

MICHIGAN'S LGBT NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1993

# **BTL** Between THE Lines™

**POLICE OFFICER REVEALS  
SUSPECT'S HIV STATUS**

**AMY SEDARIS TALKS  
QUEERS AND CRAFTS**

**VIEWERS' GUIDE TO  
PROP 8 ARGUMENT**

# **DADT WILL IT FINALLY BE OVERTURNED?**

**FREE** | DEC. 2, 2010 | VOL. 1848

**ONLINE AT [PRIDESOURCE.COM](http://PRIDESOURCE.COM)**

# On REYATAZ,

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

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

### **IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION:**

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

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

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

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

**Do not take Vfend<sup>®</sup> (voriconazole) if you are taking REYATAZ and Norvir<sup>®</sup> (ritonavir).**

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

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

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

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

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

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

**You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit [www.fda.gov/medwatch](http://www.fda.gov/medwatch) or call 1-800-FDA-1088.**

Wednesday  
Mary's  
birthday  
party

Thursday  
5:30  
Choir  
practice

Buy new  
shoes  
for Latisha

  
**REYATAZ<sup>®</sup>**  
(atazanavir sulfate) 200 mg/300 mg capsules

**Fight HIV your way.**

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

# how you spend your time is up to you.



Individual results may vary.

## Once-daily REYATAZ can help fight your HIV.

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

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

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

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

Ask your healthcare team about REYATAZ [www.REYATAZ.com](http://www.REYATAZ.com)

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

Find out if you can save on REYATAZ.  
Call 1-888-281-8981 or visit  
[ReyatazSavings.com](http://ReyatazSavings.com) for details.

Subject to terms and conditions. Restrictions apply.

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Partnership for  
Prescription Assistance

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

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

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

**What is REYATAZ?**

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

**Does REYATAZ cure HIV or AIDS?**

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

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

**Who should not take REYATAZ?**

**Do not take REYATAZ if you:**

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

**What should I tell my healthcare provider before I take REYATAZ?**

**Tell your healthcare provider:**

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

**How should I take REYATAZ?**

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

**Can children take REYATAZ?**

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

**What are the possible side effects of REYATAZ?**

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

**The following side effects have been reported with REYATAZ:**

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

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

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

## REYATAZ® (atazanavir sulfate)

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

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

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

**What important information should I know about taking REYATAZ with other medicines?**

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

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

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

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

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

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

**The following medicines are not recommended with REYATAZ:**

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

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

- VFEND® (voriconazole).

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

- CIALIS® (tadalafil), LEVITRA® (vardenafil), or VIAGRA® (sildenafil), used to treat erectile dysfunction. REYATAZ may increase the chances of serious side effects that can happen with CIALIS, LEVITRA, or VIAGRA. Do not use CIALIS, LEVITRA, or VIAGRA while you are taking REYATAZ unless your healthcare provider tells you it is okay.
- ADCIRCA® (tadalafil) or TRACLEER® (bosentan), used to treat pulmonary arterial hypertension.
- LIPITOR® (atorvastatin) or CRESTOR® (rosuvastatin). There is an increased chance of serious side effects if you take REYATAZ with this cholesterol-lowering medicine.

## REYATAZ® (atazanavir sulfate)

- Medicines for abnormal heart rhythm: CORDARONE® (amiodarone), lidocaine, quinidine (also known as CARDIOQUIN®, QUINIDEX®, and others).
- MYCOBUTIN® (rifabutin, an antibiotic used to treat tuberculosis).
- BUPRENEX®, SUBUTEX®, SUBOXONE®, (buprenorphine or buprenorphine/naloxone, used to treat pain and addiction to narcotic painkillers).
- VASCOR® (bepridil, used for chest pain).
- COUMADIN® (warfarin).
- Tricyclic antidepressants such as ELAVIL® (amitriptyline), NORPRAMIN® (desipramine), SINEQUAN® (doxepin), SURMONTIL® (trimipramine), TOFRANIL® (imipramine), or VIVACTIL® (protriptyline).
- Medicines to prevent organ transplant rejection: SANDIMMUNE® or NEORAL® (cyclosporin), RAPAMUNE® (sirolimus), or PROGRAF® (tacrolimus).
- The antidepressant trazodone (DESYREL® and others).
- Fluticasone propionate (FLONASE®, FLOVENT®), given by nose or inhaled to treat allergic symptoms or asthma. Your doctor may choose not to keep you on fluticasone, especially if you are also taking NORVIR®.
- Colchicine (COLCRYS®), used to prevent or treat gout or treat familial Mediterranean fever.

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

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

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

**Remember:**

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

**How should I store REYATAZ?**

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

**General information about REYATAZ**

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


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

**What are the ingredients in REYATAZ?**

**Active Ingredient:** atazanavir sulfate

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

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1246226A7

F1-B0001B-04-10

Rev April 2010

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White House DADT demonstration. Photo by Sean Carlson, Talk About Equality



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132nd Season **ums 10|11**

## Carolina Chocolate Drops

Fri, Dec 3 | 8 PM  
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After sold-out shows at the Ark last year, the Carolina Chocolate Drops return to Ann Arbor for an evening of foot-tapping bluegrass music. "This striking North Carolina trio brings a modern sizzle to the legacy of classic African-American stringbands...sparking an electrifying ruckus." (*Spin*)

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**Missy Summers** is a financial planner in Grand Rapids, Mich., who leads Bank of America's employee affinity group for the state.

**1 How did you first become involved in BofA's employee group?**

A few years ago before I was at Bank of America, Diversity Inc. magazine noted Bank of America's employee affinity group. It really captured my attention that there were places to work that offered those resources. I have always been very active in the LGBT community, and when I joined Bank of America I was thrilled they supported my activity and asked me to co-chair the group.



**I have always been very active in the LGBT community, and when I joined Bank of America I was thrilled they supported my activity and asked me to co-chair the group.**

across all lines of business, including my co-chair Stacey Cassis of Merrill Lynch. We work in different areas and on opposite sides of the state and might have never formed such a terrific friendship if it were not for the affinity group. One the best parts of all our affinity groups (which include HOLA, Black Professional Group, Military Support Group, LEAD-Women's Support Group) is our ability to encourage cross bank relationships.

**4 BofA has long been one of the leaders in the banking industry in reaching out to the LGBT community. Do you see that happening here in Michigan too?**

Absolutely. We are very fortunate to have tremendous support from our leadership team throughout Michigan. Educating the community of our existence and developing long-term relationships is our focus for 2011.

**2 What are the group's goals and objectives?**

Our group (promotes) a safe work environment, to attract, develop and retain LGBT employees; and creates opportunities for the bank and its associates to support the community and welcome members of the LGBT community as clients of the bank here in Michigan. 2011 will be our first full year in existence in Michigan and education is key component.

**3 How has your involvement in the employee group impacted your work relationships at BofA?**

It allowed me to meet and work with people

**5 How does the LGBT group impact BofA and its management?**

Bank of America has a commitment to having a diverse and inclusive environment. The existence of the LGBT group and other affinity groups are a reflection of this commitment. Our affinity groups are leaders in volunteering efforts and community involvement.

*Between Ourselves is a weekly feature that highlights members of Michigan's LGBT and allied community. To recommend someone for Between Ourselves, e-mail our news editor Tara Cavanaugh at tara@pridesource.com.*

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*From Stork to Finish*

## Obituary: Co-founder of social club and charity in Detroit dies

**Lois Yeagley: Sept. 16, 1950 - Nov. 14, 2010**

Lois Yeagley, co-founder of the The Godmothers, a social club that does charity work in Detroit, died Nov. 14. She was 60.

Yeagley spent most of her life in Bloomfield Hills, Mich., where she resided for 35 years. She graduated from Marian High School in 1967, and she received her B.A. and M.A. in Advertising from Michigan State University. She worked as an advertising executive in the Detroit area. She enjoyed golf, softball, and MSU football.

Yeagley is survived by her dear friends and her dogs, Tanner and Moses, whom she called "her boys."

The funeral was held Nov. 17. Memorial tributes may be made to The Godmothers, located at 7970 Farrant, Commerce Twp., MI 48382 and to Waggs and Wishes, located at 609 Rosewood, Ferndale MI 48220.

## Obituary: World-traveling consultant and dedicated partner dies

**Thomas J. Moore III: Nov. 3, 1942 - Nov. 7, 2010**

Thomas J. Moore III died Nov. 7 of acute respiratory failure following a hip surgery. He was 68.



Thomas Moore

Moore, who was born in Detroit, graduated from Lincoln Park High School in 1960, and went on to earn an M.B.A. from Wayne State University in 1967. Moore worked as a consultant in data systems project management, travelling to many countries for his work. At the time of his death, he was

a consultant for General Motors.

Moore enjoyed the Detroit Institute of Arts, the Hilberry Theatre at Wayne State University, music soundtracks and classic comic books. He supported the Triangle Foundation (now a part of Equality Michigan) and the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan.

Moore is survived by his partner of 40 years, Dwight Rinke, and family members Elsie Rinke, Donna Rinke and Dawn Hamlin.

Moore requested that his corneas be donated to The Gift of Sight and that his body be cremated.

Donations in Moore's name can be sent to the Hilberry Theatre at Wayne State University at 5475 Woodward Ave., Detroit, MI 48202.

# Police officer releases HIV status of suspect to ex-girlfriend

## Experts say officer's actions were illegal

BY TODD HEYWOOD

*A man who was arrested for a driving on a suspended license had his HIV-positive status disclosed to an ex-girlfriend, illegally, by a state trooper. The man's name, and that of his ex-girlfriend, have been changed because the man admits to having sexual relations with his girlfriend without disclosing his HIV-positive status, which is a felony in Michigan. The location has been changed as well.*

On a Friday in late July 2010, Noah (not his real name) was arrested by a Michigan State Trooper for driving on a suspended license in Branch County. During his transport to the county jail, Noah said he was worried about having access to his anti-retroviral medications. Because it was late on a Friday, he worried he might not see a judge until Monday morning. Noah knew that even a couple of days without the medications could allow the virus time to develop immunity to the medications. He told the trooper who had arrested him that he needed to see a judge as soon as possible to get a bond and post it.

The trooper asked if the passenger in Noah's car, his ex-girlfriend Susan (not her real name) knew that Noah was HIV-positive. "Because we had broken up, I told him we didn't have that kind of relationship so she didn't need to know," Noah said.

Shortly after Noah was placed in a cell at the Branch County jail, the trooper who had arrested him came back to see him. "He told me I was going to see a judge and I would get a bond that day," Noah said. "Then he asked me for Susan's number. I thought he was going to call her and inform her about what was going on with the arraignment and bond." After he underwent a video arraignment, Noah called a family member, who posted the bond, and then he called Susan. She was driving away from Branch County, upset, because the trooper had informed her of Noah's HIV-positive status.

Noah convinced Susan to pick him up, and the two had a tense conversation on the two-hour drive back to the Detroit metro area. Susan told Noah that the trooper had informed her she should file a criminal charge against him.

Noah didn't hear anything about the criminal charges for months. Then he received a message from a metro Detroit county sheriff detective asking him to come in and tell his side of the story because Susan had filed a complaint. Noah ignored the call.

The detective called again and informed Noah that the prosecutor's office had gotten an order from a judge for the police to get a sample of his blood. "He told me I could come in voluntarily, or he could send in the fugitive apprehension team," Noah said. "He called them the 'door busters.' He said [they] would show up in the middle of the night and kick in the door and arrest me." The arrest would be executed on Noah's outstanding warrants for driving without a license.

A few weeks ago, Noah met the detective at

**This is not the first time disclosure of an HIV-positive status by law enforcement was an issue in Michigan.**

a health department where his blood was drawn, per the search warrant. He agreed to do so if the detective agreed not to arrest him on the outstanding warrants. Now, Noah is waiting for the blood test to be returned, and the likely felony warrant that will surely follow. Neither the Michigan State Police nor Susan returned telephone calls seeking comment for this story.

### Confidentiality Law violation

Experts in legal issues say Michigan's HIV Confidentiality Law MCL 333.5131 prohibits the disclosure of a person's HIV test results without the express authorized permission of the person who has tested positive. "There are a number of exceptions under the statute," Jay Kaplan, of the American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan's LGBT Project, said. In order to "prevent reasonably foreseeable risk of further transmission of HIV," a person can disclose someone's HIV-positive status to a health care provider to try to prevent further transmission of HIV, Kaplan explained. A health care provider may tell a contact of the individual with HIV. But if a health care provider chooses to do this, the name of that individual may not be given, unless that too is absolutely necessary to prevent transmission, Kaplan said.

"What the trooper allegedly did does not fall under these statutory exceptions," Kaplan said. "If he was concerned about the foreseeable risk of further transmission, he could have notified the local health department and then they could have contacted the girlfriend."

This is not the first time disclosure of an HIV-positive status by law enforcement was an

issue in Michigan. In summer 2008 the Lansing City Attorney, Brigham Smith, came under fire when he released a police report that did not redact the HIV status of a man arrested in a sex sting operation. Advocates argued the disclosure violated state public health laws. The controversy led Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero to ask Republican Attorney General Mike Cox to weigh in on the case. The AG's office issued a determination that the public health code was not violated, thus exonerating the city attorney of wrongdoing. The ruling further indicated release of private medical information contained in police reports was not necessarily covered by the Freedom of Information Act law, which allows public bodies to prohibit the release of information that is a "clearly unwarranted invasion of privacy."

Catherine Hanssens, director of the Center for HIV Law and Policy in New York City, challenges the need for a blood sample months after the alleged failure to disclose. "Since the statute relies on a person's knowledge of HIV status at the time of the incident in question, a blood test conducted after the incident is irrelevant - it reveals nothing about the two relevant inquiries under Michigan law, i.e., whether the defendant was aware of his/her HIV status at the time of the contact in question, and whether the defendant notified the partner of the defendant's HIV status in advance of that contact," Hanssens said.

Hanssens and Kaplan agree that it is time to change Michigan's disclosure law. "The statute is overbroad in that the definition of sexual penetration includes activity that would not transmit HIV. It stigmatizes the HIV-positive person, labeling him/her a criminal for some behaviors that do not or would not transmit the virus."

Hanssens was even more blunt. "[T]he law in Michigan is absurd," says Hanssens. "[I]t bears no rational relation to the actual causes and risks of HIV transmission and the epidemic in this country, and is a public health disgrace."

*Read the entire story which originally appeared Monday on MichiganMessenger.com*

## HIV specific criminal law manual for U.S. available

BY BTL STAFF

**NEW YORK** – In November, The Center for HIV Law and Policy released the first comprehensive analysis of HIV-specific criminal laws and prosecutions in the U.S. The publication, *Ending and Defending Against HIV Criminalization: State and Federal Laws and Prosecutions*, covers policies and cases in all fifty states, the military, federal prisons and U.S. territories.

"In the United States there are many shocking cases of persons being prosecuted for otherwise-legal conduct solely based on their HIV status," said Rene Bennett-Carlson, CHLP's

Managing Attorney, and one of the authors of the manual, "This singling out of people with HIV for arrests and punishment without consideration of the responsibility of all parties in a sexual relationship, the actual risk of HIV transmission, and whether transmission even occurred is based on intolerable ignorance about HIV. These laws and prosecutions have no positive impact whatsoever on HIV infection rates or risk behavior."

People are being imprisoned for decades, and in many cases have to register as sex offenders, as a consequence of exaggerated fears about HIV. Most of these cases involve consensual sex or conduct such as spitting and biting that has

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AIDS Partnership Michigan's new Community Mobilization Project staff includes Wil Bowen, Project Associate (left) and Bill VanHemert, MSW, Project Manager (right). Photo courtesy of APM.

## Classy fundraiser to honor Ruth Ellis Center

**DETROIT**—The agency for LGBT African Americans, also known as KICK, will hold its eighth annual “Holiday in December” fundraiser and holiday celebration on Saturday, Dec. 11 from 6 to 11 p.m. Festivities will take place at the First Congregational Church in Detroit, which is located at 33 East Forest Avenue.

