raping everybody up in here.
4. We need to ban homosexuals from the military because:
 - a) God said so.
 - b) There is no other answer but a.

Gates, Obama urge repeal of military's gay ban

BY PHILIP ELLIOTT

WASHINGTON — (AP) Defense Secretary Robert Gates is encouraging Congress to act before year's end to repeal the ban on gays serving openly in the military. It's a position shared by his boss, the president.

But his new Marine commandant thinks otherwise and the Senate has not yet taken action, setting up yet another hurdle for gay activists who see their window quickly closing. After Tuesday's elections that saw Republicans chip away at Democrats' majority in the Senate and wrest the House from their control, their hopes for ending the 17-year-old law have dimmed.

"I would like to see the repeal of 'don't ask, don't tell,' but I'm not sure what the prospects for that are and we'll just have to see," Gates told reporters traveling with him to Australia this weekend.

Gates said he would prefer Congress act after the Pentagon releases its study of how repeal would be implemented, which is due Dec. 1.

That goal, though, lacks the backing of the Marine Corps commandant at a moment the country is fighting wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"This is not a social thing. This is combat effectiveness," Gen. James Amos said.

That hesitation could be enough to give senators permission not to act, activists fear.

The House has passed legislation repealing "don't ask, don't tell," but it has not yet seen a vote in the full Senate, where Democrats don't have the votes to overcome a Republican filibuster. Democratic leaders say they are trying to reach a deal across the aisle now that Election Day has passed.

"The Senate should call up the de-

fense bill reported out of committee and pass it before it goes home for the year," said Aubrey Sarvis, executive director of the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network. "If the president, Majority Leader Reid, Secretary Gates and a handful of Republican senators are committed to passing the comprehensive defense bill, there is ample time to do so."

Gay activists worry the repeal could be stripped from the bill that funds the Pentagon.

"Any talk about a watered down defense bill, whereby the 'don't ask' revisions would be stripped out, is unacceptable and offensive to the gay and lesbian service members who risk their lives everyday," said Sarvis, whose organization provides legal services for gays and lesbians who face discharge.

Obama on Wednesday also said he wanted a repeal before the new Congress arrives.

"This should not be a partisan issue," he said. "You've got a sizable portion of the American people squarely behind the notion that folks who are willing to serve on our behalf should be treated fairly and equally."

A Gallup poll in May found 70 percent of Americans favor allowing gays and lesbians to serve openly.

The legislative countdown comes as a parallel effort to end the ban continues in court.

Last month, the Pentagon was forced to lift its ban on openly serving gays for eight days after a federal judge in California ordered the military to do so. The Justice Department has appealed, and a federal appeals court granted a temporary stay of the injunction.

The Pentagon, meanwhile, is in the midst of a study of how it would implement a repeal should Congress act. Leaders

of that effort have said a hasty pace and inadequate protections for gay and lesbian military members could be a disaster.

The White House had hoped lawmakers would delay action until the Pentagon had completed its study so fellow Democrats would not face criticism that they moved too quickly or too far ahead of public opinion in this election year. House Democrats would not wait. Administration officials joined the negotiations to make certain a repeal was not done too quickly.

Obama, Gates and Adm. Michael Mullen - the top uniformed military official in the country - have spoken in favor of repeal but have emphasized that it must be paced. The White House's favored plan could give the Pentagon years to implement the repeal process and would require the approval of Obama, Gates and Mullen, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

In a speech last year at the Army War College, Gates noted that the 1948 executive order for racial integration took five years to implement.

"I'm not saying that's a model for this, but I'm saying that I believe this is something that needs to be done very, very carefully," he told the audience.

"Don't ask, don't tell" was imposed by a 1993 law intended as a compromise between President Bill Clinton, who wanted to lift the ban on gays entirely, and a reluctant Congress and military that said doing so would threaten order.

Under the policy, the military can't ask recruits their sexual orientation. In turn, service members can't say they are gay or bisexual, engage in homosexual activity or marry a member of the same sex.

Between 1997 and 2008, the Defense Department discharged more than 10,500 service members for violating the policy.

Follow developments online at www.sldn.org

First gay Episcopal bishop to retire

BY RACHEL ZOLL/AP

The first openly gay Episcopal bishop said Saturday that he will retire in 2013, due in part to the "constant strain" on him and his family from the worldwide backlash against his election seven years ago.

Bishop V. Gene Robinson, whose consecration convulsed the global Anglican fellowship, said he was announcing his retirement early so the transition would be smooth for the Diocese of New Hampshire. He assured congregants that he is healthy and sober after seeking treatment for alcoholism five years ago. He will be 65 when he steps down.

Robinson revealed his plans at the annual diocesan convention in Concord.

"The fact is, the last seven years have taken their toll on me, my family and you," the bishop said, in prepared remarks released by the diocese. "Death threats, and the now-worldwide controversy surrounding your election of me as bishop have

been a constant strain, not just on me, but on my beloved husband, Mark."

Robinson was surrounded by bodyguards and wore a bulletproof vest under his vestments when he was consecrated in 2003, an event celebrated far beyond the church as a breakthrough for gay acceptance even as it broke open a long-developing rift over what Anglicans should believe.

The Episcopal Church is the U.S. body in the 77 million-member Anglican Communion, a group of churches that trace their roots to the missionary work of the Church of England.

Episcopal and Anglican traditionalists overseas formed alliances and created the Anglican Church in North America as a conservative rival to the Episcopal Church.

Under pressure from conservatives, Williams did not invite Robinson to the 2008 Lambeth Conference, a once-a-decade meeting of the world's Anglican

bishops. Instead, Robinson flew privately to England and spoke at local churches while the other Anglican bishops convened.

The bishop's retirement will not heal tensions among Anglicans, which go beyond Robinson. Episcopalians solidified their support for same-sex relationships last year by authorizing bishops to bless same-sex unions and by consecrating a lesbian, Assistant Bishop Mary Glasspool of Los Angeles.

In his speech Saturday, Robinson thanked congregants for supporting him through the tumult over his election.

"New Hampshire is always the place I remain, simply, 'the bishop.' This is the one place on earth where I am not 'the gay bishop,'" Robinson said. "I believe that you elected me because you believed me to be the right person to lead you at this time. The world has sometimes questioned that, but I hope you never did."

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Whoa, Nelly!

Singer looks back at decade-long career – when the gays fell for her and the stories behind her biggest hits

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Like a bird is exactly how Nelly Furtado's career has unfurled in the 10 years since she dropped her debut, "Whoa, Nelly!" The Canadian chanteuse was on top of the world, scoring a Grammy for the album's breakthrough single, "I'm Like a Bird," before her follow-up, "Folklore," went, well, south.

But then she switched directions, tapping into Timbaland's boom-boom beats for 2006's "punk-hop" "Loose." Singles like "Promiscuous" and "Maneater" ate up the charts, and there she went—flying again. Her hits collection out Nov. 16, "The Best of Nelly Furtado," archives her decade-long run and includes three unreleased cuts, leading off with club single "Night is Young."

Furtado, 31, took us back, recalling the song she wrote on hotel paper as a chambermaid and how "Maneater" started a fire. But the singer, who was catching a break from recording to chat with us, also looked ahead to next year's upcoming studio album, "Lifestyle," a return to her "Whoa, Nelly!" roots.

Did you ever think you'd have a greatest hits album?

Actually, no, I didn't. In the beginning I didn't really know I'd still be making records 10 years later; I was kind of just trying it out. It was my hobby for a long time, and I made my hobby my job. I had planned to go back to university after "Whoa, Nelly!" – and then I never made it back! (Laughs)

But yeah, I'm surprised that 10 years have passed; it gives you a chance to reflect. I was inducted into Canada's Walk of Fame recently, so it was all around the 10-year anniversary of the album coming out. It was all very timely – and kind of cool. Really cool!

Congratulations!

Oh, thanks! For the first album or two I was wondering: Is this really my career? Am I good at this? Is this going to stick around? After doing it for 10 years, it finally feels like this is definitely a career.

So you're not going back to university?

It doesn't mean I won't. I still have all kinds of dreams. I'm definitely happy making music at the moment.

Which song from the greatest hits album has the best story behind it? Perhaps one you wrote on hotel paper while you were a maid?

I have a song on "Whoa, Nelly!" that was written on hotel chambermaid report paper and that song

is "Party," but it's not on greatest hits. On greatest hits, "Say It Right" is cool because it was really late at night that we wrote that song, like 4 in the morning, and we had just finished watching "Pink Floyd The Wall," and (we) were very tired but also inspired, and the song just kind of came. It was a magical moment.

"Maneater" was the same. When we first wrote that song the speaker caught fire because the beat was so loud and ambitious, and the energy was so intense. And we actually put the song away for a few weeks. We were scared of the song! It had some dark energy in it (laughs).

What do you think now when you hear "I'm Like a Bird"?

I never get sick of singing it, and I'm just happy that people played it on the radio. I'm proud of that song because it had a more sort of funky hip-hop-influenced verse and then a very pop-rock chorus. I'm glad it connected with people.

So many celebrities are making videos as part of the "It Gets Better" campaign, to help prevent youth suicides –

Oh, I haven't seen them. I did perform at the PFLAG event in L.A. I performed "Night is Young" acoustic and I did... I don't even remember right now! But it was a very positive night and a lot of people were speaking about (gay youth). I was proud to be part of that.

If you could dedicate one of your songs to gay youth, which would you choose?

Something from the beginning of my career, like the first CD – that's when I first noticed I had a strong gay following, when I used to play "Shit on the Radio" on my first club tour. I'd always see gay youth in the front row, embracing each other and getting emotional and crying when I would sing the song – because it's a song about individuality and expressing yourself and kind of breaking free from the pack and doing your own thing. It's about being true to yourself no matter what.

That song was your response to people who were pissed at you for going mainstream.

Yeah – it's hard. It's weird merging art and business; there are always fallouts.

Then you made a bigger leap into hip-hop with "Promiscuous" – did you catch more flack?

No, because hip-hop was always something that

See Nelly, page 21

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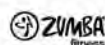


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Taylor Swift has her turn to 'Speak.' Plus: Norah Jones does duets album



Taylor Swift, 'Speak Now'

Taylor Swift can't sing unless she's studio-bound, but that never stopped Britney Spears from world domination. Swift cranks out the radio-hogging hits much like her salacious pop-equal – not to say they're one in the same (one's a sweetheart, the other a Sweet Tart), but both know how to sell songs. Lots are sold on "Speak Now," the crossover princess' third disc of dear-diary spouts on loving boys, hating boys... and everything else you do with them. Except *that*, of course – because, come on, Swift's a mainstream darling, flowering her tunes with fairytale fantasies ("Speak Now"), as-Peter Pan meditations ("Never Grow Up," a nostalgic slow-burner) and an overall Kool-Aid sweetness and wide-eyed wonder that's made Swift as charming as her insanely head-trapping music. Ditties, all 14 admirably written by her, are just as likable: "Enchanted," "Dear John," "The Story of Us" – sounds like a chick-flick marathon, doesn't it? Such is Swift's life-on-record, as she regrets lost love on "Back to December," which does so much with so little, and "Sparks Fly," one of the catchiest cuts that has her going gaga over a guy – again. But she's not a complete redux; she's bitchy on "Better than Revenge" and psuedo-goth on "Haunted," her voice pushing like never before on the latter. With "Speak Now," Swift's extending herself, maturing and experiment-

ing; even "Innocent," her alleged Kanye West "burn," is delivered with heart, sympathy and forgiveness. She doesn't want to grow up, but Swift has – right before our eyes. Like "Speak Now," it's a beautiful thing. *Grade: B+*



Norah Jones, '...Featuring'

Norah Jones is cooler than you think, because for every Herbie Hancock and Ray Charles on her 18-song duets collection, there's an Outkast, Foo Fighters and Q-Tip. And it's strange to think that Jones, someone assumed to be musically vanilla with her daydream-inviting voice and lazy-day lulling, musically mingles with such bold choices as rappers and rockers. That's not the Jones we came away with, but the one who evolved from her monster 2002 debut – stepping outside of smooth jazz-cabaret and into country and folk and atmospheric rock. Her range as a genre-busting artist is further demonstrated on "...Featuring," culling cameos, duets and collaborations recorded during her 2001-2010 career run. But even with guests rockin' her boat, the album could use a stronger wind – a problem that's plagued much of Jones' post-debut output.

Not that some of it isn't momentarily worth appreciating: The overdone "Baby It's Cold Outside" with Willie Nelson charms; Belle and Sebastian mesh perfectly, if predictably, with Jones on "Little Lou, Prophet Jack, Ugly John," and the heartsick "Dear John," with Ryan Adams, is raw and affecting. But between those, and a Dolly Parton duet on the fortunately peppy "Creepin' In," a bluegrass foot-stomper, it's more of the drive-by snoozers that wither into existence. And as for the hip-hop shift? Interesting on paper, but as cool as Mom wearing hooker clothes. *Grade: C+*

Also Out



Bryan Ferry, 'Olympia'

Someone hot like Kate Moss – the cover-girl framed on the legend's latest album – doesn't hurt, but former Roxy Music frontman

Bryan Ferry could do without supermodel swagger: His uniform art-rock is just as chic. The veteran's 13th solo outing, featuring the Scissor Sisters' mellow "Heartache by Numbers" and lots of lounge-made breathers, is mopey and sad. Ferry does it so well, particularly on heartbreaking standout "Song to the Siren," he takes you down with him.



Kings of Leon, 'Come Around Sundown'

For rock stars that thrived off hits from their breakthrough album, it's nuts that none of the songs on their fifth LP sound like radio bait. To hell with hooks, though; the Tennessee big-timers aren't desperate for more fame, even playing to their country roots on "Back Down South." Caleb Followill's sexy croon is still hanging around (whew!), but they flop arena rock for on-a-whim impulses. All in all, a better go than the one that made them famous.

Reach Chris Azzopardi at chris@pridesource.com.



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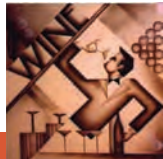
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It Takes a Village

Legendary group talks touring, hit songs and loyal gay following

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Not many bands can say people still get excited over their decades-old hit and arm-spell it, but Village People's "YMCA" is inked into the musical lexicon like a tattoo. The sextet, who stormed the scene in the '70s with their flamboyant style and boogie hits, have yet to mimic their disco-era high. But that hasn't stopped them. They, along with dance fave The Trampms, will turn Sound Board at Detroit's MotorCity Casino into "Disco Party 2010" at 8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 19.

Felipe Rose, "the Indian," spoke with BTL about the enduring power of "YMCA," the band's gay image, and lasting through three decades of Village People.

You've been a part of the band for over 30 years...

Oh god.

Don't remind you?

No, don't.

What does it feel like?

I'm not being corny, but it's a privilege and an honor. You would think that (after) one or two albums I would've moved on with (my) career, but this has become - for the better part of my adult life - a long job.

Did you ever want to do something different?

Well, I'm always doing different things. We just finished a video for the Native American Music Awards. And I'm speaking to you, and I think we're going to... where are we going? Michigan? (Laughs)

Yes, Michigan. When was the last time

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you were out here in Motown?

I can't remember. Probably - oh my god - a few years ago, I guess? After a while it all blurs together. There are only two guys in the group who can remember hotels and cities - and that's Alex, the soldier, and Eric, the biker.

What's it been like to be one of the mainstays in a band that's seen people come and go over the years?

David and Alex are with us, and Ray has been with us since (1980 feature film) "Can't Stop the Music," so it's not that many people. Jeff pretty much replaced Randy in 1980, so he's been with us for a while. And then Eric replaced our beloved Glenn (Hughes, who died in 2001), who in fact we were reminiscing about today. That was a difficult period for us, but Eric's been with us, and true to his professionalism he really fit well - and he's a brother.

What made you reminisce over Glenn?

We were just looking at some old pictures that were hung out in the office and Ray made a comment like, "Oh, man, Glenn sure loved to wear his leather outfit!"

Do you miss those days - the '70s?

Actually, those were a blur, because don't forget, we were putting out two albums a year - where

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today they do one a year and they try to pull out as many singles as they can. But it was constant, constant, constant, so things didn't really slow down until after the movie "Can't Stop the Music" – and that was because in the United States they didn't quite get it and the music was OK. The critics laid low, and they waited to get us.

The critics haven't always been kind to you.

No, no. But we just finished a tour of Australia and we did the "Can't Stop the Music" tour and the movie was huge there, so we actually put some of the songs in the tour and they loved it. I love Australia; they don't take anything serious – it's all about having a good time.

You think America takes things too seriously?

Oh, Jesus! You know, let's not even start with this. We're such a – I didn't even miss (watching) CNN in Australia. It was like I was in a bubble and only maybe peeked into, like, "The View" and I thought, "Oh, I'm not missing anything. Same old crap."

What do you think of the way music's evolved since the '70s? Are you up on the all current party bands?

Yeah, pretty much – and I think that Lady Gaga has changed the music industry a bit more, along with Pink and one of my favorite bands, Maroon 5. CD sales are back up again, which is pretty good.

Lady Gaga reminds me of Village People in that both of you are outrageous in your own way.

She said that in an interview in London – something about how she just loved us when she was little and she would look at the group in a theatrical sense, with the dressing up and the costumes and everything.

How does it feel when younger artists look up to you?

Oh, it's terrific.

Are you releasing any new music soon?

As a band? No. This is a new show, so

we're kind of taking that around the world right now, and no – I mean, not right now.

But maybe down the line?

Possibly! (Laughs)

Let's talk about your gay image: You know what I find funny is that if you guys came out now, that image wouldn't be as big of a deal as it was in the '70s. You know what I mean?

And sadly, when we're traveling and we do press conferences you would think they would come out with something complimentary, but they come right out and they say, "So you guys are homosexuals?" It's so rude to even open the door; it's backward and prehistoric, and we kind of look at them like, "Can we go on to the next question?"

If we had to go out there into the streets and be a rowdy band, we wouldn't be around today. We take our job seriously. We love what we do and pretty much we clock in, clock out and everybody has private lives. Professionally, we meet as a group and as business partners, but outside that everybody has their own family, their own partner and their own world – separately – which is what keeps us going together. Because if we were going at it 24/7, it would get old fast. Come on, you know that.

So being called a gay band bothers you?

No, actually, it's a compliment. I just don't like the way they do it. It's almost insulting in a way. Do gay people run around asking straight people, "Are you straight?" I mean, really, come on.

Why do you take it as a compliment?

I take it as a compliment because any group – or even Madonna, Lady Gaga, Britney – when you have a loyal gay following, you're in. You've got that something that they love, and we're proud to represent and we love it and it's no laughing matter for us. It's out of true respect that the first album (1977's "The Village People") was done as a tribute to the gay locations around the country: San Francisco, "the Village," Fire Island. But then, when things took off, the producers went pop with "Macho Man" and

then "YMCA" and then "Go West." But we have a history, and that's a good thing.

I don't want you to think that I'm in any way sitting back and complaining and bitching in this economy. We're lucky to work. Most acts can't right now tour the world, but the rest of it is really monotonous; it's a pain in the ass, and it's really horrible flying and traveling – the glamour is all gone. Really, the perk is when we're on stage. Because for 60, 75 minutes we're enjoying ourselves – and then it's over and back to the hotel to pack it up and go.

What can we expect from the show?

The show's a time capsule of the era, which if you've never seen the group live, it'll give you a sense of what we do and what we did back then – what made us so good in that respect.

Live, what do you find that the audience responds to the most?

Oh, what do you think?

Hmm. Just a hunch – "YMCA"?

If we don't do "YMCA" not only would they be disappointed, but they would probably flip us the bird. (Laughs) Seriously.

Do you ever get sick of performing that song?

Actually, no, because no two audiences are alike. And you have to feel lucky that you have songs that you've recorded that people love so much, which is what keeps you going.

Why do you think "YMCA" has endured after so many years?

I think that it's a good party song, and it gives people something to do – like, when they dance to it, they do the arm thing. It's an American staple and multi-generational.

When did the arm thing start?

That started on Dick Clark's show ("American Bandstand"). They did it, and we thought it was terrific. Then we stole it.

So people do it at the shows, I'm sure.

But then they're doing it backward, because they're looking at us!

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Continued from p. 15

I was inspired by. It was like a weapon I had in my back pocket that I hadn't whipped out yet. My first influences as a teenager were hip-hop and R&B – and I used to rap! (Laughs)

On a mainstream level, yeah, my image was definitely drastically different – and I see that now. At the time I didn't see, but now I look back and go, "Wow, no wonder people were so shocked!"

I did change a lot. I mean, I grew into a woman; I wrote some songs on "Whoa, Nelly!" when I was 17. You change a lot from that age to, like, 25. It's a nice synchronicity when you can go through such a personally meaningful transformation and actually capture it on record – and then have other people connect to it.

Where do you plan on taking your next studio album, "Lifestyle"?

I'm going back to the eclectic feel of "Whoa, Nelly!" So far tracks I've recorded encompass pop, hip-hop, dance, reggae and alternative-pop.

That's who I am and that's how I live my life, and that's sort of been the way I culturally live my life in terms of what I surround myself with – music or art or even people – so I think that's why I'm calling it "Lifestyle." I just want a collection of songs that people can connect with, like always, but at the same time I think image-wise I'm going to be different again (laughs). If anything, it'll be a throwback to who I was when I first came out.

Tell me about working with Elton John on a new version of "Crocodile Rock."

Yeah, he has a new production coming out – it's an animated movie called "Gnomeo and Juliet," and it's a cartoon for kids that comes out on Valentine's Day. So yeah, they approached me to do the closing song and it's "Crocodile Rock." And he's on it – like him and I are on the track together! It's so exciting.