The annual event supports KICK’s free educational seminars, wellness programs and support groups. This year, the fundraiser will honor the Ruth Ellis Center, which provides short and long term residential safe space and support for runaway, homeless and at-risk LGBTQ youth in Detroit and Southeast Michigan.

“The success of Holiday In December speaks to our community’s desire to come together and celebrate our authentic selves in an environment that is classy yet inviting,” said Tiffany McLean, who is on the agency’s board of directors. Guests will enjoy catered food and live entertainment.

Attendees are encouraged to wear black and Tiffany blue. Tickets are \$50 until Dec. 9, and \$55 after that. Tickets may be purchased online at [ww.e-kick.org](http://ww.e-kick.org), or with a check or money order payable to KICK at Box 2222, Detroit, Michigan 48231.

## Free screening Dustin Lance Black film

**HOLLAND**—Dustin Lance Black is returning to Holland. Well, his voice anyway.

Black is the narrator of “8: The Mormon Proposition,” which will be shown at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 3, at the Park Theatre, 64 E. 8th St. in downtown Holland. It’s part of the free 2010-11 film series being presented by Holland is Ready, which was formed shortly after Hope College blocked Black from speaking at a campus discussion on sexuality.

“8: The Mormon Proposition” is an indictment of the Mormon Church’s historic involvement in the promotion and passage of California’s Proposition 8 and the Mormon religion’s campaign against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender human rights.

Director Reed Cowan, who grew up gay in Utah in the Mormon faith, initially planned on making a documentary about gay teen homelessness and suicide in Utah but then turned his attention to the historic campaign by the Mormon Church to pass Proposition 8 in California, which outlawed gay marriage there.

Other films in the free series are “Trans-america” on Friday, Feb. 4; “Seven Passages” on Friday, March 4; and “The Bird Cage” on Friday, April 1. All films start at 7:30 p.m. at the Park Theatre.

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

## Huge donation to encourage HIV prevention in SE Michigan

A \$300,000 donation will enable AIDS Partnership Michigan to collaborate with HIV/AIDS Resource Center for one heck of a marketing campaign.

The donation comes from the Michigan Department of Community Health. The new campaign will target men who have sex with men and young African American men in metro Detroit, Pontiac, and on college campuses in Washtenaw County.

“The goal is to prevent HIV, not to be polite. HIV is a vicious enemy. We will do or say

whatever it takes,” says APM Executive Director Barbara Murray. Ten years ago, APM’s award-winning campaign featured, among other things, billboards of men kissing.

This time around, APM and HARC will be focusing heavily on digital media and community outreach, since the target groups are heavy users of the internet. Social media will be utilized on many levels, as will grassroots efforts and traditional media.

Bill VanHemert, Community Mobilization Project Manager at APM, hopes to have the

campaign up and running by the end of the year. “The ultimate goal is to get the community back to testing and prevention,” he said.

In addition, APM is revamping its website. The new website debuts on World AIDS Day with expanded capabilities including improved navigation and a fresh new look. Social media including Facebook, Twitter, YouTube will be integrated into the site.

For more information visit [www.aidspartnership.org](http://www.aidspartnership.org)

### ► HIV

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only a remote possibility of HIV exposure. For example, a number of states have laws that make it a felony for someone who has had a positive HIV test to spit on or touch another person with blood or saliva. “We hope that this resource will put a spotlight on this terrible injustice and make it easier for advocates to defend against these discriminatory prosecutions,” Bennett-Carlson added.

The catalog of state and federal laws and cases is the first volume of a multi-part manual that CHLP’s Positive Justice Project is developing for legal and community advocates. The goal of the Positive Justice Project is to bring an end to laws and policies that subject people with HIV

to arrest and increased punishment on the basis of gross ignorance about the nature and transmission of HIV, without consideration of the actual risks of HIV exposure.

“We support the work of the Center for HIV Law and Policy’s Positive Justice Project. This manual is a tremendous achievement and provides a desperately needed resource for the HIV community,” said Vanessa Johnson, Executive Vice President of the National Association of People with AIDS. “NAPWA proposed the idea of an HIV criminalization manual to CHLP because of their reputation in this area, and because criminalization acts as a disincentive to testing. It discourages testing by imposing huge risks and penalties on a positive test result. Criminalization also is an unwarranted assault on the rights and dignity of people living with HIV.”

Catherine Hanssens, executive director of CHLP added, “These laws make the statement

that those who test positive for HIV are too toxic to have intimate relationships, that HIV is highly infectious, and that only those who get tested bear any responsibility for preventing the spread of sexually-transmitted diseases. These laws treat people with HIV as if they are packing an unlicensed, loaded gun - as if the very fact of HIV infection is proof of criminal intent.”

Rene Bennett-Carlson concluded, “Three decades into the HIV epidemic, it is time to bring this kind of ignorance and hysteria to an end.”

The manual can be accessed and downloaded at [www.hivlawandpolicy.org/resources/view/564](http://www.hivlawandpolicy.org/resources/view/564). Its completion was supported by grants for CHLP’s anti-criminalization work and Positive Justice Project from the MAC AIDS Fund and Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS.

## 16 Days Lansing combines arts and activism

16 Days Lansing is part of 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence, an international movement created by the Center for Women's Global Leadership at Rutgers University. The 2010 theme addresses the intersection of gender violence and militarism.

Free events, ranging from poetry readings to art exhibits, will be offered in various venues around Lansing from Nov. 29 to Dec. 10.

This is the first year Lansing will take part in the event. Melissa Dey Hasbrook, one of the organizers, is excited at the variety of activist groups the event is bringing together. She and the other organizers hope it will "raise awareness and connect people with community groups."

16 Days Lansing is also organized by the RCAH Center for Poetry at Michigan State University and The Leaven Center. Co-promoters include Greater Lansing Network Against War and Injustice, Red Cedar Friends, Coalition Against Sexual Violence, Peace Education Center, Michigan Peace Team, and MSU Vagina Monologues.

For more information on events, check out the 16 Days Lansing Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/16dayslansing>

## 'The Next Generation for Social Justice'

The American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan has worked to defend the liberties of Michiganders for 51 years. Every year the organization holds its annual dinner to discuss current issues in this state and the country, and to recognize individuals who have played a role in defending and protecting rights and freedoms.

The 2010 dinner, themed "The Next Generation for Social Justice," takes place on Dec. 4 at The Henry Ford Museum, located at 20900 Oakwood Blvd. in Dearborn. Comedian, author and political pundit Baratunde Thurston is featured as a special guest during the event.

Thurston, who often employs satire as an expression of his activism and technology as the medium, is the host of "Popular Science's Future Of" on the Science Channel. He also is the editor for the politics section of "The Onion," a national publication and website that offers news and views on the latest headlines.

The honorees at this year's dinner are UAW president Bob King, the law firm Bodman LLP, Michigan Voice and journalist Darrell Dawsey.

"Every year, the ACLU of Michigan honors individuals and organizations that have advanced the cause of civil liberties and civil rights in Michigan," said Kary L. Moss, ACLU of Michigan executive director. "This year, we honor two individuals and two organizations that represent our historical foundation and our future engineers. With the recent mid-term election, we are very likely to face, at the state and federal levels, serious assaults on fundamental freedoms, including vigorous attempts to roll-back past victories. Our annual dinner is a great opportunity for those who



Comedian, author and political pundit Baratunde Thurston is featured as a special guest during the ACLU annual dinner.

are concerned to come together for inspiration."

King has been a trailblazer on issues such as free speech and nondiscrimination in employment. Bodman LLP has donated more time assisting the ACLU of Michigan with legalities than any other Michigan firm in recent history. Michigan Voice has a mission to engage under-represented voters in the democratic process and facilitate bringing together organizations dedicated to civil rights, labor, education and other issues facing the state. Dawsey, a journalist and author, has been a voice of reason publicly

defending the ACLU on issues such as education in the city of Detroit. His work has appeared in TIME Magazine, LA Times, Philadelphia Inquirer and The Detroit News.

The event begins with a VIP reception at 6 p.m. and a general reception at 6:30 p.m., followed by dinner at 7 p.m. Tickets for the event are \$175 for ACLU members and \$225 for non-members. Students and those on fixed incomes can attend the event for \$50. Reservations can be made by visiting [www.aclumich.org](http://www.aclumich.org). Premium packages are also available.

## Viewers' Guide to Prop 8 argument

BY LISA KEEN

A federal appeals panel in San Francisco will hear oral arguments Monday in the landmark challenge to Proposition 8 - California's voter-passed constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage.

Broadcast of the district court trial last January was disallowed due to objections by some witnesses who said they feared harassment. But only attorneys will appear before the court December 6, and the 9th Circuit has agreed to allow the proceedings to be broadcast on CSPAN and in other venues around the country, including Boston and New York.

A three-judge panel will hear arguments regarding the appeal of a lower court decision that held Proposition 8 violates the federal constitution's guarantees to equal protection and due process of law. The August 4 decision from Judge Vaughn Walker was the first time a federal court had struck down a statewide same-sex marriage ban, and similar bans exist in the constitutions of statutes of 38 other states. Another six states have interpreted existing law as excluding same-sex couples from marriage licensing. Only five states and the District of Columbia have marriage equality laws.

If the 9th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals upholds the lower court decision, the ruling would make the bans in California and eight other western states unenforceable. But the decision

of the 9th Circuit -whatever it is--will almost certainly be appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court, and a decision there could affect bans in all states.

But there are also numerous potential variations to this simple scenario. The most prominent potential variation at the moment concerns whether the group that has been defending Proposition 8 in court has legal standing to bring its appeal to the 9th Circuit. It is a dull question compared to the drama of the original three-week trial of witnesses who testified about how Proposition 8 had damaged their lives. But its resolution could have enormous consequences for the case and will consume one of two hours set aside for Monday's appeal.

To understand this, we've compiled some key information most court watchers will need to know and will want to take notice of Monday:

Case name: Perry v. Schwarzenegger is the shorthand name for the case, Perry v. Schwarzenegger and Hollingsworth et al.

Time and Place: Monday, December 6, 10 a.m. PDT at the 9th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals, in San Francisco.

Where to watch: Nationally, CSPAN will be broadcasting the proceeding live. (A spokesman for CSPAN said the exact channel will be announced late this week.) Court enthusiasts can also go to the federal courthouse in select cities around the country to watch a live feed -in Boston; Brooklyn, New York; Portland, Oregon; Seattle, Washington; Pasadena, California; and

two other courthouses in San Francisco.

The Parties: Perry is Kristin Perry, one of four plaintiffs who originally filed the lawsuit challenging Proposition 8. Perry seeks to marry her partner of 10 years Sandra Stiers. They have four children. The other two plaintiffs -also a couple--are Paul Katami and Jeff Zarrillo, who have been together for nine years. The City of San Francisco was also designated as a plaintiff-intervenor in the district court -meaning the City did not bring the lawsuit but established that it had a governmental interest in the outcome.

Schwarzenegger is, of course, Republican Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, who represents the California government in the case. Neither Schwarzenegger nor California Attorney General Jerry Brown (now Governor-elect) was willing to defend Proposition 8 in the appeal.

So the real appellants in the case are the original "Proponents" of the ban, identified as the Yes on 8 campaign (aka ProtectMarriage.com), and include State Senator Dennis Hollingsworth and others. In addition, the board of supervisors and clerk of Imperial County are seeking the right to serve as appellants as well.

The schedule: The first hour of the two-hour argument will be focused on the issue of whether the Yes on 8 appellants and/or Imperial County have legal standing to appeal the lower court's decision (see below). There will be a "brief" break, and then the second hour will be focused on the merits of the appeal (see below). The entire

proceeding is likely to be concluded by around 12:15 Pacific time.

The attorneys: At least six attorneys will be involved in Monday's argument -three on merits and three on standing.

On merits, famed conservative attorney Ted Olson will argue for the four plaintiffs; and Therese Stewart, the openly gay Chief Deputy City Attorney for San Francisco, will present arguments for the city, which would like to see the ban struck down. Conservative attorney Charles Cooper, who led the defense of Proposition 8 at the district court trial, is expected to argue the merits for Proponents.

On standing, it has not yet been announced who will argue the standing issue for plaintiffs, the Yes on 8 Proponents, or Imperial County.

Legal standing issue: Not just anybody can initiate a lawsuit and appeal the decision, but courts err on the side of allowing a party to appeal. Nevertheless, a party or parties seeking to appeal must still show they are at least vulnerable to an "actual" injury because of the decision below. That injury can include an economic one but it has to be an injury more "concrete" than the fact that appellants disagree with the lower court decision. Proponents will argue say that the fact they were allowed standing in the U.S. District Court, they should naturally have stand-

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ing on appeal.

The merits: Two provisions of the U.S. Constitution's 14th Amendment are at issue, both encompassed in this language: "No state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any state deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.

Concerning due process, a state cannot deny citizens a fundamental right, including the right to marry, unless it can show a compelling reason to do so. U.S. District Court Judge Vaughn Walker said Proponents failed to establish "any historical purpose for excluding same-sex couples from marriage, as states have never required spouses to have an ability or willingness to procreate in order to marry."

With equal protection, the government may not treat one group of citizens with less favor than others unless it has a reason to do so. It may not treat oppressed minorities with less favor unless it has a compelling reason to do so. Judge Walker ruled that gays and lesbians are an oppressed minority and that Proponents failed to establish evidence of even a simple, rational reason to treat them differently, much less a compelling one.

The Judges: The 9th Circuit on Monday, November 29, announced the three judges that will make up next Monday's panel and it's a dramatic line-up. The senior most judge--in age and experience on the federal appeals bench--is Stephen Reinhardt, 79, a Carter nominee who has ruled favorably on gay-related cases before. The least senior is N. Randy Smith, 69, a native of Utah, an appointee of President George W. Bush, and a graduate of Brigham Young University Law School, an entity of the Mormon Church which played an enormous role in promoting Proposition 8. In the middle is Judge Michael Hawkins, 65, a Clinton appointee, based in Phoenix, Arizona.

Timetable after argument: There is no deadline by which the three-judge panel must issue its opinion, however, a decision is likely to be forthcoming within a few months. The losing party then will almost certainly appeal that decision to the full 9th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals -which may or may not agree to hear an appeal. The losing party at that point would then likely appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court. The earliest the Supreme Court would likely get such an appeal would be in the fall of 2011, and the earliest it would rule would be in the late spring of 2012.

Exceptional scenarios: If Proponents or Imperial County lose on the question of standing, the 9th Circuit could decide not to make a ruling on the merits. But Proponents and/or Imperial County would almost certainly appeal the decision concerning standing to the Supreme Court. Should the Supreme Court rule that either of those parties has standing, it would then send the question on the merits of the appeal back to the 9th Circuit for a decision. That eventual decision on the merits from the 9th Circuit could then be appealed to the Supreme Court. Wild guess timetable for a decision from the Supreme Court on merits with this scenario? 2014.

# Troops buck historical trend by saying gays OK to serve

## DADT headed to lameduck session hearings

BY ANNE FLAHERTY AND AP WIRE

WASHINGTON (AP) – When a majority of troops told the Pentagon this summer they didn't care if gays were allowed to serve openly in the military, it was in sharp contrast to the time when America's fighting forces voiced bitter opposition to accepting racial minorities and women in the services.

The survey, out Tuesday, finds pockets of resistance among combat troops to ending the ban on gays. But some 70 percent of respondents said that lifting the ban would have a positive or mixed effect, or none at all, according to officials familiar with the findings.

The study is expected to set the stage for a showdown in the Senate between advocates of repealing the 17-year-old "don't ask, don't tell" law and a small but powerful group of foes in the final days of the lame-duck Congress.

Repeal would mean that, for the first time in U.S. history, gays would be openly accepted by the military and could acknowledge their sexual orientation without fear of being kicked out.

U.S. troops haven't always been so accepting. Troop surveys conducted throughout the 1940s on blacks and Jews, and in the 1970s and 1980s on women, exposed deep rifts within a military that was dominated by white males but becoming increasingly reliant on minorities to help do its job.

In a study from July 1947, four of five enlisted men told the Army that they would oppose blacks serving in their units even if whites and blacks didn't share housing or food facilities.

The same study also revealed a deep resentment toward Jews. Most enlisted men said Jews had profited greatly from the war and many doubted that Jews had suffered under Adolf Hitler.

"Negro outfits should be maintained separately," an Army master sergeant from North Carolina told the Pentagon in 1947. "To do otherwise is to invite trouble and many complications. The equal rights plan should not be forced on the Army as an example to civilians."

Troops also offered dire predictions for what would happen if whites and black units were forced to serve together.

"For sure, all the GIs will quit the Army or buck like hell to get out," a 20-year-old Army private first class told the surveyors. The service members were quoted anonymously in the 1947 study.

Added another 19-year-old soldier: "If the Negro and the whites were mixed, there would be a civil war among the troops. There would be a lot of useless bloodshed if this happens."

But President Harry S. Truman issued a 1948 order on equal treatment of blacks in the services anyway, paving the way for integration during the Korean War. None of these doomsday scenarios came true.

It wasn't until Vietnam, when racial tensions in the civilian world bubbled over into the military, did race riots erupt in all four military branches.

By the 1980s, the military faced the issue of

whether to allow women to serve on Navy ships and elsewhere on the battlefield. Troops were generally much more open to serving with women than they had been to serving with African-Americans 40 years prior. Still, many expressed serious concerns that allowing females as crew members would cause problems.

In one 1981 study, lower-ranking enlisted sailors blamed female crew members for a decline in "discipline, leadership and supervision."

As was the case in racial integration, letting women serve aboard ships and, eventually, on combat aircraft, didn't always go smoothly.

In 1990s, the Navy became embroiled in the "Tailhook" scandal in which naval pilots were accused of sexually abusing female officers at a Las Vegas convention. Also, about two dozen female service members were reportedly sexually assaulted during Desert Storm, when U.S. troops helped drive Iraq's Saddam Hussein from Kuwait in 1991.

Women are still barred from many combat roles, including the infantry. But allowing women to join most military units never produced the kind of backlash or decline in military effectiveness that opponents predicted.

### Enter DADT

By the time President Bill Clinton proposed allowing gays to serve in the military in 1993, gays had been explicitly barred from military service since World War I.

Foes of lifting the ban argued that the military shouldn't be used to expand the rights of gays and that allowing them to serve openly would

hurt troop morale and a unit's ability to fight – the same arguments used against women and blacks.

In the end, Congress agreed to let gays serve only if their sexual orientation remained secret.

Today, advocates say they believe history has shown that U.S. troops could handle any disruptions caused by lifting the ban. Opponents of repealing "don't ask, don't tell" say letting gays serve openly in the military is different from earlier struggles over the equality of race and gender. Open gay service, they say, raises unique moral questions, such as whether gay and straight troops should be forced to share living quarters.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., was expected to try to force a vote in early December, following testimony by Defense Secretary Robert Gates, Joint Chiefs of Staff chairman Adm. Mike Mullen and service leaders before the Senate Armed Services Committee on Thursday and Friday. The House has passed the legislation.

Much of the debate is likely to hinge on the results of the Pentagon study, with many senators saying they wanted to see whether troops would support such a change before voting for repeal. Still, it's far from clear whether the bill would even advance to a floor debate with Democrats and Republicans disagreeing on procedural grounds.

### Marine pushback

They are the few, the proud and perhaps the military's biggest opponents of lifting the ban on

See DADT, page 21

# Senate to revisit Don't Ask, Don't Tell Dec. 2

BY REX WOCKNER

Don't Ask, Don't Tell repeal, round 2, starts Dec. 2 in the U.S. Senate when Defense Secretary Robert Gates and Adm. Michael Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, will testify before the Senate Armed Services Committee.

They will discuss the Pentagon's massive survey of troops that was scheduled for release Nov. 30. The research apparently was designed to help the military craft the repeal of DADT and predict how ditching the ban on noncloseted gay service members could affect the armed forces.

There also will be appearances by the men who oversaw the research, Pentagon General Counsel Jeh Johnson and Army Gen. Carter Ham. The Marine Corps commandant and the Army and Air Force chiefs of staff will testify as well.

The House of Representatives voted to authorize the repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell in September, but the Senate failed by four votes to follow suit when Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., staged a filibuster. The repeal measure is part of the 2011 military funding bill, which also remains unpassed as a result.

A second Senate attempt to pass both mea-

sures is expected during the current "lame duck" session, before newly elected House and Senate members take their seats in January. Some supporters of repeal were defeated in the November election, though not because of that support.

Should the Senate "authorize" repeal of DADT, the Pentagon could then move ahead with the possibly lengthy repeal process as laid out in the bill.

Meanwhile, DADT also was struck down as unconstitutional by a federal court in California in September. District Judge Virginia Phillips in Riverside, Calif., went on to issue an immediate worldwide injunction preventing DADT from being enforced.

That led to an eight-day suspension of the ban, during which the military stopped discharging noncloseted gay members and started allowing openly gay people to enlist.

The Obama administration fought Phillips' injunction and, in the end, the U.S. Supreme Court let stand a 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals decision to suspend the injunction while Phillips' main ruling is appealed. The case likely will see courtroom action at the 9th Circuit in the spring.

**NEWS ITEM: Pentagon study finds that resistance to allowing LGBT service in the military is highest in the Marine Corps.**



**BTL EDITORIAL**

## Where do we go from here?

The LGBT community in southeastern Michigan faces daunting challenges. The recent election seated one of the most unsupportive state legislatures in the country, and our Supreme Court has shifted back to a Republican majority. There are glimmers of hope that Governor-elect Rick Snyder will not be a negative force against the LGBT community, but it is unlikely he will be a champion.

At this time when we should be reacting with a strong, collective LGBT voice, our two largest LGBT organizations, Affirmations and Equality Michigan, are both without permanent executive directors. Both organizations have floundered in recent years, with no clear accomplishments or visible signs of effective grassroots leadership. Some have called for a merger of these two organizations, arguing that combining two weakened agencies into a stronger one will allow for economies of scale, reduced overhead and a larger base from which to work. Leaders of both agencies should be willing to at least visit the idea.

In our opinion, the organizational structure is secondary to results. We need to see effective political action in Michigan for LGBT rights, and we need an efficient and effective means of mobilizing large numbers of LGBT people to march, lobby, volunteer, donate, write letters and op-eds, call elected officials and fundraise.

BTL does not have a vested interest in seeing these two agencies merge or not, but we do have a strong interest in seeing our largest agencies work in concert and maximize the impact of precious and scarce resources.

We call on the leaders of both agencies to listen to the frustration of the many stakeholders – volunteers, donors, staff, board members both past and present, and clients. For years, our community has tried to support these organizations and for years we have been disappointed, watching as our agencies have succumbed to personality conflicts, turf wars, endless planning sessions, and financial woes that have paralyzed program development. We believe there is a

**Donors have become exhausted supporting organizations that they feel are ineffective. The call to merge is an expression of that frustration...Now is the perfect time for the groups' leaders to reach out and listen, because we think they may be surprised by the level of concern and willingness to help.**

cause and effect happening here: Donors have become exhausted supporting organizations that they feel are ineffective. The call to merge is an expression of that frustration.

Now is the perfect time for the groups' leaders to reach out and listen, because we think they may be surprised by the level of concern and willingness to help. Equality Michigan and Affirmations are two of our most important LGBT institutions. No one wants to see them fail, but patience will run out unless there is some positive movement soon.

Can Affirmations use volunteers to restore some of the hours that were recently cut at the Center? Can Equality Michigan utilize the power of numbers by collaborating with Affirmations, Ruth Ellis, Kick and every other group to mobilize the grassroots? Can our organizations create a powerful LGBT voice in Lansing?

These questions have to be answered, whether Affirmations and Equality Michigan merge or not. We can look at other organizational models such as OutFront Minnesota, which is a combined community center/political group. OutFront Minnesota's mission is to make the state a place where GLBT Minnesotans have the freedom, power, and confidence to make the best choices for their own lives.

Sounds good to us.

**VIEWPOINT**



## Pope on Condoms: Half Right Church, Still Wrong Pew

BY MICHELLE E. BROWN

Hello, I'm Michelle and I'm a recovering Catholic. I usually don't out myself as a Catholic unless it's for shock value or an excuse to get out of contentious religious discussions. But it's true; I am a Catholic - baptized as a baby, first communion in second grade, confirmed in the sixth grade.

I went to church every morning from Sunday to Friday, confessed on Saturday and then started the amen cycle all over again.

You see the main thing I learned from all those years of catechism, religion classes and praying was that the one thing Jesus wouldn't do - contrary to Catholic doctrine - was discriminate.

Now that that's off my chest - let's talk about sex shall we.

My Catholic upbringing said sex was for making babies; Contraception was a no-no; condoms fell somewhere on the sin chart and homosexuality is an abomination.

The adult me, actually the teenage me, rejected all this a long time ago. Sex isn't just about having babies. It feels good. We are sexual beings and we are going to have sex.

So out comes this report that Pope Benedict states, in his new book that the use of condoms can be justified in some cases, such as for male prostitutes or sex workers seeking to prevent the spread of AIDS.

Good news in part but still fraught with the contradictions ingrained in Catholic doctrine.

Let's break it down.

Many have welcomed Pope Benedict XVI's comments on condoms as a sign that the church is making positive steps in the fight against HIV/AIDS. Condoms are effective in stopping the spread of HIV/AIDS true. But the Pope's comments that condoms could be morally justified in some cases, such as for male prostitutes and sex workers seeking to prevent the spread of AIDS, at the same time reinforcing the church's position banning the use of condoms as a contraceptive leaves the score on condoms still: Men 1. Women still 0.

Unfortunately, today women account for more than 1 in 4 new HIV/AIDS cases in the U.S. alone. Of these newly infected women about 2 out of 3 are African American. Most of these women, whether black or white, got HIV/AIDS from having unprotected sex with men - heterosexual men.

Although Hollywood has glorified the male gigolo in films, for the most part male prostitutes primarily service male clientele and not necessarily gay male clientele. Many of these clients would be the first to tell you they aren't gay. They just like to have sex with men but they aren't gay.

I think I would be on safe ground to say that

**... at the same time reinforcing the church's position banning the use of condoms as a contraceptive leaves the score on condoms still: Men 1. Women still 0...**

**Unfortunately, today women account for more than 1 in 4 new HIV/AIDS cases in the U.S. alone.**

the primary clients of female sex workers are also men. A 1992 survey published by the Health Education in Prostitution, which included 125 on the street interviews of low-income female sex workers found that, although 74 percent self-reported frequency of condom use, 53 percent offered one or more reasons for sometimes not using condoms. The reasons ranged from not using condoms with trusted regular partners to client refusal.

Unprotected sex with one is like having unprotected sex with every person the "client" has had sex with. There is no such thing as a monogamous relationship in prostitution.

Often these are the men - the husbands, boyfriends, down-low brothers - who take HIV/AIDS along with other STDs, home to unsuspecting wives and girlfriends.

Between 1978 and 2004 Catholicism has undergone rapid growth especially in Africa. Although the majority remains Muslim, 1 billion are Catholics.

HIV/AIDS is a major public health concern and cause of death in Africa. With only 14 percent of the world's total population, it is estimated that 88 percent of the continent's population is living with HIV and 92 percent of all AIDS deaths.

Women are the face of HIV/AIDS in Africa making up a disproportionate 57 percent. These aren't sex workers. They are often victims of violence, culturally disenfranchised, and impoverished.

Despite the many achievements of women, many women and girls remain in relationships where they have less power, remaining in abusive and otherwise harmful relationships taking safe sex decisions out of their own hands.

As hopeful as Benedict's comments may seem, it leaves women at risk. For these wives and girlfriends, worldwide, using condoms is still considered birth control. I for one do not believe a cheating husband or boyfriend is going to own up to having unprotected sex with a consensual

See Brown, page 15

## LETTERS

### Keeping our eye on the prize

“When the winds of change blow, some people build walls, others windmills.” - Chinese Proverb

The winds of change are blowing through our LGBT community. During these challenging times, Affirmations and Equality Michigan are being buffeted by crises in leadership, the dismal economy with sharply diminished fund raising expectations, and the exodus of many LGBT citizens from Michigan. What is to be done? The consolidation of our faltering organizations would strengthen the infrastructure of our community. This consolidation could begin with the merger of two leading organizations, Affirmations and Equality Michigan. Both organizations are reducing services even as demands increase; both organizations are seeking new executive directors and board members; both organizations lack adequate long term, sustainable funding and are returning time and time again to the same, stretched donors.

Our community would be well served if leaders, donors, and our allies rallied behind a consolidated Affirmations and Equality Michigan with a

**Our community would be well served if leaders, donors, and our allies rallied behind a consolidated Affirmations and Equality Michigan with a single, effective executive director, a single robust board of directors, and shared administrative and fund raising functions.**

single, effective executive director, a single robust board of directors, and shared administrative and fund raising functions.

Consolidation itself poses challeng-

es, not least because of the different tax status accorded to organizations engaged in education and community building as opposed to organizations engaged in political activity and lobbying. At the moment, however, both Affirmations and Equality Michigan have separate arms that carry out these different activities.

We should keep our eyes on the prize: a leaner and stronger organization that can focus on the crucial, dual activities of operating a vital community center and achieving full legal and social equality for all of Michigan's LGBT citizens.

Henry Grix & Howard Israel  
Bloomfield Hills

*Editor's Note: Tell us your ideas for strengthening these two community institutions. What do you think about a consolidation? Find us on our BTL Facebook page or respond to this letter online at our website: [www.pridesource.com](http://www.pridesource.com)*

### Plymouth-Canton has taken steps to protect students

I recently read the “Michigan ‘not listening’ to bullied kids” article in the Nov. 10 edition. While I wish to emphasize that I am not denying or belittling the Tripp Family's experience, I would like to point out that Plymouth-Canton Schools have taken steps related to the rights of LGBT students.

I recently inherited the sponsorship of the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park's (PCEP) Gay-Straight Alliance. The organization is composed of students of varying sexual orientation who are all committed to creating an environment where students feel comfortable and welcomed. The foundational strength of the organization rests on three beliefs.

The first is that students can often be the most effective in convincing others to become more accepting of those whose sexual orientation varies from the mainstream. Through their membership in the organization, they feel supported when they model accepting behavior or speak

out against those who exhibit intolerance. We have discussed effective ways to respond to insensitivity, and projects such as creating posters that support inclusion have also helped our cause.

Second, the organization provides a place where students can feel comfortable in expressing their concerns and experiences regarding their sexual orientation. Other students can offer support and suggestions to those who feel overwhelmed or injured by their experiences.

Third, as moderator, I can act as a liaison between students and staff/administration so those who feel uncomfortable in citing inappropriate behaviors can do so without fear of retribution.

Just recently, I witnessed the dynamics of our organization as it responded to an incident brought to us by a member who had a hate message placed on her locker. The group let her know that they supported her and gave her tips

on getting through the next few days. Next they talked about what strategies they could adopt if they were faced with similar situations in school. Then, I informed other staff of the incident, and the response I received was impressive and moving. This included messages from administrators and the School Resource Officer of the Canton Police Department. The latter forwarded my e-mail to her superior who later e-mailed me what steps I could take in similar situations.

I appreciate any effort to reduce and eliminate the bullying of any child at any school, and fully understand that many districts have a long way to go in even admitting to a problem. I did want our efforts at Plymouth-Canton to be recognized.

Take care,  
Larry Price  
Teacher, Plymouth High School  
Plymouth-Canton Community Schools

of women in education, distribution of wealth, healthcare and demanding reproductive rights, we allow our male dominated world leadership to keep women at risk.