So you didn't actually do studio time together?

No – we missed each other by, like, a day. But we have sung together before. Hey, here's a perfect example: Ten years ago, Elton and I sang "Legend" together.

We've come full circle.

Yeah! Because he was a fan of my first album and he used to talk about it all the time, and he's really good that way with new music. He's really on top of it.

The people you work with are all over the map: Timbaland, Josh Groban and James Morrison, for instance. And then Keith Urban shows up on the deluxe edition of "The Best of Nelly Furtado" for "In God's Hands."

I have many fantasies of who I want to be as a singer, so I was having a country fantasy with that song, and "In God's Hands" always felt like a country record to me.

The reason why I do so many darn duets is because I've always wanted to be in a band. I mean, I'm a solo artist, but I've always been jealous of people in bands because I think, "How fun would that be?"

How did you get the nickname Nelstar?

Nelstar was the first band I had. It was a trip-hop group – when I first moved to Toronto when I was 17, this producer and me had this trip-hop duo and we did moody urban trip-hop songs and I performed them around town. It's a name that's kind of stuck with me, so I decided to name my label Nelstar.

We have an artist right now named Dylan Murray – he's excellent, he's Canadian. Actually, he performed with me at the PFLAG event – oh, I know what we performed! A song from "Lifestyle": a duet called "Be Okay." It's a really, really pretty song. Another duet!

You made a remark to Genre magazine in 2005 that everyone is a little gay – remember that?

(Laughs) Oh yes! I was quoted and misquoted in many publications. It was pretty funny. That went really far. I was quoted as saying that everybody was gay, which is not really what I meant. I think sexuality is ... a very alive thing. It's very human. And I think we all embody the masculine and feminine – and so does the world. Right now we're entering into a feminine time and everybody is embracing their feminine energy, which is really nice.

Maybe you weren't totally off with that comment, though. Now it seems everyone is a little gay with all these celebrities jumping on the bi bandwagon.

I say everything first if you notice! Just go back: I say, do and wear everything first, if you really look at it. And that's a quote! (Laughs)

Always a step ahead?

But I'm *too* far ahead! I'm never on trend (laughs).

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A subversive and delightful 'Mary Poppins'

BY BRIDGETTE M. REDMAN

It may be Disney and it may be Cameron Mackintosh, but the stage musical "Mary Poppins" is so subtly political and deliciously mutinous, that one almost expects there to be Tea Party protesters waving signs outside.

Yes, it is still the P.L. Travers' Mary Poppins created in the 1930s, the magical nanny who comes to re-connect a dysfunctional family and set them aright. Yet the way to go aright is to grab Mary Poppins' iconic umbrella and fly in the face of convention, traditional values, and an overweening obsession with wealth and order.

What would Glen Beck have to say about the very pro-social responsibility nanny who finds more value and wisdom in the words of a homeless woman who spends her money on the birds than in the bankers who are pillars of society?

And surely James Dobson would disapprove of Miss Poppins' example of parenting with creativity, imagination and fun rather than tough love. Even when Mr. Banks' former nanny arrives on the scene, her insistence on discipline, order, physical punishment and absolute adherence to standards is put in the worse possible light and her treacle and brimstone preaching wins no one to her point of view.

Nor would those who push their students



"Mary Poppins" is now playing at East Lansing's Wharton Center, but will open next month at the Detroit Opera House.

down the Ivy League trail be thrilled with the portrayal of Bert and the unavoidable message that an honest trade and a carefree life is of greater value than prosperity and the white collar shackles that chain people's morals to the corporate good rather than the human good.

Perhaps the ultra-conservatives miss the message, because one would have to be absolutely curmudgeonly to dislike "Mary Poppins" with its flashy choreography, adorable children, a yip-yappy dog, highly contrasting

See *Mary Poppins*, page 24

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No stopping a gay wedding!

The Gem Theatre gives 'Plaid Tidings' actor Jared Gertner time off for his wedding

BY BRIDGETTE M. REDMAN

DETROIT – Jared Gertner has a lot of understanding people in his life.

He's getting married in Connecticut on Nov. 14 – four days after the show he's performing in, "Plaid Tidings," opens at the Gem Theater in Detroit. His fiancé is in New York, where the two of them share an apartment.

"The Gem has been so kind to me about letting me take time off – most regional theaters won't give you time off for almost anything," said Gertner. "They're giving me five days so I can go home, finish preparations, get married and then take two days with my fiancé before he goes back to New York and I come back to Detroit."

They won't see each other again until Thanksgiving when they'll both travel to Cleveland for a family dinner. His family is also pretty understanding – for they're all willing to travel to Connecticut for the wedding. That was the closest state where Gertner and his fiancé, Jeffrey Marshek, could marry legally.

"We are having a big honking Jewish wedding – a good old gay Jewish wedding," Gertner said. "We're having 200 plus people and we're getting married by this wonderful rabbi that we found. There will be a lot of family, a lot of friends, and a cocktail-style



Jared Gertner (right) will take five days off from The Gem Theatre's "Plaid Tidings" to marry his fiancé, Jeffrey Marshek. Photo: Courtesy of The Gem Theatre

wedding. It will be a big dance party."

They'll arrive on Saturday for their rehearsal dinner, get married on Sunday, and then go to Mystic, Connecticut for what they're calling a "mini-moon": two days together before Marshek returns to his writing and wine business work in New York and Gertner to his musical in Detroit.

It wasn't exactly what they had planned when they first booked the wedding last January – or when they got engaged in August 2009.

Gertner performed in "Plaid Tidings" during the summer at the Cape Village Playhouse in Massachusetts. Representatives from the Gem came to see the show.

Afterward they asked him if he'd be willing to come to Detroit for the holidays. He said he'd like to, but that he was getting married on Nov. 14 and he'd need time off.

"They said 'we'll get back to you,' and I figured that was the end of it," Gertner said. "They called my agent in September and said, 'We would like Jared to come do 'Tidings' at the Gem and we are prepared to give him as much time as he needs for his wedding. How much time does he need?' I am so grateful to them for being so understanding and accommodating. It's more rare than you think."

His role will be filled by an understudy who knew when he was hired that he'd have to learn Gertner's role – Sparky – very quickly.

"Over the years I've missed a lot of weddings, funerals, bar mitzvahs and anniversaries," Gertner said, acknowledging that his family has always understood lack of time off was part of being a professional actor. "I thought, I can't miss my own wedding – it's the one wedding I have to be present for."

"Plaid Tidings" opens in previews Nov. 10-11 (\$20) and then runs Wednesday-Sunday Nov. 12-Dec. 31 at The Gem Theatre, 333 Madison St., Detroit. \$27.50-\$32.50. 313-963-9800. www.gemtheatre.com

Play highlights coming out... after marriage

Talk-back follows performance of 'Cat on a Hot Tin Roof'

BY BRIDGETTE M. REDMAN

DETROIT – Bob Schimmel was a grandfather when he came out to his wife. They were driving home from a marathon in Traverse City when he told her that he needed to talk to her about something. It was an anxiety-filled moment he had rehearsed in his head for months.

"I told her I had to tell her something. She asked what it was and I said, 'I'm gay,'" Schimmel said. "And she said, 'Well, I knew that.' After a few moments of quiet she asked, 'Where do you want to stop and eat?' That's all there was to it."

The Matrix Theatre Company, as part of its presentation of "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof," knows that the issue of coming out after marriage is a tricky one – which is why they are tackling it head-on. After panel discussions about self-medicating with alcohol and the treatment of women in Tennessee Williams' plays, they're closing the run with an exploration of coming out after marriage on Nov. 13.

"There are a lot of stereotypes about the whole coming out process," said Matrix Executive Director Shaun Nethercott. "There is a lot of stereotypes about what it is to be a homosexual. This was a way to start opening up the conversation. There is not one single pathway through this experience. There's not one single way people come to understand who they are in this world."

One of the main story lines in "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof" is the relationship that the



son Britt had with his best friend Skipper, who recently committed suicide. His wife Maggie resented the relationship between them and tried to sabotage it.

Nethercott said the play perfectly explores issues that continue to be powerful today – making the play a strong choice for their heritage series which explores classic works.

"We do mostly original works, but we really want to experience the best in plays. Tennessee Williams is one of the great, great American playwrights," said Nethercott. "It was particularly interesting to us because 60 years later, we're still dealing with issues of

homophobia. People are having a difficult time coming out to themselves, to their families, and talking about this reality. These are issues that are still wreaking havoc in families' lives."

The talk-back will take place immediately after Saturday's performance. It features three gay men who came out after they were married and is moderated by Donald V. Calamia of Between the Lines and Encore Michigan. Nethercott said they looked for a diversity in generations and length of time since the person has come out. Schimmel is one of the three panelists.

Schimmel, who is now 80, said his life couldn't have been better – his wife and children were all immediately accepting of his coming out. He and his wife chose to stay together and did so until she died three years ago – after 50 years of marriage.

"We stayed together because we were very good friends," said Schimmel. "She loved my lover probably better than I did. She'd have him over for dinner every night and we'd go on trips together. It was a very nice relationship with all of us, and there was never a problem."

Matrix Theatre will host the discussion "Coming Out After Marriage" following the 3 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 13 performance of "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof" at the YMCA Boll Family Theatre, 1401 Broadway St., Detroit. Tickets to the performance are \$15 general admission and \$10 students and seniors 65-and-over with ID. For tickets or more information, call 313-967-0599.



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► **Mary Poppins**

Continued from p. 22

costumes and incredible vocal talent.

On opening night at the Wharton Center in East Lansing, Camille Mancuso, age 11, played Jane while Cade Canon Ball, age 9, was filling the role of her younger brother Michael. Both were incredibly talented in their demanding roles with a delightful physicality that was as expressive as their voices.

Ellen Harvey, the Holy Terror of a Nanny, Miss Andrew, had a voice that could shatter glass and she wielded it most effectively as a weapon. It was terrifying in its strength and her ability to pierce ear drums.

The true powerhouses of the show, unsurprisingly, are Caroline Sheen as Mary Poppins and Nicolas Dromard as Bert. They can almost make you forget Julie Andrews and Dick Van Dyke – for at least from curtain up to curtain down. They are phenomenal in movement, voice, dancing and singing. They overflow with charisma and treat the magical as if it were commonplace. Dromard has some amazing

REVIEW

‘Mary Poppins’

Wharton Center's Cobb Great Hall, Michigan State University, East Lansing. Tuesday-Sunday through Nov. 21. Tickets start as low as \$17.50. 1-800-942-7866. www.whartoncenter.com

Then at the Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway St., Detroit. Tuesday-Sunday, Dec. 16-Jan. 2, 2011. Tickets start at \$25. 313-872-1000. www.BroadwayinDetroit.com

dance numbers, and it was his bow that first brought an enthusiastic audience to its feet.

Another blue ribbon deserves to be pinned on Garrett Hawe as Neleus, the statue in the park who comes to life and dances with the children in a fantastical scene richly supported by the ensemble.