A real positive step in the fight against HIV/AIDS coming from all religious and governmental leaders would be an ongoing discussion on human rights. Not just on poverty, education, distribution of wealth, human sexuality, women's rights, violence against women/children and gay rights but on community building, developing a world filled with peace

on earth and goodwill for every woman, child and man.

It's movement in the right direction Benedict but it's time that you and the rest of your brethren get with the real program - LIFE.

*Michelle E. Brown is a community activist, an authentic speaker, a dynamic leader, and a true voice for the African-American LGBT community. She lives in Southfield with her partner.*



## Parting Glances Then & Now

BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

If you're like me, you probably thought  
Christine Jorgenson had the first sex-  
change operation in 1952.

### We got soup to purrrrrr for

“Freaks of nature, odd crimes, shocking deaths, devastating disasters, bloodcurdling rites, crazy conspiracies & much, much more ...”

Golly. Gee! Who could resist the “Ultimate Book of Bizarre Lists: fascinating facts and shocking trivia on movies, music, crime celebrities, history” by Jamie Frater, Ulysses Press, 701 pages (\$14.95)?

As a trivia buff (and a Facebook groupie - how trivial pursuit can one get?) I was intrigued when I read Jamie's bio. He lives in California with “his partner of seven years and a pet Bengal cat named Dexter”.

One assumes that with the last two details Jamie's gay, and Dexter just might be a serial killer of mice. (There are no rodentia in Bel Air, so I've been told, courtesy of Facebook contacts.)

Having recently seen a photo enlargement of the legendary Rat Pack in the men's restroom of Ferndale's Pete's Place (subliminal message: look who's well hung), I found this sample leadoff item from the book of lists bizarrely compelling. You really can't take it with you, kiddies ...

“Sammy Davis, Jr., died in 1990 due to complications from throat cancer and was buried in a cemetery in Glendale, California. When it was discovered that he was buried nearly bankrupt, his wife, Altovise, had his body exhumed so she could remove \$70,000 worth of jewelry that was buried with him.”

And under “10 Absolutely Awful Roman Emperors,” this entry about Elagabalus, who sat on Rome's throne at 14, merits sharing. His egregious, post-pubescent offense - there were many more to follow ‘til death at 18 - is that he wanted to be castrated in hope of becoming a woman.

Writes Jamie, Elagabalus “offered gargantuan sums of money to the physician who could turn him into one for real.” As the operation wasn't forthcoming, the young emperor got in drag repeatedly, visiting Rome's many whorehouses, “purring” at every male passerby.

If you're like me, you probably thought Christine Jorgenson had the first sex-change operation in 1952. She wasn't first. That M-to-F honor goes to Einar Wegener, a now-forgotten, once-famous artist living in Paris in the 1920s.

“He was subjected to a series of experimental operations that involved removing the penis and having ovaries implanted (the surgeries were unsuccessful).” Einar took the name Lili Elbe. (For the record: Jorgenson was the first to be given accompanying hormonal treatment.)

Under the heading “10 Fascinating ‘Facts’ That Are Wrong” is this myth buster about Joan of Arc. Apparently, our St. Joanie wasn't burned at the stake for heresy. The faggots - logs for burning set afire around her - hence, the gay perjorative word - were for the crime of dressing like a man!

Unable to trap her into admitting to charges of religious heresy, “a prosecutor made an offhand remark and asked if it were true that she dressed like a man during battles. Seeing no harm in telling the truth, she replied yes, and this was enough to seal her doom.” (Cross dressers beware; see Deuteronomy 22:5.)

And for what it's worth to Parting Glances gourmet cooks, this listing with preparation - for black or white meat - appears under the flavorful rubric of Bizarre Soups, Number 7 (lipstick lesbians, please leave the kitchen): Chicken Testicle Soup. No, not your usual Julia Child specialty. But a brunch brightener nonetheless. And energizing.

Lastly, under it's all been done before. “Gay marriage was legally recognized in Rome, and Nero himself married two gay couples.” (Postum scriptus: Nero didn't fiddle while Rome burned. He was outta town in Antium. Doing Jupiter knows what, with which, to whom. No doubt purring all the while.)

*Charles@pridesource.com, See Listverse.com*

#### ► Brown: Pope

Continued from p. 14

partner or sex worker when they get back home wanting their conjugal rights.

The teachings of the Catholic Church are not solely responsible for the increase of HIV/AIDS in women. Society is. Sex is still a taboo subject; sex education in schools is restricted; and sexually transmitted diseases including HIV/AIDS still carry a stigma of shame.

By not addressing the disparities

“It’s called ‘don’t ask, don’t tell,’ okay?  
If you don’t ask them, you don’t ask  
somebody, and they don’t tell.”

## John McCain

BY D’ANNE WITKOWSKI

I wish I still had my dog-eared and tattered copy of “Conduct Unbecoming” so I could send it to John McCain. Not that he’d bother to read it. The U.S. military’s vicious anti-gay history with its witch-hunts and outright persecution of gay service members probably isn’t of much interest to McCain. Especially since “don’t ask, don’t tell” solved everything. Don’t you dare try to tell him anything different.



John McCain

During a Nov. 28 appearance on “State of the Union” with host Candy Crowley, McCain actually had the audacity to claim that “don’t ask, don’t tell” is an effective policy that doesn’t harm anyone, gay or straight, and that the call for its repeal is just politics.

“There was no uprising in the military,” he said. “There were no problems in the military with ‘don’t ask, don’t tell.’”

“If you were gay it was a problem,” Crowley interjected.

“No it wasn’t,” McCain snapped. “It’s called ‘don’t ask, don’t tell,’ okay? If you don’t ask them, you don’t ask somebody, and they don’t tell.”

Got that? It works. End of story.

Crowley tried to ask McCain something else, but he cut her off.

“I understand your point of view. I understand the point of view by the majority of the media,” he said. “But the fact is, this was a political promise made by an inexperienced president or candidate for presidency of the United States.”

In other words, it’s all Obama’s fault. He’s too young to know what a good idea it is to discriminate against homos in the military. Why, when McCain was Obama’s age he had to walk 15 miles in the snow uphill both ways in order to make a campaign promise like that.

“The military is at its highest point in recruitment and retention and professionalism and capability,” McCain continued. “So to somehow allege that this policy has been damaging the military is simply false.”

Tell that to the thousands of gays and lesbians who have been booted out of the military since “don’t ask, don’t tell” was enacted. According to Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, that number is upwards of 14,000. You may recall that in 2002, amid a severe shortage of Arabic-speaking translators, the Army fired six linguists trained in Arabic simply because they were gay.

Apparently McCain sees this as some kind of success. “The fact is that this system is working,” he told Crowley.

McCain repeatedly stressed that he wanted to know what the effect will be of letting gays serve openly - and that’s the operative word, “openly.” Because gays already serve in the military, they just have the weight of a government-mandated closet on their backs threatening to tumble open and ruin their careers at any moment.

“I believe we need to assess the effect on the morale and battle effectiveness of those young Marines and Army people I met at forward-operating bases that are putting their lives on the line every day,” he said. Never mind that some of these “young Marines and Army people” are probably gay.

McCain said he has had “a number of” military folks come up to him and say, “Look, we fight together, we sleep together, we eat together.” His choice of anecdotes illustrates one of the main concerns of homophobes: that homosexuality is contagious, and the best way to guard against it is to make sure you never know when and if it’s around you and to punish gays and lesbians who dare make such an enormous sacrifice to serve the country.

## Opinions

# S/he said

## Allies, well-being and propaganda

COMPILED BY HOWARD ISRAEL

*“I don’t know the hardships of growing up gay, or being a gay adult, but I’m not blind to the acts of homophobia and anti-gay speech in the world. Do these fears and prejudices not span the generational divide or are they just being brushed under the rug, a way to quell the anxiousness and despair these kids feel that the adults can hide or better deal with? Instead of just brandishing the ‘It Gets Better’ flag, why is this project not more focused on its pledge of which the main provisos that ‘everyone deserves to be respected for who they are’ and that you should ‘speak up against hate and intolerance whenever it’s seen, at school and at work,’ actually make it better, instead of magicking it better. The scope of this project should be all people, both gay and straight, to spread this ‘Make It Better’ message.”*

Jeff A. Katz, in his column titled “It Gets Better?,” [www.huffingtonpost.com](http://www.huffingtonpost.com), Nov. 22.

*“Years ago, I was working in a public school in Washington D.C., and I had a young woman come to see me. I had a feeling what she really wanted to talk about. Two weeks later she killed herself. After that, I decided I couldn’t do that ever again. I might have made her feel not so alone. The issue was very divisive in the schools, and I did not open the conversation because I was afraid for myself. If our educators live in fear, they are not doing their job. I hope parents, board members, administrators and fellow teachers realize that there is not an agenda. Sometimes it is just helping kids stay alive long enough to realize that life isn’t as bad as they think it is.”*

– Lisa Baker, Director of the Upper School, Roper School in Birmingham, quoted in an article titled “Inside of out,” about LGBTQ students in Oakland County schools, [www.downtownpublications.com](http://www.downtownpublications.com), December 2010 issue.

*“The results are encouraging, but it’s not time for gay men to throw away their condoms.”*

Dr. Kevin Fenton, chief of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s AIDS division, in an article titled “Daily Pill Greatly Lowers AIDS Risk, Study Finds,” about a study that found that men taking Truvada, a common combination of two antiretroviral drugs, could reduce new HIV infections by 43.8 percent in high-risk men who have sex with men (MSM) and transgender persons, [www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com), Nov. 23.

*“It’s a love story, an escape movie and a comedy, all about this man who goes to incredible lengths to be with the man he loves. I like it because it’s a gay film, which is to say it’s a film about two men in love, and I think that’s an important element of it. But it’s not a film about them being gay. They just happen to be gay. I also got to French kiss Jim Carrey a lot, and I quite like that too.”*

– Ewan McGregor, about his movie titled “I Love You Phillip Morris,” with co-star, Jim Carrey, a gay romantic comedy that takes place behind bars, in an interview, [www.latimes.com](http://www.latimes.com), Oct. 18.

*“Oh, this is rich: The Family Research Council is upset that it’s been categorized as a ‘hate group’ in The SPLC’s report on rabidly anti-gay organizations. Peter Sprigg, FRC senior researcher Sprigg (said), ‘I would much prefer to export homosexuals from the United States than to import them.’ (and) argues that there should be ‘criminal sanctions’ against ‘homosexual behavior.’ Hmm, sure looks like hate and acts like hate. As the saying goes, don’t blame the mirror if the reflection is ugly.”*

– Tracy Clark-Flory, in her column titled “Anti-gay group: We aren’t hateful!,” about the Family Research Council’s heated complaints about being listed on the Southern Poverty Law Center’s current report on the 18 most fanatical anti-gay organizations, [www.salon.com](http://www.salon.com), Nov. 24.



*“I think it does a lot of good. I think any time we’re getting into people’s living rooms showing them complicated, interesting, relevant portrayals of gay people, we’re doing something right. It matters. Seeing Kurt stand up for himself, it really is a beautiful thing.”*

– Peter Paige, actor, “Emmet” on “Queer as Folk,” commenting on the character of “Kurt” on “Glee,” tackling issues including dealing with being bullied by a closeted football player, <http://greginhollywood.com>, Nov. 19.

*“Most gays are not inclined toward military service, but many lesbians are, and it is an open secret that they do well in the calling, especially in medical and administrative specialties. My solution would get the distaff part of our homosexual population off our collective ‘Broke Back,’ thus giving straight male GIs a fair shot at converting lesbians and bringing them into the mainstream.”*

– Joe Rehyansky, retired, U.S. Army and the Chattanooga, Tennessee, District Attorney’s office, in his column titled “Don’t hint, don’t wink: An immodest proposal,” with helpful suggestions about how to get rid of gays in the military, <http://dailycaller.com>, Nov. 22.



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

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**ISENTRESS**  
raltegravir tablets



## **INDICATIONS**

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

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

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

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

## **IMPORTANT RISK INFORMATION**

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

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

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

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

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

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  - This side effect occurred more often in patients taking ISENTRESS plus *Truvada* (4%) versus *Sustiva* plus *Truvada* (3%)
- ◆ Experienced less effect on LDL cholesterol ("bad" cholesterol)
  - Cholesterol increased an average of 7 mg/dL with ISENTRESS plus *Truvada* versus 21 mg/dL with *Sustiva* plus *Truvada*

**Ask your doctor about ISENTRESS.**

**Not sure where to start? Visit [isentress.com/questions](http://isentress.com/questions)**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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**ISENTRESS**  
raltegravir tablets

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

**What is ISENTRESS?**

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

**ISENTRISS must be used with other anti-HIV medicines.**

**How does ISENTRESS work?**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Know the medicines you take.**

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

**How should I take ISENTRESS?**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**What are the possible side effects of ISENTRESS?**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**How should I store ISENTRESS?**

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

**General information about the use of ISENTRESS**

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

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

**This leaflet gives you the most important information about ISENTRESS.**

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

**What are the ingredients in ISENTRESS?**

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

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

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► **DADT**

Continued from p. 13

openly gay troops. The survey found resistance to repealing the ban strongest among the Marines, according to the Washington Post. It's an attitude apparently shared by their top leader, Commandant Gen. James Amos, who has said that the government should not lift the ban in wartime.

The Corps is the youngest, smallest and arguably the most tight-knit of the enlisted forces, with many of its roughly 200,000 members hailing from small towns and rural areas in the South.

"We've never changed our motto. We've never changed our pitch to new recruits. We have hardly changed our formal uniforms in 235 years," said Marine Reserve Lt. Col. Paul Hackett, 48, who has been in the Corps for 25 years. "We are a religion unto ourselves, and we pride ourselves in that."

The Marine Corps traces its roots to an 18th century Philadelphia bar, Tun Tavern, where, according to legend, the first Colonial Marines were recruited in 1775 – setting the tone for troops who still boast they are the toughest, most aggressive fighters in the military.

The Marines Corps was among the last in the military to open its doors to women, forming the first female Corps in

1943, according to the Women's Memorial in Washington D.C.

But some things haven't changed. Marine recruiting commercials are still full of macho swagger that dare people to become one of "The Few. The Proud. The Marines."

Much has been said about the Marine "mystique," the almost cult-like bonds developed among a force known historically to have higher casualty rates because it is considered the "tip of the spear," or the first to respond to bloody conflicts. Marine officers say that kind of unit "cohesion" – fostered through close living quarters – can literally mean the difference between life and death when headed into battle.

Many Marines say they aren't bothered by the notion of serving with openly gay men and women. Gary Solis, a Marine combat veteran who teaches the laws of war at Georgetown University Law Center, says others have the misconception that openly gay Marines will not be as aggressive or "gung-ho" as their comrades in arms.

"Of course, we know none of that's true about homosexuals," Solis added. "There have always been homosexuals in the Marine Corps, but when you acknowledge it openly, that's a different thing. There are many Marines, particularly the older, more senior Marines, who don't want to see that image diluted."

Iraq veteran Miguel Jimenez, 37, a staff sergeant who left the Marine Corps

in 2008, said he would have been uncomfortable having an openly gay man in the Marine unit he led. His Marines often spent the night in their armored vehicle, he said, changing their clothes and sleeping within inches of each other.

Sgt. David Trentham said allowing gays to serve openly could become a distraction for units engaged in combat.

Will Rodriguez-Kennedy, a Marine corporal who was discharged in 2008 under the "don't ask, don't tell" law, said the Corps' demanding standards and the strong sense of brotherhood are what prompted him to join in the first place.

"My calling has always been service, and I wanted to go into the best of the branches, the one that showed the most pride, the most challenge," he said, adding that he wants to rejoin if and when the ban is lifted.

He said that Marine Corps officers can smooth the transition to gays serving openly through leadership.

"There's so much discipline that is instilled in our Marines that if they see the senior officers saying this is not acceptable, then they are going to say this is not acceptable," Rodriguez-Kennedy said.

Marines say privately they know the policy is on its way out, adding that the older officers will take it harder than the younger ones who have grown up in a more open society.

## Global survey indicates most gay men worldwide cannot access basic HIV prevention and services

A new survey of more than 5,000 participants worldwide indicates that the majority of men who have sex with men (MSM) find it difficult or impossible to access HIV testing, HIV counseling, free condoms and free lubricant.

Conducted by the Global Forum on MSM & HIV (MSMGF) in collaboration with Dr. Patrick Wilson, Assistant Professor at Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health, the survey was carried out online in Chinese, English, French, Russian, and Spanish. The survey closed with a total of 3,875 MSM and 1,009 MSM service providers participating. Another 375 participants did not identify themselves as MSM or provider. Nearly three quarters of all study participants were from low- or

middle-income countries.

Results indicate that fewer than half of MSM worldwide have access to even the most basic HIV prevention and services. Of all respondents, only 39 percent reported easy access to free condoms and barely one in four reported easy access to free lubricant. A full 25 percent said free lubricant was completely unavailable. Large percentages of men reported that it was difficult or impossible to access other essential services as well, including HIV testing (57 percent), HIV education materials (66 percent) and HIV treatment (70 percent).

"Since the beginning of the AIDS epidemic, it has been widely recognized that condoms, lubricant, testing and treat-

ment, when combined with community-led behavior change and support programs, are the most reliable tools available in the fight against HIV among MSM," Dr. George Ayala, Executive Officer of the MSMGF, said. "More than 25 years in, it is inexcusable that MSM around the world continue to have such restricted access to these basic lifesaving resources."

Regional differences also emerged regarding experiences of stigma and discrimination. On every measure of stigma related to homophobia, men in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Eastern Europe, and Latin America reported higher levels and harsher forms of stigma and discrimination than men in North America, Western Europe and Australia.

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## Vienna gay ball set for imperial palace

Vienna's traditional LGBT Rainbow Ball will take place in the Hofburg imperial palace in February.

"For the first time, the LGBT community will paint the imperial staterooms of the Habsburgs' winter residency in rainbow colors," said the organizer, Homosexual Initiative Vienna, or HOSI Wien.

Three thousand attendees are expected.

"As the Parkhotel Schoenbrunn is closed for refurbishing works next year, we had to find an alternative location for the ball," said HOSI President Christian Hoegl. "We seized this occasion to secure the most prestigious venue for balls in Vienna (where) we expect to be able to almost double the number of guests."

For more information in English, see [tinyurl.com/2bk3glq](http://tinyurl.com/2bk3glq).



Vienna's traditional LGBT Rainbow Ball will take place in the Hofburg imperial palace in February. HOSI Wien photo

## Poland has its first openly gay elected official



Krystian Legierski

Gay activist and club owner Krystian Legierski was elected to the Warsaw City Council from the city's Mokotow district in the Nov. 21 election.

Although he is a member of the Green Party, Legierski was a candidate on the Social Democrats' party list.

As in many countries, parties rank their candidates on a list and then the number of the candidates who win office is a matter of the percentage of votes the party receives overall.

Legierski is also black, "a very rare feature in Polish homogeneous society," said veteran gay activist Slawek Starosta.

In an interview for this column, Legierski

said: "In Poland there are so few blacks that nobody has ever done research on how many there are. It would not pay to do it. But without a black-emancipation movement, and without a strong organization of sexual minorities, after just 20 years of democracy, we have achieved what elsewhere sometimes took generations. Poland showed its tolerant and nondiscriminatory face."

## All EU countries must recognize marriages

The European Parliament said Nov. 23 that civil documents -- birth and death certificates, marriage certificates, etc. -- must be recognized the same in every European Union nation.

That means countries that don't allow same-sex marriage or civil unions are expected to recognize such unions from countries that do.

The Parliament said it "strongly supports plans to enable the mutual recognition of the effects of civil status documents" and "stresses the need to ensure mutual recognition" of them.

The next step is for the European Commission to propose ways to achieve mutual recognition of all partnerships and marriages throughout the EU.

"This is a great development for the many couples and families who see their fundamental rights diminished every day when crossing a

border inside the EU," said Ulrike Lunacek, co-president of the European Parliament Intergroup on LGBT Rights.

Co-President Michael Cashman said the statement adopted by the Parliament "follows the Commission's assertion in September that freedom of movement must be guaranteed for all citizens, regardless of sexual orientation."

"Claims that mutual recognition will undermine national sovereignty are plain wrong; it won't affect national marriage or partnership laws, but simply recognize civil unions that already exist," Cashman said.

Member nations of the European Union are Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom. Currently seeking to join the EU are Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Iceland, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey.

Same-sex marriage is legal in Belgium, Iceland, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain and Sweden. Elsewhere, it is legal in Argentina, Canada, South Africa, Mexico City, Connecticut, Iowa, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont and Washington, D.C.

## Russian pride event attacked

About 100 people demonstrated against

Russia's first legal gay pride event Nov. 20 in St. Petersburg. Some of the protesters threw eggs at the 15 gay ralliers, tore up signs, damaged a rainbow flag, shouted insults and sang religious hymns.

Organizers expressed disappointment at the level of police protection of the event.

"Police had to evacuate participants and they are all safe," said Moscow Pride founder Nikolai Alekseev, who drove 10 hours "on the icy road with snow and many trucks" to join the rally.

Around 10 counterdemonstrators were taken into custody. There is raw video of the showdown at [grani-tv.ru/entries/1479/](http://grani-tv.ru/entries/1479/).

Russia's routine bans on public gay events recently were struck down by the European Court of Human Rights, in a series of cases brought by Alekseev.

## Masked men tear-gas trans event in Ukraine

Thirty attendees at a Transgender Day of Remembrance event in Kiev, Ukraine, were attacked with tear gas by 10 men in masks Nov. 20.

In addition, activist Timur Lysenko from the group Insight was beaten at the gathering at the Visual Culture Center.

The incident occurred inside the building as the group watched the film *Boys Don't Cry*.

Victims are filing police complaints and pushing to have the incident classified as a hate crime rather than hooliganism, which was officials' preliminary assessment.

## Aussie PM refuses to OK gay marriage

Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard continues to oppose legalization of same-sex marriage despite polls that show the public supports it.

The latest Sydney Morning Herald/Nielsen poll, released Nov. 22, found that only 37 percent of Australians oppose same-sex marriage while 57 percent support it.

Among Australians who belong to Gillard's Labor Party, two-thirds support same-sex marriage and among Greens party voters, 86 percent support it. Pollsters questioned 1,400 voters.

# Panic among Kenya's gays after PM's arrest threat

BY TOM ODULA

**NAIROBI, Kenya (AP)** - } An official with Kenya's largest gay rights organization said Monday there is panic among its members following remarks made by Kenya's prime minister that homosexuals should be arrested.

The office of the Gay and Lesbian Coalition of Kenya received calls from concerned members, some of whom are HIV-positive and fear they will be arrested when they collect life-prolonging medicine from government clinics, board member Nguru Karugu said.

Prime Minister Raila Odinga on Sunday

said homosexuals who are found in the midst of sex acts will be arrested. Odinga's spokesman said in a statement Sunday night that the prime minister was quoted out of context.

In an audio recording of Sunday's speech heard by The Associated Press, the prime minister says in the Kenyan language of Kiswahili that "if a man is caught having sex with the other we will jail them, or if a girl is caught with the other ... we will jail them." In the latter part of his statement he used profanity to explain lesbianism.

"We want a country that is clean, a clean way of doing thing has clean mannerisms ... we do not want things to do with sodomy," Odinga

said.

Kenya's laws prohibit "sex against the order of nature." That charge is punishable by up to 14 years in prison.

Karugu said the prime minister's remarks are big blow to Kenya's efforts to reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS. He said the government has included gays in its plans to combat the virus.

Civil rights activist Zawadi Nyongongo called for a protest outside the prime minister's office on Wednesday.

Odinga's spokesman, Dennis Onyango, said the prime minister was trying to convey how groups opposed to the country's new constitu-

tion -- which was adopted in August -- used lies and scare tactics to get people to vote against it.

Onyango said the prime minister gave two examples of opposition propaganda that the new constitution would legalize gay marriage.

"He then added a rider that even if the constitution allowed gay marriages, census data showed there were more women than men in Kenya and people would naturally go for marriage with the opposite sex," Onyango said. "The highlight on the alleged order for a crackdown completely missed the point."

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# Amy Sedaris Talks Queers and Crafts

## Author/actress on new (super gay) book

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

From a wacky misfit to her Martha-on-crack domesticity book, Amy Sedaris has made a career out of being different. She's at it again with "Simple Times: Crafts for Poor People," turning to the queer world of crafting in her good ol' days follow-up to 2006's "I Like You: Hospitality Under the Influence."

Before Sedaris tried on quirky how-to books that, depending on what you'd do with a sausage hut or Dutch bonnet (which, by the way, can be made from the book jacket), are completely impractical – but so out-there hilarious – she found a loyal following through "Strangers with Candy." The decade-old Comedy Central show, on which she played bisexual high school student Jerri Blank, became a cult-hit, and then a 2006 movie.

It was the first of Sedaris' many film and TV roles, as she'd make memorable cameos in two 2009 films: the homoerotic "Jennifer's Body" and spoof-comedy "Dance Flick," as Ms. Cameltoé. But the literary class, which she shares with her brother David, has been good to her, too: "I Like You" was on the New York Times bestseller's list for over 12 weeks, and its spin-off is packed with the goofy humor and eye-popping pics that put it there.

Sedaris is over crafting, but that didn't stop her from talking about it. She told us all about gay people's "magic fingertips," why queers are great crafters, and what Neil Patrick Harris had to do with the book.

**I love your book, but I bet you hate crafting now.**

Oh yeah: I can't stand it. I hope that's not why you called! (Laughs)

**No – we won't hate on crafting. But we will talk about it. Were any of your gay friends involved in making crafts for the book?**

Uh, let me think about it: Yes! If anything looks good, you're either a Chinese lesbian or a homosexual.

**So that's why the gays-are-good-crafters statistic in the book is so high. How did you come up with that number?**

Yes! Just made it up – like all statistics. (Laughs)

**What do you think makes gay people good crafters?**

I really don't know. I just think they have good taste. And my god, they can do anything.

See Sedaris, page 35



Photos: Danielle St Laurent

# New DVD releases perfect for last-minute holiday shopping

## Reviews of 'Cher: The Film Collection,' 'The Kids Are All Right' and 'The Sound of Music'

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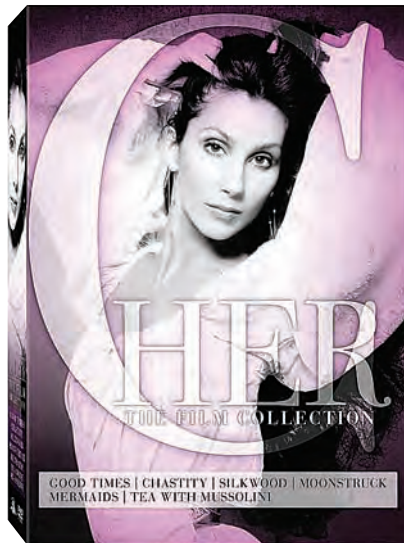


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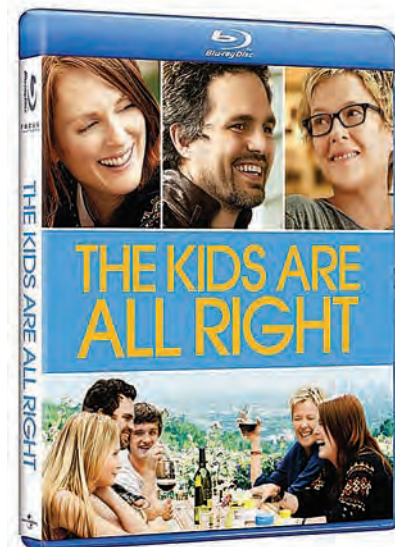
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### 'Cher: The Film Collection'

Cher's throwing herself back onto the big-screen with "Burlesque," but let's turn back time for a second to the enduring, do-it-all icon's breakout role, one that required some same-sex loving. You know the one: "Silkwood," the based-on-a-true-story 1983 film that cast the actress as the Meryl Streep-doting, frumpy (no Bob Mackie for you, Cher!) lesbian roomie, Dolly Pelliker. That dramatic fare, which rightly earned her the first Oscar nod of her career, is one of six films featured in this Cher retrospective - a collection that likely goes back farther than the actress/musician/fashionista would've liked: all the way to the '60s with "Good Times," her campy musical-comedy with Sonny Bono, and "Chastity," which epitomized the hippie era it grew out of. And that opening beach scene with Cher

running, and running, and running? Yeah, that happened. But Cher, because she's Cher, was able to rebound and make us believe in life after... a bad movie run. Besides "Mask" and "The Witches of Eastwick" (two films unfortunately not part of this six-disc deal - but 1990s faves "Mermaids" and "Tea with Mussolini" are!), she starred in her signature, Oscar-winning role as a transcended-by-love Italian woman, Loretta Castorini, in "Moonstruck." Cher was fantastic - hilarious and emotionally uncaged and pushing outside her comfort zone. She wasn't a lesbian, however - not even close - but believe me, she would've been better off. Instead, she got Nicolas Cage. You can't win 'em all, and this set doesn't: No commentaries? No how-to-dress-like-Cher feature? Consider this one a gift for the new gay.



### 'The Kids Are All Right'

Lesbians will be lesbians - and watch gay-gude porn? Sure it struck me as strange that this goes down (mmm... so to speak) in director Lisa Cholodenko's hearty indie sleeper, but these aren't conventional people raising a conventional family. These are Nic and Jules (respectively Annette Bening and Julianne Moore), two moms whose kids are stuck on maintaining a relationship with their sperm-donor dad (Mark Ruffalo). Cholodenko's film, her most successful to date (both "High Art" and "Laurel Canyon" wooed critics, but didn't catch on commercially), is being called a shoo-in come Academy Awards season, many predicating Moore and Bening going head-to-head in the Best Actress category. Both deserve it, as they run the gamut of emotions, mostly

bitchy and needy, that unfurl when a long-term relationship's flaws are revealed in the midst of a donor dad diving into their clan. Bening's slo-mo dinner part, where shock isolates her from everything else, is her Oscar moment; Moore's comes later, when Jules gives a heartfelt love lecture to the family. It's serious stuff, one that succeeds in dimming the flashing "gay" sign, but Cholodenko lightens up the drama with offbeat humor, including the awkwardness of the first dinner together with dad and moms, and surprising sex romps. Too bad the DVD extras aren't as impressive, because there are none. But Blu-ray collectors are in luck: There's an intriguing Cholodenko commentary and, however brief, some behind-the-scenes featurettes. Get this for the movie, though - it's more than all right.



### 'The Sound of Music (45th Anniversary Edition)'

However pointless it seems to actually review a film so part of cinematic history - and my fifth-grade chorus class - this reissue of "The Sound of Music" isn't without lots to talk about. Being the only boy with enough guts (and falsetto) to sing along to "My Favorite Things" in school was a pretty good precursor of how gay my life would turn out, but watching the 1965 musical again for the first time - over 15 years later - means something completely different. It means, for one, that I get it beyond the music: Julie Andrews, as Maria, is a bearer of hope in the midst of World War II tension, a fairy godmother-type whose wand is her voice, which she uses to restore faith in the von Trapp family and to win them over with her darling charm. As

enchanting as it is, so are the extra features on the three-disc edition: an interactive experience (on-screen lyrics, trivia and more) and sing-alongs; previously released audio commentaries with Andrews, co-star Christopher Plummer and director Robert Wise; and "rare treasures," like from-the-vault interviews and performances. The movie itself, with its glorious Blu-ray transfer, practically pops through the tube with the hi-def restoration, its once-muted watercolors zinged to life with glowing vibrancy - an incredible new way to view the classic. And the best way, as the most memorable scenes - especially that iconic opening of Andrews twirling atop the Austrian mountains (now retouched with a beautiful brightness) - shout, and sing, like never before. The hills are very alive, indeed.