In nearly every way, the musical honors the movie and the original books, with several winks at fans of either. Most of the iconic scenes are present, though Mrs.

Banks is far more sympathetic, and even the most modern woman can relate to the struggles she has with parenting and finding meaning in her life. “Mary Poppins” also has its own nuances thrown in amid big budget theatricality. The stage magic is impressive, and the moments of flight are just plain fun – especially when Dromard literally tap dances on the ceiling. The fact that the audience can see the wires hoisting him into the air detracts not at all from the skill he shows in dancing sideways and then upside down.

So perhaps it is the flashiness that distracts die-hard capitalists from the spoken sentiments of there being “more important things than making money,” or allow them to accept the premise that unemployment and homelessness are preferable to supporting investment schemes where the only product is profit.

Whatever it is, “Mary Poppins” deserves its rendering as a family musical and not a children’s musical, for it bucks conventions and challenges its audience to think about its views on economics, class, poverty, honest work and parenting.

Happenings

For expanded listings, visit www.pridesource.com

OUTINGS

Thu, Nov. 11

Detroit Area Womyns Network Gathering 5 p.m. DAWN is a social group for professional women 30+. Join us to dine and socialize. DAWN, 27843 Orchard Lake Rd, Farmington Hills. 555-555-5555. detroitwomyn@yahoo.com http://dawn.web.officelive.com

Embracing Inclusion in Communities of Faith 7 p.m. A discussion of how faith-based communities confront the challenge of full LGBT inclusion, with performance by Sing Out Detroit. Free. Michigan Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion, 2930 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 313-870-1500. www.mroundtable.org

Meet ‘n Greet 7 p.m. Welcoming LGBT people and allies ages 18-33. A meeting with light snacks and dinner to follow. 20 Somethings, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. www.the20somethings.org

Under the Poppy Launch 7 p.m. A reading and signing by author Kathe Koja. Five15, 515 S. Washington, Royal Oak. 248-515-2551. www.five15.net

Fri, Nov. 12

Central United Methodist Church “Janis Ian” Part of the church’s bicentennial celebration. Tickets: \$25 adults, \$20 students and seniors. Central United Methodist Church, 23 E. Adams, Detroit. 8 p.m. Nov. 12. 734-753-9455. www.centralumchurch.com

Out & Greek National LGBT & Ally Fraternity & Sorority Leadership Conference 9 a.m. The third annual OUT & GREEK National Leadership Conference is the only conference of its kind for LGBT and ally fraternity and sorority leaders to share, network and learn strategies to create safer, more LGBT inclusive fraternity and sorority communities. Campus Pride, Bloomington. 704-277-6710. info@lambda10.org http://www.lambda10.org/outandgreek

Just In Time For Christmas 5 p.m. If you can use an extra \$80 for Christmas, read on. Healthy Relationships (HR) is a 5 week workshop program helping HIV + men who have sex with men develop problem solving & decision making skills around talking about HIV. The purpose of the workshops is AIDS Partnership Michigan, 2751 East Jefferson, Suite 301, Detroit. 313-446-9820. Cpeeples@aidspartnership.org

Womyn’s Film Night 7 p.m. Film: Kathy Griffin: Allegedly - Comedian Kathy Griffin, whose trade consists of stories about wacky encounters with celebrities, dishes the dirt in this no-holds-barred laughfest. The redhead spitfire spills the beans about what happened at Brooke Shields’ wedding. Other luminaries in Griffin’s comic crosshairs include actresses Gwyneth Paltrow, RenXXe Zellweger and Sandra Bullock, as well as Barbara Walters. No one is ever spared. (Standup Comedy, 2004, 86 minutes) Affirmations, 290 W. 9 Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. http://www.goaffirmations.org/

Sat, Nov. 13

We Are ALL Gods Children - A Service of Affirmation and Celebration 4 p.m. Come visit a community of faith that will embrace all that you are! Come experience the unconditional love of a caring God! All are welcome. Come as you are. Refreshments will be served. First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham, 1669 W. Maple Rd, Birmingham. 248-644-2040. contact@fpcbirmingham.org www.fpcbirmingham.org

Motor City Bears Bear Greet 7 p.m. Come on out and visit with the bears. Prior to our monthly meeting, we meet up to visit with members, friends and anyone that wants to stop by. Motor City Bears, 290 W 9 Mile Rd, Ferndale. officers@motorcitybears.com http://www.motorcitybears.com

Sun, Nov. 14

Cabaret Night 6:30 p.m. You’re in for a night of great entertainment and music provided by Jay Kaplan and Jeff Willets. Feel free to bring your own bottle of wine! Light refreshments will be served. Tickets are \$10 each and available on our website or at the door. 21 and above only please. Affirmations, 290 W Nine Mile, Ferndale. 248-398-GAYS. www.goaffirmations.org

Wed, Nov. 17

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

Ties Like Me Networking 4:30 p.m. For additional information, please check our website or join us on Facebook to get the latest information on our events. Ties Like Me LLC, 503 East Nine Mile Rd, Ferndale. 248-379-9527. EmailAddress www.tieslikeme.com

Caring Caregivers 5:30 p.m. A support group for anyone caring for someone with Alzheimers or Dementia. This group is for family, friends, partners and spouses. Everyone is welcome! A collaboration between Affirmations and Alzheimers Association Greater Michigan Chapter. Affirmations and Alzheimers Association Greater Michigan Chapter, 290 W. Nine Mile Rd, Ferndale. 248-398-1210. brother_Larry@yahoo.com goaffirmations.org

Women Loving Women Healthy Relationships Workshop Series 7 p.m. Healthy relationship workshop series for women loving women Womens Center of Greater Lansing, 1712 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 517-372-9163. womenscentergl@yahoo.com Websit

Thu, Nov. 18

Gay American Smoke Out To counter high prevalence rates of tobacco use among the LGBT community, awareness and culturally relevant anti-smoking messages and intervention services must be initiated. The Gay American Smoke Out is an easy, low-cost project to adopt. Billy DeFrank Lesbian and Gay Community Center. 206-938-8828. info@gaysmokeout.net http://www.gaysmokeout.net/index.html

Perceptions Annual Thanksgiving Potluck and Food Drive 7 p.m. Collecting food and personal hygiene items for the BASIS HIV/AIDS Care food pantry. All are welcome. Perceptions, 123 N Michigan Ave, Saginaw. 989-891-1429. info@perceptionssv.org www.perceptionssv.org

Fri, Nov. 19

Womyn’s Film Night 7 p.m. Film: Hide and Seek - HIDE AND SEEK is a daring exploration into wild, uncharted territory - lesbian adolescence in the 1960’s. HIDE AND SEEK is for every woman who’s been to a slumber party and every man who wonders what went on at one. (Drama, 1996, 57 minutes) Affirmations, 290 W. 9 Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org/

Sat, Nov. 20

Standing on the Side of Love 8:30 a.m. An event for immigration reform and LGBT justice fighting oppression. Registration: \$40, or \$20 for students and those on a low income. Unitarian Universalists, 23925 Northwestern Highway, Southfield. www.ujustice.org

Hepatitis A and B Vaccinations 11 a.m.

In partnership with ACCESS. Free, with HIV testing also available. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org

A2’s Got Talent 7 p.m. A talent show to benefit Together We Can. Begins with an AA Open Talk. \$5 suggested donation. Doors open at 6 pm. Together We Can, 306 N. Division, Ann Arbor. twc@twcdetroit.com twcdetroit.com

Corner Brewery Tret Fure The artist’s CD release tour. Tickets: \$15 in advance, \$18 at the door. Corner Brewery, 720 Norris Street, Ypsilanti. 8 p.m. Nov. 20. www.tomboygirl.com

MUSIC & MORE

BENEFITS/SOCIAL EVENTS

American Cancer Society, Relay For Life-DeARBorn “Informational Open House” Come join the fun!! Open to the public. Bring a friend, family or co-worker and find out how you can become a part of the fight against cancer! Ford Community Center-Club Room, 15801 Michigan Ave., Dearborn. 6 p.m. Nov. 16. 18002272345. www.relayforlife.org/dearborn

Overture Society of the Southern Great Lakes Symphony “Symphony in Fashion XXXV” A luncheon and fashion show. Tickets: \$35. Grecian Center, 16300 Dix-Toledo Road, Southgate. 11 a.m. Nov. 13. 313-382-0408. www.downriverarts.org

CLASSICAL

Flint Symphony Orchestra “From the Eternal City” Performing works by Berlioz, Corigliano, Counod and Ibert. Tickets: \$8-55. The Whiting, 1241 E. Kearsley, Flint. 8 p.m. Nov. 13. 810-238-1350. www.thefim.org

Kalamazoo Bach Festival “Vienna Boys Choir” A performance by the renowned child musicians. Tickets: \$25 adults, \$8 students. First United Methodist Church, 212 S. Park, Kalamazoo. 7:30 p.m. Nov. 18. 269-337-7407. www.kalamazoobachfestival.org

MSU College of Music “MSU Symphony Orchestra Concert” Performing works by Schumann, Brahms and Dvorak. Tickets:

See Music, page 26

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'Bees' a-buzz at the Detroit Rep Theatre

BY JOHN QUINN

The Detroit Repertory Theatre opens its 53rd season with the world premiere of Elena Hartwell's "A Strange Disappearance of Bees," an engaging tale about the complexities of romance. For good measure, there are a whole lot of factoids about apiculture ("bee management" to the uninitiated). If science had been presented in college with the sweet dab of honey this play supplies, I'd have been a doctor instead of a critic.

While Lissa (Kelly Komlen) is an orphan, she had the good fortune to have a family of sorts in the persons of Robert Cashman and "Rud" the Beekeeper. Cashman has recently passed on, leaving his rural bakery to Lissa. No shrinking violet, Lissa has been carrying on a three-year affair with local farmer Callum (Stephen Blackwell) who, unfortunately, is already married. The bucolic bliss is interrupted by the arrival of tech tycoon Robert (Scott

REVIEW

'A Strange Disappearance of Bees'

Detroit Repertory Theatre, 13103 Woodrow Wilson St., Detroit. Thursday-Sunday through Dec. 26, plus New Year's Eve. \$17-\$20; \$70 New Year's Eve. 313-868-1347.
www.detroitreptheatre.com



Stephen Blackwell, Kelly Komlen and Scott V. Norman in "A Strange Disappearance of Bees" by Elena Hartwell at the Detroit Repertory Theatre. Photo: Bruce Millan

V. Norman), who is seeking the father he never knew. He's too late – Cashman was his father. An uneasy triangle soon develops.

Through a series of honey-colored flashbacks, we meet the younger Cashman and Rud, lovers for some 50 years. We find an enduring trust and loyalty that carried through – and beyond – death. Though Cashman is gone, his personality remains in those he loved.

Playwright Elena Hartwell shows a firm understanding of the human condition, which shows in her compelling drama. Her characters are real because their emotional interplay rings so true.