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**"Hate: A Romance,"** by Tristan Garcia, translated by Marion Duvert and Lorin Stein. Faber & Faber, 288 pages, \$14 paper.

The men who hate in Garcia's provocative debut novel – an award-winner when published in France two years ago – once loved each other.

Will is first seen as an awkward country teen, fumbling with his physical self-esteem; passionate about the arts, he makes his way to Paris in 1989, a pontificating club kid before spiraling into drugs. Salvaged by journalist Elizabeth – from whose perspective the novel is narrated – he meets her friend, one-time Communist Dominique, a few years older and soon seduced by the younger man's punk charm and blossoming intellect. Standard boy-meets-boy stuff – except that, after Will contracts HIV (from whom is never clear), their lives diverge dramatically. Dominique (Doum), also HIV-positive, becomes an acclaimed safe sex advocate; Will, by this point something of a public intellectual, becomes a proponent of barebacking. It would be a mistake to pigeonhole this controversial book as solely about the politics of sex and AIDS, however; it's first a heady intellectual narrative, a rich novel of ideas, and then, amidst the tumult of personalities at war with each other, it's the story of a romance.

**Featured Excerpt**

*Today we know that AIDS is above all the name, you know, of a moral argument that's trying to police our sexuality. All this sex panic, now that AIDS is more or less curable – we can see that it's been co-opted to make the queer community normal, acceptable. That they've assimilated us in order to castrate us. And now when you see a man like Doum, a counterrevolutionary of the right, collaborating with the French Ministry of Health, which dates from Vichy, to advocate a universal ban on free sex – well, what are you supposed to think?*

From "Hate: A Romance," by Tristan Garcia

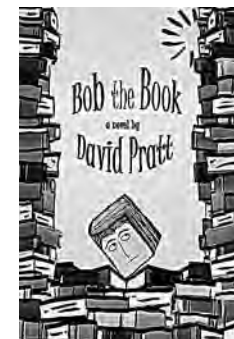
**"Whatever Gods May Be,"** by Sophia Kell Hagin. Bold Strokes Books, 288 pages, \$16.95 paper.

Written by a lesbian, published by a lesbian press, about a lesbian Marine rising steadily through the ranks during a vicious counter-insurgency war fought over oil rights in the Asian Pacific, this physically and psychologically intense war novel has balls. It has romance too, beginning in boot camp, as teenager Jamie Gwynmorgan – derided as "twat leader" by male colleagues – is drawn to sultry Martina Rhys, the other woman in her platoon. But their simmering sexual tension is secondary to Hagin's incendiary story about women proving themselves as adept at killing as men – all the while coping with the sexism and homophobia still rampant in a near-future military where "queer became legal and cunts got the right to qualify for combat duty." The blood of battle courses through this novel's

pages with an astonishing relentlessness; the harrowing experience of prolonged interrogation becomes horrifically riveting. This isn't a novel for the faint of heart. It is a novel for fans of straight-up war stories, with a dash of the supernatural on the side.

**"The Guest List: How Manhattan Defined American Sophistication – from the Algonquin Round Table to Truman Capote's Ball,"** by Ethan Mordden. St. Martin's Press, 324 pages, \$29.99 hardcover.

Though there are several "name" queers in Mordden's nimble survey of Manhattan's social elite through the middle of the 20th century – Truman Capote, of course, in the '60s, and Cole Porter before him – this zippy cultural history gazes well beyond the gays. It covers a lost era in intellectual and artistic life: the period, to the author's mind, when New York (and, more particularly, the island of Manhattan) set the standard and the style for American popular culture – a time hard now to fathom as American culture has coarsened and the "heartland" sneers at arts and letters elites. There was a time, though, when sassy Dorothy Parker and pragmatic Edna Ferber, saucy Ethel Waters and firebrand Dorothy Thompson, tattletale Walter Winchell and feisty John O'Hara were stars. And Porter and Capote were, too; Truman's fabled Black and White Dance of 1996 (according to the invitation, though it's memorialized as a Ball) is Mordden's cutoff point, the moment in time when Manhattan's elites stopped mattering as much to America.



**"Bob the Book,"** by David Pratt. Chelsea Station Editions, 188 pages, \$16 paper.

If ever there were a book for lovers of books, this is it. More specifically, it's a book about a book about queer erotica, Bob the Book (known to browsing customers

as "Private Pleasures: Myth and Representation in Male Photo Sets and Pornography from the Pre-Stonewall Era to 1979"), who falls in love with a book named Moisha ("Beneath the Tallis: The Hidden Lives of Gay and Bisexual Orthodox Jewish Men"), which he's shelved next to in a New York bookstore, Gay Diversions. They flirt, two quite different tomes drawn to one another, until one terrible day they are separated. The picaresque adventure that ensues shuttles Bob from his cozy bookstore home to the dusty anonymity of a used book sale, where he encounters the kinds of books he'd never have met at Gay Diversions. This charming novel, recounted by Pratt with seamless insight into the inner lives of books, is told almost entirely by Bob and the books around him – a seductive and eloquent literary accomplishment that, at last, answers the question: What is a gay book?

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"Because we have a lot of local stores involved, too, people can find work by Detroit artisans, books, clothing and more. Restaurants and churches will be part of it, too," Annmarie Borucki, marketing manager for Noel Night, told the Detroit Free Press recently. "The event has grown in the last few years, with more and more people coming from the suburbs as well. People love it, and I think a lot of that has to do with the way it features the Midtown neighborhood. It looks best on Noel Night."

Attendees will also enjoy horse-drawn carriage rides, holiday crafts, and more than 120 performances of music, puppetry and theater at venues downtown. The evening



An ice sculptor makes his final touches to his entry in last year's Ice Scraper Challenge at Woodward Plaza in front of the Detroit Institute of Arts.

will end with a community sing-along on Woodward Avenue, led by the Salvation Army Band.

For more information, check out <http://detroitmidtown.com/05/noelnight>.

# Can you handle the musical mash-up of 'Too Hot to Handel'?

"Too Hot to Handel," a jazzed-up rendition of Handel's "Messiah," will be rocked by the Rackham Symphony Choir this holiday season.

The piece, which originated in the late 1980s, combines gospel, pop, rock and swing music. In a recent interview with the Detroit Free Press, Rackham conductor Suzanne Mallare Acton said the music uplifts everyone who attends. "When you leave the performance feeling so uplifted and so joyous, that's an experience you want to capture year after year," Acton said. This is the ninth year the choir has performed the piece.

The performance will feature a host of local talent, such as vocal soloists Rodrick Dixon, Alfreda Burke and Karen Marie Richardson, jazz musicians Marion Hayden, Alvin Waddles, Chris Collins, George Benson and many more.

The performance is at 8 p.m. on Dec. 4 at the Detroit Opera House, which is located at 1526 Broadway. Tickets range from \$18-\$65.



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### REVIEW

## 'Best Damn Holiday Show'

Go Comedy! Improv Theater, 261 E. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. Thursday-Saturday through Dec. 23. \$10-\$15. 248-327-0575. [www.gocomedy.net](http://www.gocomedy.net)

ents from Santa); and the long-awaited return of Frosty the Snowman.

Timely tales take a look at how recent Chilean mine survivors decide to celebrate the holidays; and the difficulties of gift-giving when parents are unemployed.

The best moments of the show, however, come fast and often.

Toy salespeople Bryan Lark and Christa Coulter (a recent addition to the Go Comedy! family) try to sell the latest holiday products to store buyer Suzie Jacokes – who is increasingly offended by toys and games targeted to children in specific geographical areas of Metro Detroit (such as the Barbie's Cousin Fatima for Dearborn and Barrel of Junkies for Hamtramck).

A lump in your throat will form when Chris DiAngelo plays a lonely young boy torn apart by divorce and whose only friend is the turkey dad (Pj Jacokes) plans to serve for dinner. And later, a lesbian couple (Suzie Jacokes and Coulter) fight over a long-held family

tradition that one wants to continue with their young son.

And an office holiday party's post mortem reveals certain events that most would prefer to remain forgotten.

Then there are two scenes from last year's successful "Miracle on 9 Mile Street" that return with a twist: Diapered DiAngelo as Baby New Year 2011 gets advice from a much-in-need-of-rehab Baby New Year 2010 (Lark); while the men make interesting holiday music together in the men's room – with their zippers.

Another variation from last year's show is one of the most original of the night. Suzie Jacokes, Coulter and Anne Faba are three young Jewish women attending the baby shower for Mary of Nazareth. Their characterizations are perfect, the script is clever and the women's reactions are to die for.

In fact, that's pretty much the case with the entire show – although there were a few occasions when the actors talked too fast, too low or during the laughs, and as a result, some of us seated in the back didn't catch a few of the punchlines. (Plus, a relatively few skits are merely adequate.) But otherwise, thanks to directors Tommy and Michelle LeRoy and their fine and energetic cast, Go Comedy! enters its third year of business delivering its best gift to us all: a thoroughly enjoyable night of holiday laughter!



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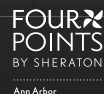
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► Sedaris

Continued from p. 25

Anything! They make everything look better – from people to crafts.

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Oh, that’s a good idea!

Did you and your brother, David, create together as kids?

Well, there are six kids and we turned the basement into a Santa’s workshop every Christmas and made our own ornaments. We were always working on something.

I’m guessing there was no “fornicrafting” going on then, though.

No, and I don’t know anything about making love, so (co-author) Paul Dinello completely wrote that chapter on his own. I think I contributed a couple words, but when it came to stuff like that (laughs), I was like, “I don’t know anything about making love. You do it – you’re the one with three girlfriends!”

What are the gayest crafts in the books?

The ones that look the best! (Laughs) Seriously – I’m not even joking. The guy who made my costumes, Adam Selman, he’s a gay – there you go! – and we met on the Dolly Parton video (for “Better Get to Livin’”), and we hit it off immediately because I just love costumes and props. So when I met him I asked him if he would work on the book.

You were so good in that Dolly video.

When they asked me to do it, I was like, “Of course!” And then when they told me I got to work with a monkey, I was like, “Dolly, who?!” Yeah, my dream was to work with a little monkey and the vest that the monkey wore – Adam had made him a little vest – we put that in the book. It’s next to the banana pudding. It’s cute.

So my pick for gayest craft in the book is the Crafty Candle Salad (a banana concoction with mayo dripping off it).

Oh yeah! (Laughs)

I don’t know if you made that one, but did you think that it was a little, uh, gay?

I made it! And for it to stand up you have to take a little bite off the top of it; just take the tip off – we’ve all heard that before! It’s so funny to watch other people make that because you can’t help but be dirty. I’ll tell you: One thing about the book is we laughed so hard while we were working on it. We shot everything in my apartment and we were just crying from laughing so hard.

What were some of the funniest projects to work on?

The hot dog on the rake with Adam standing there and the hot dog just batting him in the pants – I mean, Jesus, that was ridiculous! The Crafty Candle Salad was another one we laughed really hard at. Pretty much everything – all the costumes and dressing up and figuring out all my hair tricks at the last minute. I love doing stuff like that.



Amy Sedaris makes a “Crafty Candle Salad” for her new book.

How about the sausage chapter?

Well, I put the sausage chapter after making love because when you turn the page to the last page of making love, you see the top part of the sausage hutch or whatever you want to call it with the batting coming out of it for smoke, and it just looked dirty to me. It looked like a Negro dick.

What was the process of putting this book together like?

It was a huge undertaking, but with crafts it just takes a long time to make stuff and it’s very expensive. The hard part for me was feeding everybody, getting everybody on board, trying to get them to work faster (laughs), and then, to make it easier on myself, I let some people craft elsewhere and then they sent me the crafts.

I have a good friend who lives in Hawaii – a gay friend who lives in Hawaii! – and he made all the coconut crafts. And I’ll tell you another thing about gay people: You ask them to do something... and it is done! Professional and delivered – before the deadline. You ask a straight guy and you have to keep calling them and reminding them that they even said they would do it. Todd Oldham did a lot for the book. They just... it’s like they have magic in their fingertips or something.

I like that. Do you mind if I add that to my résumé?

(Laughs) Go right ahead!

I know you’ve collaborated with your brother in the past. Have you discussed working with him in the future on a book?

Book? No. I mean, he has his books and my books are so different – they’re more for people who can’t read. And I have a lot of help; David works completely by himself. But we never say we’re going to do another play together, it just kind of happens. I hope we do another play together, but I don’t know when.

How was working on this book different than “I Like You”?

It kind of felt like a second child; I knew the deadline situation and I knew what was ahead of me, so I was more open to suggestions. I just wasn’t as controlling; that was the biggest difference. And this book isn’t as personal as “I Like You,” and I enjoyed stepping back from it a little bit.

What else do you do well that you could write a book about?

Jesus – that’s a good question. Well, I’m really good with rabbits, and I think that’s why whatever I do will always have a rabbit chapter, because there’s so much wrong information out there. But I would seriously love to do a rabbit book. There’s, like, one on the market that’s any good, and that’s it. I’d love to do a series of videos and books on rabbit care. I know that’s a limited audience.

You have one, right?

I do. Her name’s Dusty and she’s in the book under “Hay Burners.”

Will we see Jerri Blank again?

You never know. I always say she’s like a rash and you never know when she’s going to reappear. There’s a lot of Jerri in me, and then on the audio book in the rabbit chapter I describe haze as their premium marijuana, so I read that as Jerri Blank on the audiotape.

You’ve wrapped the upcoming film “The Best and the Brightest” with Neil Patrick Harris, right?

Yeah! Ah, and speaking of Neil Patrick Harris, my god. Talk about gay, gay, gay, gay, gay. You know, he does magic and the chapter “Out of this World” was inspired by him, because he did magic tricks when we were working on that film. So, I was inspired by that and that’s why that chapter’s in the book. I just loved him. There isn’t anything he can’t do. He reminds me a lot of Stephen Colbert; they’re very smart and energetic and they give 100 percent. I just think the world of him.

All in all, this is a pretty gay book, isn’t it?

The Crafty Candle Salad, the sausages – I guess it is! And I like the bandana picture with Adam and Paul Dinello in a barn, and how Adam is helping Paul up so that he can reach something, but what he’s trying to reach is at arm’s length; it’s like right there in front of him! That’s a pretty good, you know, gay picture.

How do you feel about turning 50 next year?

I don’t know how I’m supposed to feel, but I just know when you’re 50, that’s old – like when you’re little and people tell you they’re 50, or when you’re little and you think, “I can’t wait to see what Barbra Streisand’s going to look like when she’s 50!” It’s just automatically an old age.

The thing I’m having a hard time with is how I’m supposed to dress, because I always dress like a scarecrow. How would a 50-year-old dress? I still think I can wear print dresses and rickrack – that’s OK. But I just wish I could go from 49 to 73; I don’t really know what to do with the in-between years.

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## OUTINGS

### Thursday, Dec. 2

**Its Not Over** 5 p.m. Join us in a self-discovery series for same-gender-attracted loving HIV-positive men. Explore issues about sex, intimacy, relationships and more. HIVAIDS Resource Center (HARC), 3075 Clark Rd. #203, Ypsilanti. 734-572-9355. [igolson@hivaidresource.org](http://igolson@hivaidresource.org). [www.hivaidresource.org](http://www.hivaidresource.org).