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

'Topdog': Eavesdropping on battered souls

BY MARTIN F. KOHN

In "Topdog/Underdog" the classic street-corner con game three-card monte stands as a metaphor for the game of life; its characters, a pair of African-American brothers, are the losers and, as in the best of hustles, they never realize that they're the marks.

The two battered souls live together in a shabby room that would be called a cold-water flat if it had running water (the bathroom is down the hall). The odds have been stacked against them since the day they were born: One is named Lincoln, the other Booth, their father's idea of a joke. Simultaneously profound and profane, Suzan-Lori Parks' Pulitzer Prize-winning 2001 play abounds with ironies.

The one thing Lincoln excels at – dealing three-card monte – he refuses to do. Instead, he works at an arcade dressed as

REVIEW

'Topdog/Underdog'

Blackbird Theatre, 325 Braun Ct., Ann Arbor. Thursday-Sunday through Nov. 20. \$15-\$25. 734-332-3848.
www.blackbirdtheatre.org



Ann Arbor's Blackbird Theatre presents "Topdog/Underdog" through Nov. 20. Photo: Barton Bund

Abraham Lincoln sitting in a chair while customers "shoot" him with a cap gun. Working for little pay, playing Lincoln enslaves him. And he's far from honest.

Booth, a schemer and dreamer with little understanding of the way things really are, wants to replace Lincoln as a three-card monte master. He has an on-again, off-again girlfriend (mostly off) named Grace; grace is one thing his life is devoid of.

Add to this the tempo of Parks' dialogue, rapid-fire one moment, menacingly easygoing the next, and it's a lot to make

credible. Director Lynch Travis and his two actors, Ruell Black (Booth) and Brian Marable (Lincoln), mine the tension and, yes, the humor, well.

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

A heartfelt ride at Farmers Alley Theatre

BY JUDITH COOKIS RUBENS

At its core, "Driving Miss Daisy" speaks to the power of friendship. How, given enough time and patience, two people of different backgrounds can see past the rough exteriors and let one another in.

The play follows the 25-year relationship between Daisy Werthan (Peg Small), a wealthy Jewish widow, and Hoke Coleburn (Rico Bruce Wade), the African-American chauffeur hired to drive her around. Daisy's son, Boolie (Adam Weiner), hires Hoke against his aging mother's wishes after she wrecks yet another car. For Daisy, a proud, retired schoolteacher, it's a blow to her independence and a worry that she's putting on airs by having a driver. And while she adamantly insists she's not prejudiced, she protests too much.

Such starts their unlikely pairing,

REVIEW

'Driving Miss Daisy'

Farmers Alley Theatre, 221 Farmers Alley, Kalamazoo. Thursday-Sunday through Nov. 21. \$23-\$25. 269-343-2727.
www.farmersalleytheatre.com



Peg Small and Rico Bruce Wade star in "Driving Miss Daisy." Photo: Farmers Alley Theatre

which melts over time from a frosty first encounter to a tender, hopeful resolution.

On previous viewings, it's been tempting to charge Alfred Uhry's 1988 Pulitzer Prize-winning play with being too sentimental, or for under-developing the social tensions of the time. Through a series of vignettes set in Atlanta between 1948-1973, the audience watches racial and religious prejudices and the Civil Rights movement shape this trio of characters in the South.

But this Farmers Alley production, di-

rected by Art Nemitz, highlights the play's central message: Daisy and Hoke are more alike than different. Both are equally proud and feisty; they both have felt the pain of intolerance – Daisy, for her religion and Hoke, for his race.

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

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Happenings

► Music

Continued from p. 24

\$10 adults, \$8 seniors, free for students.
St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 955 Alton
Road, East Lansing. 8 p.m. Nov. 13. 517-
353-5340. www.music.msu.edu

CONCERTS

Chamber Music Society of Detroit "The
Pacifica Quartet" With guest artist John
Bruce Yeh. Tickets: \$25-75. Seligman
Performing Arts Center, 22305 W. 13 Mile
Road, Beverly Hills. 7 p.m. Nov. 13. 248-
855-6070. www.comehearcmtd.org

Everybody Reads "Carrie Newcomer" A
concert by the Grammy Award-winning
singer/songwriter. Everybody Reads
Bookstore, 2019 E. Michigan Ave.,
Lansing. 11 a.m. Nov. 19. 517-346-9900.
www.becauseeverybodyreads.com

**Greater Lansing Gay Men's Chorus and
The Lansing Community College Concert
Choir, and Sistrum Lansing Women's
Chorus** "I Believe Holiday Concert"
Tickets \$15 online, \$20 at the door. \$2
of each ticket goes to scholarship fund.
Dart Auditorium, LCC Campus, Lansing.
8 p.m. Dec. 3, 8 p.m. Dec. 4. http://www.
sistrum.org

Kerrytown Concert House "Christian
Howes Quartet" A jazz concert; part of the
Kerrytown Club Series. Tickets: \$10-30.
Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth
Ave., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Nov. 13. 734-769-
2999. www.kerrytownconcerthouse.com

Kerrytown Concert House "All About
the Trio" Jazz with the Ellen Rowe Trio.
Tickets: \$5-25. Kerrytown Concert
House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor.
2 p.m. Nov. 14. 734-769-2999. www.
kerrytownconcerthouse.com

Kerrytown Concert House "David Sharp
and the Secret Seven" Part 1: Journey to
Africa. Tickets: \$5-25. Kerrytown Concert
House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor.
8 p.m. Nov. 19. 734-769-2999. www.
kerrytownconcerthouse.com

Lager House "Turbo Fruits" With special
guest Pujol. P.J.'s Lager House, 1254
Michigan Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. Nov. 16.
www.pjslagerhouse.com

Live Nation "The Rockets" With special
guests Salem Witchcraft. Tickets: \$10. The
Fillmore, 2115 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 8
p.m. Nov. 27. www.livenation.com

Motor City Casino "Disco Party 2010"
Featuring the Village People and The
Trammps. Tickets: \$32-35. Sound Board,
2901 Grand River Avenue, Detroit. 7 p.m.
Nov. 19. www.motorcitycasino.com

MSU College of Music "Musique 21"
A free concert with music by Bates and
Ruggiero. Music Building Auditorium,
Michigan State University, East Lansing.
7:30 p.m. Nov. 18. 517-353-5340. www.
music.msu.edu

Olympia Entertainment "John
Mellencamp" The No Better Than This
Tour. Tickets: \$42.50-125. Fox Theatre,
2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 6:45 p.m.
Nov. 19. www.ticketmaster.com

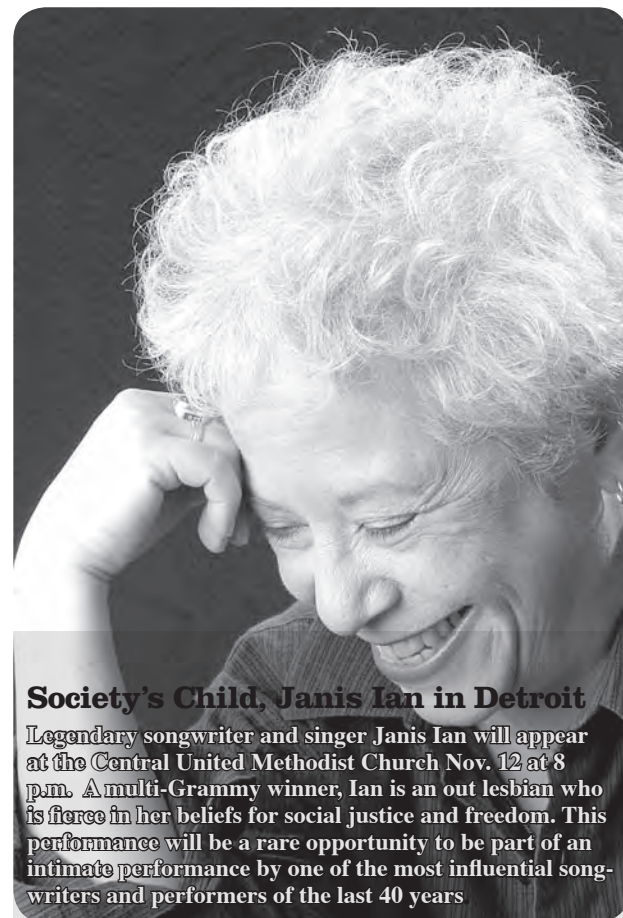
Olympia Entertainment "Experience
Hendrix Tour" The music of Jimi Hendrix,
performed by an all-star lineup. Tickets:
\$25-115. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward
Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. Nov. 18. www.
ticketmaster.com

Olympia Entertainment "Celtic Thunder"
Tickets: \$37.50-57.50. Fox Theatre, 2211
Woodward Ave., Detroit. 3 p.m. Nov. 1,
7:30 p.m. Dec. 2. www.ticketmaster.com

Sky Production "Wednesday Night
Concert & Jam ft. Sky Covington" Harbor
House, 440 Clinton St., Detroit. Sep. 29 -
Dec. 29. 313 424 3458. skycovington.com

University Musical Society "Stew &
The Negro Problem" A performance by
the blues-rock band. Tickets start at \$45.
Former Leopold Brothers, 523 S. Main,
Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Nov. 18, 8 p.m. Nov. 19.
www.ums.org

University of Michigan Museum of Art
"Robert Hurst" Part of the monthly jazz
series. Held in the forum. Free. University
of Michigan Museum of Art, 525 S. State,
Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Nov. 17. 734-763-
UMMA. www.umma.umich.edu



Society's Child, Janis Ian in Detroit

Legendary songwriter and singer Janis Ian will appear
at the Central United Methodist Church Nov. 12 at 8
p.m. A multi-Grammy winner, Ian is an out lesbian who
is fierce in her beliefs for social justice and freedom. This
performance will be a rare opportunity to be part of an
intimate performance by one of the most influential song-
writers and performers of the last 40 years

Ian first blasted onto the scene as a teenager in the early
1960s with hits "Society's Child" and "At Seventeen." Her
songs have always spoken to the oppressed and lonely, giv-
ing voice to her strength and hope for a better world. Rolling
Stone wrote in 1997 of Ian, "Before Ellen came out and
anyone who wasn't a Bible scholar knew who Lilith was...
before Jewel even...there was Janis Ian."

Central United is at 23 E. Adams, next to Comerica Park.
Concert tickets are \$25. Call 313-965-5422 or go to www.
centralumchurch.com. Equality Michigan is hosting a private
reception with Ian Nov. 11 at the same location. Recep-
tion tickets are \$100 and available at the same number and
website as above.

Wharton Center "ABBA Mania" A
performance by the premiere ABBA cover
band. Tickets: \$32-42. Wharton Center,
Michigan State University, East Lansing.
3 p.m. Nov. 28. 517-353-1982. www.
whartoncenter.com

DANCE

Grand Rapids Ballet Company "The
Nutcracker" A performance of the holiday
favorite. Tickets: \$25-72. Detroit Opera
House, 1526 Broadway, Detroit. Nov. 26 -
Nov. 28. www.motopera.org

**MoreDances Contemporary Dance
Company** "December Dances" Janet
Clayton-Reid, Artistic Director. Tickets \$14
for Students and Seniors, \$16 for Adults.
Southfield Parks & Recreation Auditorium,
26000 Evergreen, Southfield. 8 p.m. Dec.
11. 586-899-2629. http://moredances.org

**Music Hall Center for the Performing
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Warsaw" Mazowsze is one of the world's
most famous ballet groups specializing
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Tickets are \$30 to \$50. Music Hall Center
for the Performing Arts, 350 Madison,
Detroit. 3 p.m. Dec. 4, 8 p.m. Dec. 4. 313-
887-8500. http://www.musichall.org

FESTIVALS

Fair Food Matters "Fair Food Food Fair"
An evening of food-related fun, silent
auction, live music and more. Tickets: \$35
in advance, \$40 at the door. Kalamazoo
Institute of Arts, 314 S. Park, Kalamazoo.
6 p.m. Nov. 20. 269-492-1270. www.
fairfoodmatters.org

Women in the Arts "Women in the Arts
Festival" The 25th anniversary event,

with a series of performances, art and
workshops. Tickets: \$25 all-inclusive, \$15
per night. Edgewood United Church, 469
N. Hagadorn, East Lansing. 5:30 p.m. Nov.
12, 11 a.m. Nov. 13. www.witafestival.com

**Ypsilanti Area Convention and Visitors
Bureau** "Saline Craft Show" With works
from over 200 crafters. Admission: \$3.
Saline Middle School, 7190 N. Maple
Road, Saline. 8 a.m. Nov. 13. 734-429-
5922. www.salineshow.com

FILM & VIDEO

Detroit Film Theater "Enamorada"
Directed by Emilio Fernandez, and
starring the incomparable Maria Felix
and luminous cinematography by Gabriel
Figueroa, Enamorada is one of the most
memorable romances produced in the
golden age of Mexican cinema during the
1930s and 40s. Tickets \$6.50 members,
\$7.50 non-members. Detroit Film Theater,
5200 Woodward Ave, Detroit. 8 p.m. Nov.
20. 313-833-7900.

University Musical Society "Passing
Strange" A free screening of the film,
which features the music of Stew & The
Negro Problem. University of Michigan
Museum of Art, 525 S. State, Ann Arbor.
5:30 p.m. Nov. 14. www.umma.umich.edu

OTHER

**Michigan Global Entrepreneurship
Week** "Michigan Emerging" A conference
to connect and illuminate innovators and
entrepreneurs in Michigan. Tickets: \$20 in
advance, \$40 at the door. Ford Community
and Performing Arts Center, 15801 Michigan
Ave., Dearborn. 9 a.m. Nov. 17. 248-275-
1337. www.michiganemerging.com

Mystery School of the Temple Arts
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"A workshop to learn techniques for deeper connections with yourself and others, improving your health, intimacy and capacity for loving relationships. Detroit Flyhouse, 3434 Russell, Detroit. 5 p.m. Nov. 21. 313-269-6719. www.mysteryschoolofthetemplearts.com

UM Women's Studies "Drop The Knife: A Memoir in Song" Activist and singer/songwriter Jeanne Mackey. Free admission, donations benefit Peace Neighborhood Center's Performance Arts Academy. Keene Theatre, University of Michigan's Residential College, 701 E. University St., Ann Arbor. 2 p.m. Nov. 21. <http://www-personal.umich.edu/~mackey/>

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

SHOWS

AEG Live "Norm MacDonald" A performance by the actor and stand-up comedian. Tickets: \$29.50 in advance, \$35 day of show. Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W. Fourth Street, Royal Oak. 7 p.m. Nov. 20. 248-399-2980. www.royaloakmusictheatre.com

Alzheimer's Association and Affirmations "Caring Caregiver" A support group for anyone who is caring for someone with Alzheimer's or dementia. This group is open to family, friends, spouses and partners. Everyone is welcome! Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Rd., Ferndale. Nov. 17 - April 27. 248-398-7105. goaffirmations.org

MotorCity Casino "George Wallace" A performance by the stand-up comedian. Tickets: \$35-\$55. Sound Board Theater, 2901 Grand River Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. Nov. 24. www.motorcitycasino.com

The Whitney "Kimberly Fairchild LIVE @ The Whitney" Sexy, Sassy Detroit Diva entertains a diverse crowd with eclectic song selections in one of Detroit's most beloved historical landmarks. Beautiful, warm and inviting atmosphere. Reservations and formal dress not required. The Ghost Bar, 4421 Woodward Avenue, Detroit. Oct. 15 - Jan. 28. (313)832-5700. kimberlyfairchild.com

THEATER

BENEFITS AND FUNDRAISERS

Riverwalk Saturday Night A night of old tunes, new tunes, Classical music, and poetry. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. 8 p.m. Nov. 13. 517-482-5700. www.riverwalktheatre.com

CIVIC/COMMUNITY THEATER

Escanaba in Love Dinner 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. Through Nov. 20. 616-897-8545. www.lowellartsCouncil.org

Leading Ladies \$20. The Crowell, 129 E. Maumee St., Adrian. Nov. 12 - 14. 517-264-SHOW. www.crowell.org

Palmer Park \$14-\$26. The Park Players at North Rosedale Park Community House, 18445 Scarsdale, Detroit. Nov. 12 - 21. 313-835-1103. <http://parkplayers.wordpress.com>

Proposals \$15. Spotlight Players at The Village Theatre at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Rd., Canton. Nov. 12 - 21. 734-394-5300. www.spotlightplayersml.org

Silver Bells in the City Free. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. 6 p.m. Nov. 19. 517-482-5700. www.riverwalktheatre.com

Some Enchanted Music, a Tribute to Rodgers and Hammerstein \$5. The Kalamazoo Civic Senior Class Reader Theatre at Carver Center Studio, 426 S.

Park St., Kalamazoo. Nov. 12 - 20. 269-343-1313. www.kazooocivic.com

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

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee \$18. The Players Guild of Dearborn, 21730 Madison St., Dearborn. Nov. 12 - Dec. 5. 313-561-8587. www.playersguildofdearborn.org

The Foreigner \$18. MorrisCo Art Theatre at The Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron St., Ypsilanti. Nov. 11 - 13. 734-996-2549

White Christmas \$12 adult. Downriver Youth Performing Arts Center at Trenton Village Theatre, 2447 W. Jefferson, Trenton. Nov. 12 - Nov. 20. 734-362-8153. www.dypac.com

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY THEATER

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

As You Like It \$15. Michigan State University Department of Theatre at Pasant Theatre, 150 Wharton Center, East Lansing. Nov. 16 - 21. 517-353-1982. www.whartoncenter.com

Gibson Fleck \$24. The University of Michigan Department of Musical Theatre at The Arthur Miller Theatre, 1226 Murfin Ave., Ann Arbor. Nov. 18 - 21. 734-764-2538. www.music.umich.edu/performances

La Finta Giardiniera \$20. MSU Opera Theatre at Fairchild Theatre, 150 Auditorium, East Lansing. Nov. 19 - 21. 517-432-2000. www.whartoncenter.com

My One and Only \$20. Western Michigan University at Shaw Theatre at the Gilmore Theatre Complex, 1903 W Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo. Nov. 11 - 21. 269-387-6222. www.wmutheatre.com

The Elixir of Love \$18-\$24. The University of Michigan University Opera Theatre at The Power Center, 121 N. Fletcher, Ann Arbor. Nov. 11 - 14. 734-764-2538. www.music.umich.edu

PROFESSIONAL THEATER

25 Questions for a Jewish Mother \$38-\$41. The Jewish Ensemble Theatre Company at David Handleman Hall at the Jewish Community Center, 6600 W Maple Rd., West Bloomfield. Nov. 13 - 14. 248-788-2900. www.jetttheatre.org

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

An Evening With Groucho \$37-\$52. Macomb Center for the Performing Arts, 44757 Garfield Rd., Clinton Township. 3 p.m. Nov. 14. 586-286-2222. www.macombcenter.com

Bag Lady \$15. Dancing Shoes Productions at Boll Family YMCA Theatre, 1401 Broadway St., Detroit. 8 p.m. Nov. 20. 313-570-2605.

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

Cabaret \$25. UDM Theater Company & Marygrove College Music and Dance at Marygrove College Theatre, 8425 W. McNichols Rd., Detroit. Nov. 12 - 21. 313-993-3270. <http://theatre.udmercy.edu>

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

Christmas on Mars \$10-\$20. Who Wants Cake? at The Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Nov. 19 - Dec. 13. 248-545-5545. www.who-wants-cake-theatre.com

Cloud Tectonics \$15. The New Theatre Project at Pot & Box, 220 Felch St., Ann Arbor. Through Nov. 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.

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

Every Christmas Story Ever Told And Then Some \$18 show only; \$30 for dinner and show. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. for dinner. Gourmet buffet-style dinner; reservations required. AP Theatrical Productions at Baker Lofts, 171 E. 24th St., Holland. Nov. 19 - Dec. 4. 616-772-5697. www.aptheatrical.com

Evita \$20. What's That Smell? Productions at The Box Theatre, 51 N. Walnut St., Mount Clemens. Nov. 12 - Dec. 5. 586-954-2311.