**Euchre Tournament** 7 p.m. Fundraiser to benefit Out Loud Chorus, Washtenaw county's original GLBT chorus. \$10 entry, cash prizes. Out Loud Chorus, 1950 South Industrial Hwy., Ann Arbor. 734-973-6084. [outloudchorus@gmail.com](mailto:outloudchorus@gmail.com) [www.olconline.org](http://www.olconline.org)

### Friday, Dec. 3

**LAAN's Red Ribbon Gala** 6:30 p.m. Sixth Red Ribbon Gala and Auction Event at Eagle Eye Golf Course in Bath. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. For LAAN's 25th anniversary observance, Jeanne White-Ginder, mother of Ryan White and national HIV activist, will be the keynote speaker! The Lansing Area AIDS Network, 15500 Chandler Road, Bath. 517-394-3719 ext 13. [jdistel@laanonline.org](mailto:jdistel@laanonline.org) [www.laanonline.org](http://www.laanonline.org)

**AIDS Quilt Reception** 7 p.m. Opening reception features the local chapter of The Names Project, Detroit's chapter of Amnesty International USA and a special performance by Affirmations' own, Julie Marcos. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. [www.goaffirmations.org](http://www.goaffirmations.org)

**Happy Holidays from S.P.I.C.E.** 7 p.m. S.P.I.C.E. Cordially invites you to their Annual Christmas Party for food, fun, music, games, discussion, and more. Pot Luck style, if you can bring a dish, e-mail [flash@spiceonline.org](mailto:flash@spiceonline.org)! S.P.I.C.E., 41 Burroughs, Suit 110, Detroit. 313-205-0594. [flash@spiceonline.org](mailto:flash@spiceonline.org)

**Congregation TChiyah** "World AIDS Day Chanukah Shabbat Service" World AIDS Day and the first night of Chanukah this year both fall on the same day. In commemoration, Congregation TChiyah (Reconstructionist) will host a Chanukah party beginning with a pot-luck dinner at 6:30 PM. Mondry Building, Jewish Community Center of Oak Park, 15000 W. Ten Mile Road, Oak Park. 6:30 p.m. 248-542-0900. [www.tchiyah.org](http://www.tchiyah.org)

**Womyn's Film Night** 7 p.m. Film: *Wisecracks* – In the male-dominated world of stand-up, these queens of comedy display their ample talent onstage and offer their keen insights offstage in this hilarious documentary. The talent roster is a who's who of funny women: Whoopi Goldberg, Ellen DeGeneres, Paula Poundstone, Phyllis Diller, Carol Burnett and more. Filmmaker Gail Singer also traces the roots of feminine humor with clips of Lucille Ball, Eve Arden and Mae West. (Standup Comedy, 1991, 90 minutes) Affirmations, 290 W. 9 Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105.

**8: The Mormon Proposition** 7:30 p.m. Part of the group's 2010-11 film series. Free. Holland is Ready, 248 S. River Ave., Holland. 616-990-5669.

**Greater Lansing Gay Men's Chorus and The Lansing Community College Concer Choir, and Sistrum Lansing Women's Chorus** "I Believe Holiday Concert" Tickets are \$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. [www.sistrum.org](http://www.sistrum.org)

### Sat, Dec. 4

**Perceptions Ninth Annual Holiday Party & Charity Auction** 7 p.m. Your ticket includes a full dinner served from a bountiful buffet. A cash bar will be available. The evening will include silent and live auctions where you can bid on a wide array of gifts donated by area merchants, Perceptions members and friends. Proceeds from this year's Charity Auction will go toward our Facilities Fund and the Perceptions Scholarship Fund, managed by the Saginaw Community



## EDITOR'S PICK

Every December, for the past eight years, KICK (The Agency for Lesbian, Gay, Bi & Transgender African-Americans) has put on their popular "Holiday in December" gala, honoring specific people or organizations in the Michigan community. This year is no exception, as the agency begins preparations for their eighth "Holiday in December" – this year honoring The Ruth Ellis Center.

As is tradition, two colors have been chosen for the attire of the gala. This year, be sure to pick out something in elegant black and Tiffany blue and head out to the nation's largest sit-down dinner for LGBT African-Americans.

Tickets are \$50 (\$55 after Dec. 9) and available online at [www.e-kick.org](http://www.e-kick.org). All proceeds from the evening go toward the vital programs and services that KICK offers.

Foundation. Perceptions Saginaw Valley, 2470 Old Bridge Road, Bay City. 989-891-1429. [info@perceptionssv.org](mailto:info@perceptionssv.org) <http://www.perceptionssv.org/HolidayParty/>

### Sun, Dec. 5

**All Creatures ULC Sunday Pets Welfare Services** 1 p.m. Sunday interfaith spiritual services held at an indoor dog park so all types of pets are welcome at all services. Services are held at 1:00 pm every Sunday. All Creatures ULC, 27911 Five Mile Rd., Livonia. 313-563-0162. [cbarber\\_art@yahoo.com](mailto:cbarber_art@yahoo.com) [www.allcreaturesulc.com](http://www.allcreaturesulc.com)

### Thu, Dec. 9

**Meet 'n Greet** 7 p.m. A meeting for LGBT and allied people ages 18-33 for dinner, drinks and conversation. 20 Somethings, 222 E. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. [www.the20somethings.org](http://www.the20somethings.org)

### Fri, Dec. 10

**Author and LGBT activist Sassafras Lowrey speaks** December 10 4 p.m. Join the ACLU of Michigan and the Ruth Ellis Center on Friday, December 10 as they welcome author and activist Sassafras Lowrey at the ACLU of Michigan offices. The ACLU of Michigan and the Ruth Ellis Center, 2966 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 313-578-6828. [mmcguire@aclumich.org](mailto:mmcguire@aclumich.org) <http://www.ruthelliscenter.com>

**Sassafras Lowrey** 5 p.m. The ACLU of Michigan and the Ruth Ellis Center present author, artist and LGBTQ activist Sassafras Lowrey who will speak on how articulating personal crisis stories can empower LGBTQ youth to become leaders in the creation of social change. ACLU and the Ruth Ellis Center, 2966 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 313-410-5509. [relnir@aclumich.org](mailto:relnir@aclumich.org)

**Womyn's Film Night** 7 p.m. Film: *The Secrets* - Devote but lively, Naomi and her new friend Michelle befriend a beautiful, mysterious older woman, Anouk, (Fanny Ardant) who is ill and living nearby who may or may not be Jewish, and may have committed a crime of passion. Naomi devises a series of rituals which will somehow XXpurifyXX Anouk and purge her of her sins, but as these stretch the borders of Jewish law they must be kept secret. Eventually this journey into the forbidden leads to a growing attraction between the two girls and more crossroads are faced. (Subtitled in English / Drama, 2008, 127 minutes) Affirmations, 290 W. 9 Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. <http://www.goaffirmations.org/>

[goaffirmations.org/](http://goaffirmations.org/)

### Sat, Dec. 11

**Holiday in December** 6 p.m. Save the date for Holiday In December Saturday, December 11 in elegant black and Tiffany blue. Holiday In December is both a fundraiser and holiday celebration of our families, friends and community. This event funds the following free programs and services offered by KICK: Receive & Restore, our health and wellness campaign, Learn & Live, our educational seminars, and Help & Heal, our faith based support group for HIV positive African-American men. KICK, 33 East Forest Avenue, Detroit. 313-285-9733. [info@e-kick.org](mailto:info@e-kick.org) [www.e-kick.org](http://www.e-kick.org)

**LCC GSA Drag Show** 8 p.m. I want Candy? I want Drag? Well the Lansing Community College Gay Straight Alliance has combined the two...Come see Candy Land on Drag! Tickets are 5\$. Lansing Community College Gay Straight Alliance, 500 North Capital Avenue, Lansing. [SpennyJ@lcc.edu](mailto:SpennyJ@lcc.edu)

### Wed, Dec. 15

**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](mailto:womenscentergl@yahoo.com) [Websit](http://www.Websit)

### Fri, Dec. 17

**Womyn's Film Night** 7 p.m. Film: *Fun in Girls' Shorts* - This eclectic anthology from Frameline -- San Francisco's lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender film festival -- rounds up six of its best lesbian-themed shorts from America, the United Kingdom and Switzerland. The lineup includes "Outside," helmed by Jenn Kao; "Airplanes," from Jen Heck; "Can You Take It?" directed by Justine Morris; Carolina Roca-Smith's "Members Only"; "Hi Maya" by Claudia Lorenz; and "Hung" from director Guinevere Turner. (Drama / Romance / Comedy, 2008, 86 minutes) Affirmations, 290 W. 9 Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. <http://www.goaffirmations.org/>

### Sat, Dec. 18

**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](http://www.goaffirmations.org)

**Detroit Together Men' Chorus** "Spirits of Christmas Past" Brian Londrow, Artistic Director. Tickets are \$18-\$25. Tickets available online, or at Just4Us Ferndale, and Five15 Royal Oak. Lamphere High School Auditorium, 610 W Thirteen Mile Rd, Madison Heights. 7:30 p.m. Dec. 18. 248-544-3872. <http://www.dtmc.org>

## MUSIC & MORE

### BENEFITS/SOCIAL EVENTS

**Goldenrod Music** "Final Open House" Goldenrod Music, 1310 Turner Street, Lansing. 11 a.m. Dec. 4. 517-484-1712. [www.goldenrod.com](http://www.goldenrod.com)

**Harmies Army** "Comics for Change" Doors open at 7:00 p.m. Tickets range from \$25-100 available online and at Mark Ridleys Com Mark Ridleys Comedy Castle, 310 S. Troy, Royal Oak. 6 p.m. Dec. 14. 248-542-9900. [www.harmiesarmy.com](http://www.harmiesarmy.com)

### CLASSICAL

**Chamber Music Society of Detroit** Simone Dinnerstein piano Artist Repertoire: J.S. Bach, The Goldberg Variations. Detroit Country Day School, 22305 West 13 Mile Road, Beverly Hills. 7 p.m. Dec. 4. 248-855-6070. <http://www.comehearcmdsd.org/>

**Detroit Chamber Winds & Strings** "Holiday Brass" Performance of "Arrival of the Queen of Sheba" from Solomon and "Let the Bright Seraphim" from Samson. Music with holiday flair will include the overture to The Nutcracker, "I'll be Home for Christmas," "The Twelve Days of Christmas," "Silent Night" and "Joy to the World." Tickets are \$10-\$35. First Presbyterian Church of Royal Oak, 529 Hendrie Blvd, Royal Oak. 7:30 a.m. Dec. 5. 248-559-2095. <http://www.detroitchamberwinds.org>

**Fort Street Chorale and Chamber Orchestra** "G.F. Handels Messiah" Handels Messiah, Fort Street Chorale and Chamber Orchestra, Saturday, Dec. 4 at 730 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 5 at 3 p.m. in historic Fort Street Presbyterian Church, 631 W. Fort in downtown Detroit (corner of Fort and Third). Tickets are \$20 for general Fort Street Presbyterian, 631 West Fort Street, Detroit. 6:30 p.m. Dec. 4. & 2p.m. Dec. 5.

313-961-3617. [www.fortstreet.org](http://www.fortstreet.org)

**Lansing Symphony Orchestra** "Masterworks 3: Songs of Winter" Vivaldi's "Winter" from Four Seasons, Rutter's "When Icicles Hang, Bloch's Sacred Service (Avodath Hakodesh) Tickets are \$12-45. Wharton Center, Michigan State University, East Lansing. 8 p.m. Dec. 4. 517-487-5001. [www.lansingsymphony.org](http://www.lansingsymphony.org)

### CONCERTS

**Detroit Together Men' Chorus** "Spirits of Christmas Past" Brian Londrow, Artistic Director. Tickets are \$18-\$25. Tickets available online, or at Just4Us Ferndale, and Five15 Royal Oak. Lamphere High School Auditorium, 610 W Thirteen Mile Rd, Madison Heights. 7:30 p.m. Dec. 18. 248-544-3872. <http://www.dtmc.org>

**Greater Lansing Gay Men's Chorus and The Lansing Community College Concer Choir, and Sistrum Lansing Women's Chorus** "I Believe Holiday Concert" Tickets are \$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>

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

**Sky Production** "Wednesday Night Concert & Jam ft. Sky Covington" Harbor House, 440 Clinton Street, Detroit. Sep. 29 - Dec. 29. 313 424 3458. [skycovington.com](http://www.skycovington.com)

**Ypsilanti Community Choir and the Washtenaw Community Concert Band** "A Holiday Concert Tradition: Concert Band" Ariel Toews-Ricotta directs the choir in a variety of seasonal pieces, including "Gesu Bambino" by Pietro A. Yon and Gustav Holst's setting of "In the Bleak Midwinter." Admission and parking free. Pease Auditorium, EMU Pease Auditorium College Place & Cross St, Ypsilanti. 7:30 p.m. Dec. 16. 734-487-5386.

### DANCE

**Eisenhower Dance Ensemble** "20/20 Dance" The concert will present revivals of audience favorites and a new work by EDE Choreography Competition winner Daniel Gwirtzman, celebrate 20 years of visionary dance. Tickets are \$16, \$12 senior, \$8 students. Southfield Performing Arts Center, 22305 W 13 Mile Rd, Beverly Hills. 8 p.m. Dec. 10. 248-559-2095. <http://ede-dance.org/>

**MoreDances Contemporary Dance Company** "December Dances" Janet Clayton-Reid, Artistic Director. Tickets are \$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 Arts** "Polish Folk Dance Ensemble Mazowsze performs 'Christmas Time in Warsaw'" Mazowsze is one of the world's most famous ballet groups specializing in folk dance. It draws on the richness of national dances, songs and traditions. Tickets are \$30-50. 350 Madison, Detroit. 3 p.m. Dec. 4, 8 p.m. Dec. 4. 313-887-8500. <http://www.musichall.org>

### FILM & VIDEO

**Michigan Theater** "A Christmas Story" Part of the Family-Friendly Film Series. Tickets are \$9 adults, free for kids 12 and under. Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor. 1:30 p.m. Dec. 5. [www.michtheater.org](http://www.michtheater.org)

### OTHER

**Detroit Science Center** "Noel, Noel" Explore the wonders of winter as part of Ford Free Fundays. Detroit Science Center, 5020 John R Street, Detroit. 10 a.m. Dec. 4. 313-577-8400. [www.detroitssciencecenter.org](http://www.detroitssciencecenter.org)

**Douglas J Aveda Institute** "Mix, Mingle and a Little More Jingle" You are cordially invited to enjoy an evening of fun and savings to help you prepare for the upcoming Holiday Season! You will enjoy 10% off all Aveda Products, Free Gift with a \$75 Gift Card Purchase, Makeup Consultation with Aveda Pros. Douglas

J Aveda Institute , 409 S Center Street, Royal Oak . 4 p.m. Dec. 4. 248-336-5500. [www.douglasj.com](http://www.douglasj.com)

**Spring Arbor University** "10th Annual Hanging of the Greens" Christmas Concert, Tree Lighting Ceremony and Fireworks, Student art and Christmas Wagon Rides. All Events are free. Various locations on campus, Spring Arbor. 7 p.m. Dec. 10. 517-750-6641. <http://www.arbor.edu>

### SHOWS

**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](http://goaffirmations.org)

**Sing Out Detroit** "Holiday Music Sing-A-Long" Music, food, sing-a-long, raffle. \$5 cover to benefit Sing Out Detroit. AJ's Cafe, 240 W 9 Mile, Ferndale. 8 p.m. Dec. 18. 248-943-2411.