Forever Plaid: Plaid Tidings Previews Nov. 10-11 (\$20), \$27.50 - \$32.50. Gem Theatre, 333 Madison St., Detroit. Nov. 10 - Dec. 31. 313-963-9800. www.gemtheatre.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

Greater Tuna Previews Nov. 11-14 & 18 (\$15), \$18-\$24. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam Rd., Williamston. Nov. 11 - Dec. 19. 517-655-7469. www.williamstontheatre.org

Guys On Ice Previews Nov. 18-19 (\$20), \$28-\$30; \$75 New Year's Eve. Tipping Point Theatre, 361 E. Cady St., Northville. Nov. 18 - Jan. 15. 248-347-0003. www.tippingpointtheatre.com

La Boheme \$29-\$121. Michigan Opera Theatre at Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway St., Detroit. Nov. 13 - 21. 313-237-SING. www.MichiganOpera.org

Mary Poppins Tickets start as low as \$17.50. Wharton Center, Cobb Great Hall, Michigan State University, East Lansing. Through Nov. 21. 1-800-942-7866. www.MaryPoppins.com

Monty Python's Spamalot \$45-\$50. Macomb Center for the Performing Arts, 44757 Garfield Rd., Clinton Township. Nov. 13. 586-286-2222. www.macombcenter.com

My First Time An Off the Press staged reading. \$5. Flint Youth Theatre, 1220 E. Kearsley St., Flint. 6 p.m. Nov. 14. 810-237-1530. www.flintyouththeatre.org

Richard III \$25-\$30. Hilberry Theatre, 4743 Cass Ave., Detroit. Nov. 19 - Feb. 25. 313-577-2972. www.hilberry.com

Rock of Ages \$29-\$79. Broadway In Detroit, Fisher Theatre, 3011 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit. Through Nov. 21. 313-872-1000. www.broadwayindetroit.com

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

t&a \$5. Crawlspace Theatre Productions at Farmers Alley Theatre, 221 Farmers Alley, Kalamazoo. Nov. 19 - 20. 269-599-7390. www.crawlspace-theatre.com

The Current \$18. Magenta Giraffe Theatre Company at 1515 Broadway, 1515 Broadway St., Detroit. Nov. 12 - Dec. 4. 313-408-7269. www.magentagiraffe.org

The Drowsy Chaperone Previews Nov. 11-14 & 18 (\$10-\$37), \$30-\$46. Performance Network Theatre, 120 E. Huron St., Ann Arbor. Nov. 11 - Dec. 26. 734-663-0681. www.performance-network.org

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

Topdog/Underdog \$15-\$25. The Blackbird Theatre, 325 Braun Ct., Ann

Arbor. Through Nov. 20. 734-332-3848. www.blackbirdtheatre.org

Two's Company, Four's a Blizzard Dinner theater performances Nov. 27 & Dec. 11 (\$36; buffet begins at 6:30). \$19. Van Buren Street Theatre, 701 N. Van Buren St., Bay City. Nov. 12 - Dec. 11. 989-893-9399. www.vanburenstreettheatre.com

Wednesdays at Go Comedy! \$5-\$7 per production. Go Comedy! Improv Theater, 261 E. Nine Mile Rd., Ferndale. 248-327-0575. www.gocomedy.net

ART 'N' AROUND

Charles H. Wright Museum "Portraits of Life and Landscapes" The Art of Frank Kelley Jr. Opening reception held 6-9 p.m. Aug. 27. Charles H. Wright Museum, 315 E. Warren Ave., Detroit. Aug. 27 - Dec. 12. 313-494-5800. www.charleshwrightmuseum.org

Detroit Institute of Arts "An Intuitive Eye: Andre Kertesz Photographs, 1914-1969" This exhibition celebrates the photographic achievements of Andre Kertesz (1894-1985), whose groundbreaking work achieved a delicate balance between technical perfection and lyrical beauty. Detroit Institute of Arts, 5200 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Nov. 24 - April 10. 313-833-7900. <http://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

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. Opening reception held 6-9 p.m. Oct. 22. The Gallery Project, 215 S. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. Oct. 20 - Nov. 28. 734-997-7012. www.thegalleryproject.com

Grand Rapids Art Museum "Diana, A Celebration" An exhibit with personal objects of Princess Diana, including dresses, home movies and more. Tickets: \$20 adults, \$18 seniors and college students, \$15 youth. Grand Rapids Art Museum, 101 Monroe Center, Grand Rapids. Nov. 9 - Feb. 16. www.artmuseumgr.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 "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

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. Opening reception held 1-4 p.m. Oct. 23. 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 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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Rear View

DEAR JODY



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Angry all the time

Q. I have been dating this guy "Steve" for eight months, and we were getting along pretty well. Our sex life is incredible. We have everything going for us. Out of bed, we dig each other and love to go dancing, to the movies, out to eat, and so many other things we enjoy together.

I really like Steve's parents and I know that they like me too. (Steve hasn't met my parents, but that has nothing to do with him or our relationship, just that my parents aren't accepting of me being gay.)

The problem is that Steve thinks I have an "anger issue." That's how he puts it. I don't think that I do. He says that if I don't do something about "my anger," our "future is limited." Get this: He said that he wouldn't give up our sex life, but would give up being out in public with me or moving in together as we had planned to do when both our leases were up next February.

Of course, when he told me that, I really got mad. Like, he wants me for his sex toy now and then, but will not go out with me or live with me?

Steve thinks that I should go to counseling or anger classes. I think maybe he shouldn't make me so angry by saying stuff, like, "He won't live with me next year, and he only wants me for sex" – not that I don't enjoy the sex, I do. But Steve just doesn't get it that he makes me mad.

Jody, it's not that I don't get angry – hell, everyone gets angry; there's lots to be angry about in this world. So what am I supposed to do, pretend like things are all wonderful and OK?

Pissed

A. I think there is a lot here that you are not telling me – such as, how you handle the anger that you are feeling. You've said nothing about that, and I would guess that is what Steve is most upset about – though being around a constantly angry person is extremely wearing.

What do you do with your anger?

Do you yell and/or become verbally abusive toward Steve or others?

Do you become physically violent toward inanimate objects? Punch things? Kick doors? Or do you take out your anger physically toward other living things, like animals – or maybe Steve? My guess is that you are both verbally abusive as well as physically acting out your anger.

It's pretty telling when Steve says that he doesn't want to be out in public with you. I'm afraid I think that you are the one who is not "getting it."

Have you asked others what they have observed, behaviorally, regarding your anger? Though, I'm not sure how truthfully they would be, especially if they have ever felt victimized by your anger. But somehow, somewhere, I have to believe that you have heard from other sources that your anger is over-the-top and played out inappropriately.

If you accept that you do have anger issues, I recommend that you get to the bottom of your anger. (Yes, everyone gets angry, but most of us wouldn't be described as an "angry person.")

Basically, you have two aspects to your anger that you need to deal with: Why are you so angry, so often? And secondly, learn how you can deal with your anger in a healthy way, rather than a toxic way that interferes with your relationships and your life in general.

I'm back agreeing with Steve again. You need counseling. There are also anger management classes that could benefit you. If you take action now, you'll someday be glad you did, instead of living a life of self-destruction due to your anger.

We all get angry, for sure; it's even healthy, at times, to be angry. However, anger that's out of control rules a person's life and relationships. Take a five-minute anger test by going to Facebook/Dear Jody Valley.

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

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

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Have fun searching, and good luck!

Find The Fake Ad Contest



Think carefully, Aries!

The Sun in Scorpio in hard aspect to Pluto in Capricorn makes problems seem more horrible and desperate than they really are. Mercury in Sagittarius offers proportion; discussing your troubles with friends will help.

ARIES (March 20 – April 19): Take any challenge as an intellectual problem that can be solved. Letting your ego get in the way is sure to get you into big trouble. Especially where your reputation and ambitions are concerned, think carefully before responding.

TAURUS (April 20 – May 20): Conflicts with your partner are better solved in the bedroom than in any argument. No partner? This is not the time to find one, but you can have one hell of an adventure with someone new and very different.

GEMINI (May 21- June 20): Any little symptom might look serious, but it could just be hypochondria. Have your partner or a friend take a look and see if it's worth going to a doctor. If it might be an STD just go to the clinic.

CANCER (June 21- July 22): A grand gesture to please your partner won't. Doing something practical and helpful, maybe a big household chore your baby's been griping about, is better than chocolates and flowers – not to rule those out entirely!

LEO (July 23 – August 22): Ailments that run in the family may surface. It's a good time to check those out, perhaps nip something in the bud. Probably nothing to worry about, and besides taking positive actions you can allay any fears by focusing instead on creative expression.

VIRGO (August 23 – September 22): Problems with siblings and neighbors are especially irritating and not to be solved now. Taking your vengeance in writings or caricatures not to be seen can help clarify things, but you have to center on your responsibility for your side of the problem.

LIBRA (September 23 – October 22): Household expenses present a problem, but it's too easily exaggerated into the overwhelming catastrophe that it's not. Focus on the real issue and talk it over with a

sensible confidante to keep everything in manageable proportion.

SCORPIO (October 23 – November 21): Before opening your mouth, think twice about what really matters and how you'll look after you've said what cannot be unsaid. Sitting too tightly on your words could cause an explosion. Say your piece; just be thoughtful!

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 – December 20): Getting lost in your own thoughts can leave you feeling like you don't measure up to your ideals. Better you should discuss those conflicts with a trustworthy friend. Besides, ideals should be a bit out of reach. Just do your best.

CAPRICORN (December 21 – January 19): You may be expecting too much of your friends. They are only human and, remember, so are you. Take any complaints to someone you can trust to tell you what you need to hear, not necessarily what you want to hear.

AQUARIUS (January 20 – February 18): Worrying too much about your personal ambitions can trip you up. Think in the longer run about what you want for the world, discuss those ideals with your friends and re-imagine your career in that context.

PISCES (February 19 – March 19): Trying to solve the world's problems is a distraction from the work you need to do for yourself. Have a long talk with your boss or a professional role model, and be very ready for some hard but constructive criticism.

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

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Solution to puzzle from page 30

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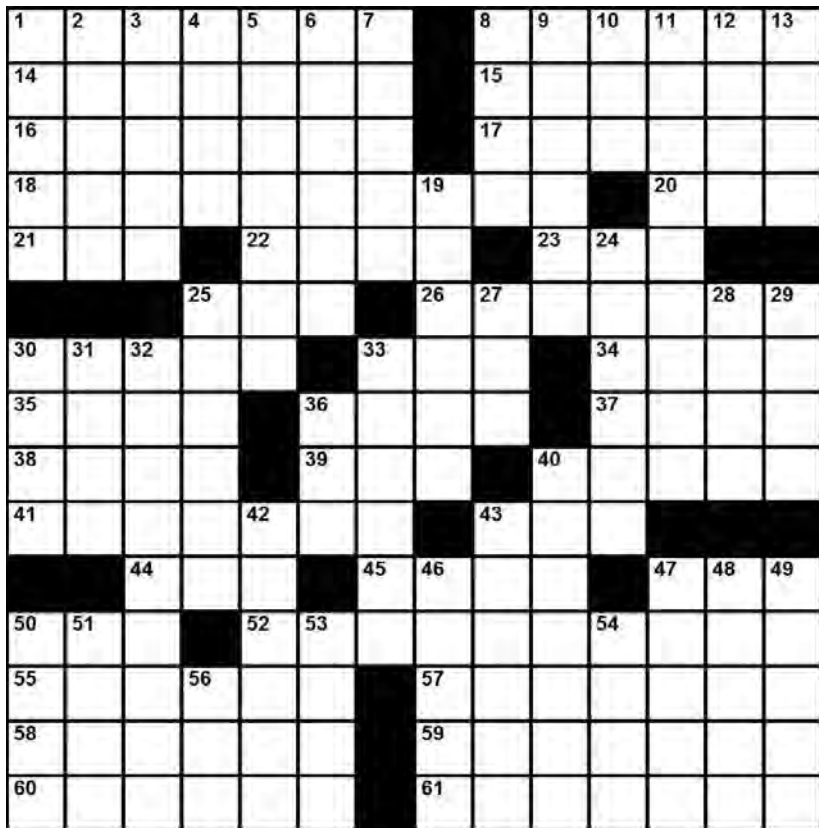
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- 21 Rudy Galindo's milieu
- 22 Cather's "One of ___"
- 23 NY winter hrs.
- 25 Safe follower
- 26 Like Julia Morgan's models
- 30 Forced to go
- 33 Third degree, often
- 34 "Phantom" scar source
- 35 Exiled Roman poet
- 36 With 32-Down, movie of 52-Across
- 37 Made a "Clang, clang, clang" sound

- 38 What Stipe holds close to his mouth
- 39 Will Smith title role
- 40 Sample some buns, e.g.
- 41 On the whole
- 43 Neighbor of 44-Across
- 44 Land of Lev.
- 45 Site of Alfred Douglas' pre-Oscar parties
- 47 FICA funds it
- 50 Six in., e.g.
- 52 Screen actor born Bernard Schwartz
- 55 Angora fabric
- 57 Gay rodeo items
- 58 Novelist Marcel
- 59 Winner of a race
- 60 ___ music (does Shaiman's job)
- 61 Tries to improve, as a lawn

Down

- 1 Film canine of the '70s
- 2 Hayes of "South Park"
- 3 Bone in the back
- 4 "I Could ___ Danced All Night"
- 5 Like horses, anatomically
- 6 Castor's male partner
- 7 More like the Family Stone?
- 8 Lookout point
- 9 Sudden silences
- 10 Friend of Rimbaud
- 11 Movie of 52-Across
- 12 Dancer Tommy
- 13 Canadian oil company
- 19 Atlas strips
- 24 One of Cleopatra's charms
- 25 Celebrations at Beth Simchat Torah
- 27 Poem of Sappho
- 28 Navel fetish accessory?

- 29 Beat barely
- 30 ___ erectus
- 31 Word on a map of Israel
- 32 See 36-Across
- 33 What bees collect
- 36 Mineo of movies
- 40 Teaching terms
- 42 Nancy Azara, for example
- 43 Where it's at
- 46 Madea cross-dresser Perry
- 47 Tennessee, but not Williams
- 48 Located
- 49 They may be kissed or kicked
- 50 REM gear
- 51 _Oliver!_ request
- 53 "Here ___ go?"
- 54 "Evita" lyricist Tim
- 56 "The Sound of Music" setting (abbr.)

Solution on 29

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No More Mr. Nice Guy

BY ANTHONY PAULL

All right, if you're going to tell me you're going to top me in the first five minutes of our first conversation, at least be a man

about it and take off your wig and earrings.

I mean, seriously? Is this my pay-off for entertaining a chat at the bar? Well, if so, I'm not impressed. But then again, I suppose that it's my fault, because I'm making myself more "accessible." Why? Well, because my friends say I'm a dick-tease, and I need to lower my standards.

So fine! Tonight, I'm talking to everything with or without a pulse. And slowly, I'm getting used to the fact that not every frog is a prince, particularly when it comes to a beer kiss. But meeting the parent of a stranger I have no intention of kissing? Well, this might be too much. But then again, I can't be too picky. You see, this drag queen with a Bette Davis wig, he wants to control me; he wants to lurve me. But first, he wants me to meet his mother.

"Mom, Anthony Paull; Anthony Paull, mom," he says, making the introductions.

Smoking alone on a bar stool, she waves a proud hello, urging her son to buy me a beer. "For God's sake, have some manners!" she tells him.

"Can it, mother! I can take it from here," he groans. Then turning to me, he takes a long

drag off his cigarette before fluffing his wig. "So. Anthony. Before this relationship goes any further, I need you to know something. I don't need some damn stupid man." Hence, this is when the surrounding gay hipsters, in skinny jeans and lumberjack plaids, clear out. "I got a job. I got a car. I got a house. Why the hell do I need you?"

"You don't. I'm just a poor writer who lives with his dad," I say, turning to follow the hipsters. But no, that's not enough to deter him. You see, he wants me to know that he just raised \$10,000 for some gay benefit, and I guess I'm supposed to give a shit. But I don't, because he just freaking spilled wine on the sneakers I spent my entire paycheck on. Therefore, I turn away, dancing off to an electro-pop number playing on the jukebox.

"Don't walk away when I'm talking to you. We got something!" he calls - his blue, sequined dress reflecting off the disco ball.

"Dude, I'm straight," I attempt to explain. "Mhmm. Straight to the next dick," he remarks.

"Fine, I'm shy. Look, I don't even know you..."

"Oh, but you know my mom!" he snaps. "You don't know me...but you know my whole family!" Shaking his booty, there's wine flying here and there; and saving the day, his mom joins the conversation, telling him to calm down or he might scare me off. But it's too late. That happened the minute we made eye contact. You see, his Bette Davis wig, it merely got in the way when I was

I'm getting used to the fact that not every frog is a prince, particularly when it comes to a beer kiss. But meeting the parent of a stranger I have no intention of kissing? Well, this might be too much.

peeking around for someone who wasn't wearing a mini-dress. But again, maybe I'm being too picky. Yet, dear God, how can I not be? Once you've been loved right, it's so hard to be loved wrong. Can I come down from this cloud?

"Yeah, you got to let your guard down a little, man," my friend Max tells me, as I haul ass to the jukebox, pretending to be preoccupied with finding a song. I'm thinking: this is why I don't date. I have this code. Like hey, if you like me, come up and say "hello." I really dig that. Call me a traditionalist, but I don't like some guy talking about sticking his penis in my ass when I don't even know his name. As a matter of fact, that idea hurts, especially the thought of him lifting his dress to top me.

But I'm not giving up! No! There has to be a nice guy somewhere in the midst. After all, I'm here, and I'm nice. So I must go on, I think, as Max introduces me to a few co-workers - one of which who approaches me with a drunken leer.

"Aw, you're pretty," he says, tipping his fedora hat. Then he tells me it again and again, and

I kind of like it, except he's already leaning in to kiss me, and his breath stinks like corn chips and bacon. So I push him away, saying "no" - an act which he takes as an insult, resulting in a conversation with Max, where he inquires if I'm a whore.

"Whoa! Are you kidding me?" I respond, when Max relays the message.

"It's no big deal. The guy's drunk. He just doesn't understand why you won't kiss him," Max says.

"Wait a minute. So I'm supposed to kiss and screw everyone who approaches me? Otherwise, I'm a whore? That doesn't even make sense!" Overhearing the conversation, the drag queen's mother attempts to save the day, yet again.

"See?! My son would never call you a whore," she attests.

"No. He would just talk to me like I'm one."

And all the gay hipsters go "oooh" in the crowd. But I'm not joining them. Rather, I'm fleeing the bar, before driving home, thinking how much this hurts. More than being a bottom for any big-top penis, this kills, being single and realizing this is my path, that this is what I have to face in the face of dating. It's pimply, the pursuit of a mate, and I'm picky, because my heart is itching for a love it once had.

So tell me: Where do I go if I'm a prude, and I want a "hello"? I haven't found such a place, so I say it to myself, staring into the rear-view mirror. "Hello, hello." For tonight, it seems me being nice to me is my only reminder of what I want and who I am.

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Sandra Bullock. Photo: Warner Bros.

Oprah and Meryl and Sandra in the same movie. No, seriously.

Michael Patrick King must be a wizard. Who else could foist something as terrible as "Sex and the City 2" on an unsuspecting world and bounce back this ferociously without even spending a little bit of time in Movie Jail? It's enough to make you believe in a Hollywood Velvet Mafia. But bounce he has with his latest untitled comedy that already features the slam-dunk casting coup of the year: the three-headed power-hydra of Oprah, Meryl and Sandra. That's

right, you don't even need their last names at this point (For the record, though: Winfrey, Streep and Bullock, respectively.) The film in question is set up at Universal Pictures and is an ensemble piece set at a Home Shopping Network-like work environment featuring what will certainly be a glamorous trip into manic behavior and unreality. And really, as long as they don't all wind up running through Abu Dhabi in identity-concealing cloaks everything will be fine.

Rocky Horrifying

In its 35 year history, "The Rocky Horror Picture Show" has gone from box-office flop to enduring midnight-movie sensation as well as

seen its brazenly in-your-face pansexuality move from shocking to sweet-enough-for-primetime tributes on Fox's "Glee." So while it's not surprising that someone wants to remake the beloved weirdo musical, it's a little bit odd to see "Glee"'s creator Ryan Murphy in talks to take the movie's reins. As a screenwriter, the man is wicked with the sharp-tongued dialogue. He could rise to task. But is his directorial approach too sanitized and clean to take on the scruffy, deranged, rock 'n' roll world of Rocky Horror? Could he make it not just gay but "dirty" too? Because if you're going to toucha-toucha-toucha touch Janet on the big screen, that's kind of how you need to be. At least they're not approaching Ron Howard, right?

Johnny Depp would like a drink

Rob Marshall, the gay director of "Chicago" and "Memoirs of a Geisha," has been working with Johnny Depp recently on "Pirates of The Caribbean: On Stranger Tides." And Depp must think pretty highly of him because the actor is itching to get Marshall to direct him in a remake of the classic comedy "The Thin Man." Don't know what that is, young person? It's the 1934 Hollywood high-water mark of witty banter starring William Powell as wealthy, always-drunk Nick Charles, who along with his socialite wife Nora, played by Myrna Loy, solve mysteries and down cocktails. In other words, the perfect offbeat starring vehicle for Johnny Depp (and Lauren Graham —she had plenty of practice with that kind of rat-a-tat delivery on "Gilmore

Girls," so someone give her a shot) and a chance for Marshall to work his period film magic again like he did with "Chicago." One more request, though: Could it be in black and white? Please?

Zachary Quinto wants 'Your Number'

In his recent video contribution to the "It Gets Better" project, "Star Trek" star Zachary Quinto offered up heartfelt encouragement to gay teenagers and walked right up to the edge of a personal coming out (rumored to be gay, the actor keeps his private life out of the press). But his new feature film, the ensemble comedy "What's Your Number?" places him squarely in the realm of hetero romantic comedy. Starring Anna Faris — who realizes that she's had twice as many relationships as the average woman and cuts off all men, deciding instead to work backward through the guys she's discarded to see who should get a second chance — the movie also features every young, good-looking guy in Hollywood right now as her sizeable team of exes. Joining Quinto will be Chris Evans, Ryan Phillippe, Dave Annable (of "Brothers and Sisters"), Joel McHale, Andy Samberg, "Parks and Recreation"'s Chris Pratt and White Collar star "Matthew Bomer" (who's seemingly openly gay but has still had his own share of is-he-or-isn't-he press). See who Faris reboots in spring 2011.

Romeo San Vicente is no virgin, "Rocky Horror" or otherwise. He can be reached care of this publication or at DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com.

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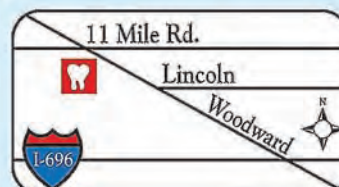
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* In the case of a special event the GHOSTBAR is OPEN UNTIL 2:00 a.m.

The Whitney is consistently voted best Pre and Post theater dining experience.



The Whitney, 4421 Woodward Ave. (313) 832-5700, www.thewhitney.com