The Leaven Center, RCAF Center for Poetry. 16 Days Lansing is where arts and activism meet. This local program observes the international movement "16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence". Check out website for details. Multiple locations, Lansing and East Lansing. 7 p.m. Nov. 30, 6 p.m. Dec. 10. (586) 291-8877. <http://www.facebook.com/16dayslansing>

**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](http://kimberlyfairchild.com)

## THEATER

### BENEFITS AND FUNDRAISERS

**Pancakes with Santa** Join the jolly old elf at a pancake breakfast fundraiser for the onstage production of "It's a Wonderful Life." \$5 in advance; \$6 at the door. Warren Civic Theatre at Warren Community Center, 5460 Arden St., Warren. Dec. 11 - Dec. 11. 586-268-8400. [www.warrencivic.org](http://www.warrencivic.org)

### CIVIC/COMMUNITY THEATER

**A Christmas Story** \$15. Farmington Players, 32332 W. 12 Mile Rd., Farmington Hills. Through Dec. 12. 248-553-2955. [www.farmingtonplayers.com](http://www.farmingtonplayers.com)

**A Tuna Christmas** \$15. St. Dunstan's Theatre Guild of Cranbrook, 400 Lone Pine Rd., Bloomfield Hills. Dec. 3 - 12. 248-737-3587. [www.stdunstantheatre.com](http://www.stdunstantheatre.com)

**A Tuna Christmas** \$30, \$25 for seniors (62+) and students 22 and under with a valid student I.D. Prices include dinner and the show. Show only tickets are also available for \$15, and can be purchased at the door. Dinner is served at 6:30 p.m. Starlight Dinner Theatre at Waverly East Intermediate School, 3131 W. Michigan Avenue, Lansing. Dec. 3 - 11. 517-243-6040. [www.starlightdinnertheatre.com](http://www.starlightdinnertheatre.com)

**Annie** \$18-\$22. Kalamazoo Civic Theatre at Civic Auditorium, 329 South Park St., Kalamazoo. Through Dec. 19. 269-343-1313. [www.kazooicivic.com](http://www.kazooicivic.com)

**Forever Christmas:** A Christmas to Remember \$16-18. Avon Players, 1185 Washington, Rochester Hills. Through Dec. 11. 248-608-9077. [www.avonplayers.org](http://www.avonplayers.org)

**In the Nick of Time:** A Red Mistle Mystery \$10. Spotlight on Youth at The Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Rd., Canton. Dec. 9 - 12. 734-394-5300. [www.canton-mi.org/villagetheater](http://www.canton-mi.org/villagetheater)

**Irving Berlin's White Christmas** - The

**See Music, page 38**

# 'Sister' teaches the reason for the season

BY JOHN QUINN

For many of us, a trip to the Century Theatre this month is a trip through the WayBack machine to a time when moral issues were as black and white as a nun's habit. "Sister's Christmas Catechism: The Mystery of the Magi's Gold" is the latest entry to the "Late Night Catechism" series. The setting is evening in a Catholic school classroom. Sister is teaching the faith to those kids unlucky enough to attend public school. Tonight is special – it's Christmas time, and after the lesson we're going to have a party! Sister is a strict disciplinarian, so it's lesson first, party later. Like any good elementary teacher, Sister wants a lot of class participation. I sat in the back, as usual, because although I knew ALL the answers (Catholic school, you know) I don't like to be called on.

Sister has been spending her free time watching episodes of "Forensic Files" on truTV and is ready to use her skills to solve a biblical mystery. The Magi brought gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh to the Baby Jesus. We know what happened to the frankincense and myrrh – they went a long way to mask the odor in that stable – but what happened to the gold? We're going to investigate a 2,000-year-old theft by recreating the crime scene. Sister is going to stage a living Nativity using class members.

Simple concept isn't it? Simple to execute? Oh, no. There's magic in the room, and it's not due to the Christmas spirit. Maripat Donovan's script is a funny, gentle



**REVIEW**

## 'Sister's Christmas Catechism: The Mystery of the Magi's Gold'

The Century Theatre, 333 Madison St., Detroit. Wednesday-Sunday through Dec. 31, with additional performances Dec. 27-28; no performances Dec. 20-26. \$27.50-\$32.50. 313-963-9800.

[www.gemtheatre.com](http://www.gemtheatre.com)

salute to the dedicated teachers who tried to explain the unexplainable to reluctant blockheads. It's never mean nor does it trade on the "Nun Nazi" stereotype. But in a one-woman show, everything depends on the actress. Mary Zentmyer may be experienced in this type of play and she

Mary Zentmyer stars as the good Sister in the Century Theatre's holiday production of "Sister's Christmas Catechism: The Mystery of the Magi's Gold." Photo: Century Theatre

obviously has a collection of stock bits to which she can turn. That can't explain the joyous spontaneity of her performance – she quite simply owns the character. With this script and director Marc Silvia's light touch, the evening is a delight. Also worthy of mention is Scot Cleaveland's lovingly rendered set, so reminiscent of the '50s you'll swear you smell chalk dust.

While the play is especially attractive to adult Catholics who remember the "old days," the "publics" among you won't feel left out. You'll find out how "the way we were" made us "the way we are." But fair warning to all of you: If you value your dignity, do NOT sass Sister! She's dealt with your kind before, and is one step ahead of any shenanigans you're likely to pull!

# Dance Xanax Dance' – ho ho hum

BY JOHN QUINN

Did you ever have a holiday when you yearned for that last Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle to complete your collection and all you got was a pair of socks? Adults can still have let-downs like that, and "Dance Xanax Dance" at Planet Ant Theatre is a case in point.

Even The Baby Jesus knows this holiday season needs a sharp countercultural kick in its flaccid underbelly, and a subversive little play that promises to capture the true meaning of "Christmahanakwanzika" sounds made to order. Unfortunately, the kick fails to land.

All the ingredients for something special are available. The voyage of self-discovery is a classic theme strongly rooted in the common culture, and its archetypes are ripe for satire. Mix equal portions of "The Nutcracker," "A Christmas Carol" and "The Wizard of Oz." Add a dash of glitter and Ziggy Stardust, dump it in the Osterizer – the product should be a cool, frothy relief from the holiday grind. Here, though, the result is sadly watered down.

Theater benefits from the collaborative efforts of many artists pooling their strengths. Playwright Lauren Bickers has directed her own script and may be too close to the material to recognize the weak spots. Too much of the humor here



**REVIEW**

## 'Dance Xanax Dance'

Planet Ant Theatre, 2357 Caniff St., Hamtramck. Friday-Saturday through Dec. 18, plus Sunday, Dec. 5 and 12 and Tuesday, Dec. 7. \$20. 313-365-4948.

[www.planetant.com](http://www.planetant.com)

is drawn, not from character or narrative, but from schtick – a lot of it clumsy. The

Genevieve Jona and Chris Berryman in "Dance Xanax Dance" at Planet Ant Theatre. Photo: Colleen Scribner

plot starts in drug rehab, meanders around a while, but ultimately gets nowhere.

Maybe it's a generational thing and maybe Old Bah Humbug here need a journey of self-discovery all his own. But as an anti-depressant for the holiday blues, "Dance Xanax Dance" is the wrong prescription.

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Compiled by Mikey Rox

# A festive selection of TV favorites and specials

## Dec. 3

**The Polar Express** (ABC Family; 8:30 p.m.)

## Dec. 4

**A Christmas Carol** (1938) (TCM; 9 a.m.)

**Surviving Christmas** (TBS; 1:30 p.m.)

**Celebrity Holiday Homes** (HGTV; 8 p.m.) Get a glimpse inside the homes of Brooke Burke, Sherry Shepherd and Trisha Yearwood as HGTV designers Brandon Branch, Mike Russo and Sandra Espinet turn them into seasonal sanctuaries.

**Merry Madagascar** (NBC; 8 p.m.)

**Kung Fu Panda Holiday Special** (NBC; 8:30 p.m.) Po faces a daunting dilemma when, as Dragon Warrior, he may have to sacrifice family traditions to fulfill his formal duties at the Jade Palace.

**Tim Burton's The Nightmare Before Christmas** (ABC Family; 11 p.m.) Jack Skellington of Halloween Town plots to kidnap Santa Claus and become the overlord of Christmas - and the box office. This film has been repackaged and re-released in theaters seven separate times over the past 17 years.



"Kung Fu Panda Holiday Special" airs at 8:30 p.m. Dec. 4 on NBC. Photo: NBC

## Dec. 5

**Harry Potter Marathon** (ABC Family; 7 a.m.) An entire morning, noon and night filled with magic and mayhem from everyone's favorite witches and wizards.

**Holiday Affair** (TCM; 12:30 p.m.)

**The Christmas Child** (Lifetime; 3 p.m.)

**A Dad for Christmas** (Lifetime; 5 p.m.) A young dad steals his own child from the hospital when the boy's mother puts him up for adoption against the father's wishes. This just screams holiday cheer, doesn't it?

## Dec. 6

**Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer and the Island of Misfit Toys** (ABC Family; 7 p.m.)

**Martha Stewart's Holiday Open House** (Hallmark; 8 p.m.)

**The Best Thing I Ever Made for the Holidays** (Food Network; 9 p.m.)

Celebrity chefs Cat Cora, Aaron Sanchez, Ted Allen and others invite viewers inside their homes as they prepare their signature holiday dishes, including juicy prime rib, sweet butter tarts, and crispy rack of pork.

## Dec. 7

**Mickey's Christmas Special** (ABC Family; 7 p.m.)

**Cranberry Christmas** (ABC Family; 7:30 p.m.) This adaptation of a children's book series was commissioned by Ocean Spray. Yep, the juice makers. And wouldn't ya know it, a bunch of kids are fighting for the right to ice skate on a local cranberry bog. Pairs nicely with a shot of vodka.

**A Charlie Brown Christmas** (ABC; 8 p.m.)

**Frosty's Winter Wonderland** (ABC Family; 8 p.m.)

**Home Alone 2: Lost in New York** (ABC Family; 8:30 p.m.)

## Dec. 8

**Miracle on 34th Street** (1994) (ABC Family; 8:30 p.m.)

## Dec. 9

**Rudolph's Shiny New Year** (ABC Family; 6 p.m.)

**The Gruffalo** (ABC Family; 7 p.m.) IMDb says, "A cunning mouse goes for a walk in the forest and outwits a succession of predators." Maurice Sendak should sue. Watch it and you'll see why.

**Santa Claus is Comin' to Town** (ABC Family; 8 p.m.)

**Shrek the Halls** (ABC; 8 p.m.) Mike Myers and Cameron Diaz reprise their roles as America's favorite ogre family in this fun-filled yuletide tale. Also featuring the voices of Eddie Murphy as Donkey and Antonio Banderas as Puss In Boots, this nouveau Christmas classic finds Shrek channeling the holiday spirit as only an ogre can. But as the putrid patriarch plans for a cozy family celebration, his friends make sure that it's one he won't easily forget.

**The Santa Incident** (Hallmark; 8 p.m.)

**The Year Without Santa Claus** (ABC Family; 9 p.m.)

Check back every week through Christmas for more "Homo for the Holidays" listings.

# Happenings

## EDITOR'S PICK

This holiday season, Detroit Public Library's H.Y.P.E. Center is presenting their teen-focused celebration, "Hyped for the Holidays!" The event will include performances, music, refreshments and more. One performer for the evening, "Duane: The Teenage Weirdo," is sure to leave the audience astounded,

Duane, a Detroit art student and singer/songwriter, is known throughout the area for his incredibly unique performances. Although influenced greatly by religion, pop culture and artists such as David Bowie, Duane has a fashion and musical style all his own.

"Hyped for the Holiday!" will take place at the H.Y.P.E. Teen Center in the DPL on 5201 Woodward Ave. in Detroit at 6-8 p.m. Dec. 3.



## ► Music

Continued from p. 36

**Musical** \$18-\$20. Stagecrafters at Baldwin Theatre, 415 S. Lafayette, Royal Oak. Through Dec. 19. 248-541-6430. [www.stagecrafters.org](http://www.stagecrafters.org)

**Misdirected** Pay-what-you-can. Flint City Theatre at The Good Beans Cafe, 328 N. Grand Traverse Rd., Flint. Dec. 2 - 11. 810-237-4663. [www.flintcitytheatre.com](http://www.flintcitytheatre.com)

**The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee** \$18. The Players Guild of Dearborn, 21730 Madison St., Dearborn. Through Dec. 5. 313-561-8587. [www.playersguildofdearborn.org](http://www.playersguildofdearborn.org)

**The Norman Conquests** A delectable trilogy by Alan Ayckbourn. \$10-\$16. PTD Productions at Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron St., Ypsilanti. Dec. 9 - 18. 734-483-7345. [www.ptdproductions.com](http://www.ptdproductions.com)

**The Nutcracker's Nuts** \$15. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Dr., Lansing. Dec. 10 - 12. 517-482-5700. [www.riverwalktheatre.com](http://www.riverwalktheatre.com)

**To Kill A Mockingbird** \$10-\$20; all Thursday shows are \$15. Ann Arbor Civic Theatre at Arthur Miller Theatre, 1226 Murfin Ave., Ann Arbor. Dec. 2 - 5. 734-971-2228. [www.a2ct.org](http://www.a2ct.org)

## COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY THEATER

**Late Night Broadway!** \$20. The University Theatre at Williams Theatre in the Gilmore Theatre Complex, 1903 W. Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo. Dec. 2 - 4. 269-387-6222. [www.wmutheatre.com](http://www.wmutheatre.com)

**Much Ado About Nothing** \$18-\$24. University of Michigan Department of Theatre & Drama at Power Center for the Performing Arts, 121 N. Fletcher St., Ann Arbor. Dec. 9 - 12. 734-764-2538. [www.music.umich.edu](http://www.music.umich.edu)

**To Kill A Mockingbird** \$15. Bonstelle Theatre, 3424 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Dec. 3 - 12. 313-577-2960. [www.bonstelle.com](http://www.bonstelle.com)

## PROFESSIONAL

**A Christmas Cabaret** \$33. Wharton Center's Pasant Theatre, Michigan State University, East Lansing. Dec. 10 - 11. 517-432-2000. [www.whartoncenter.com](http://www.whartoncenter.com)

**A Christmas Carol** \$25-\$40. Meadow Brook Theatre, 2200 N. Squirrel Rd., Rochester. Through Dec. 23. 248-377-3300. [www.mbtheatre.com](http://www.mbtheatre.com)

**A Strange Disappearance of Bees** \$17, \$20 at the door; \$70 New Year's Eve. Detroit Repertory Theatre, 13103 Woodrow Wilson St., Detroit. Through Dec. 26. 313-868-1347. [www.detroitreptheatre.com](http://www.detroitreptheatre.com)

**Best Damn Holiday Show** \$10-\$15. Go Comedy! Improv Theater, 261 E. 9 Mile Rd., Ferndale. Through Dec. 23. 248-327-0575. [www.gocomedy.net](http://www.gocomedy.net)

**Best of Friends** \$25-\$40. The Purple Rose Theatre Company, 137 Park St., Chelsea. Through Dec. 18. 734-433-7673. [www.purplerosetheatre.org](http://www.purplerosetheatre.org)

**Broadway Holiday** \$17.50-\$29.50. The Palace of Auburn Hills, 6 Championship Dr., Auburn Hills. 8 p.m. Dec. 10. 1-800-745-3000. [www.palacenet.com](http://www.palacenet.com)

**Celebrity Autobiography** \$15-\$25. The Blackbird Theatre, 325 Braun Ct., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Dec. 4. 734-332-3848. [www.blackbirdtheatre.org](http://www.blackbirdtheatre.org)

**Christmas on Mars** \$10-\$20. Who Wants Cake? at The Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Through Dec. 13. 248-545-5545. [www.whoantscaketheatre.com](http://www.whoantscaketheatre.com)

**Dance Xanax Dance** \$20. Planet Ant Theatre, 2357 Caniff St., Hamtramck. Through Dec. 18. 313-365-4948. [www.planetant.com](http://www.planetant.com)

**Detroit Be Dammed: A Beaver's Tale** Planet Ant Theatre at Park Bar, 2040 Park Ave., Detroit. Through Dec. 18. 313-365-4948. [www.parkbardetroit.com](http://www.parkbardetroit.com)

**Double Falsehood** \$25. The Blackbird Theatre, 325 Braun Ct., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Dec. 3. 734-332-3848. [www.blackbirdtheatre.org](http://www.blackbirdtheatre.org)

**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, and 7:30 p.m. for those just seeing the show. Gourmet buffet-style dinner; reservations required. AP Theatrical Productions at Baker Lofts, 171

E. 24th St., Holland. Through Dec. 4. 616-772-5697. [www.aptheatrical.com](http://www.aptheatrical.com)

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

**FS\$\$ the Holidays: A Seasonal Retail Story** \$10. Sweet Love Productions at The Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Dec. 3 - 20. 248-545-5545. [www.whoantscaketheatre.com](http://www.whoantscaketheatre.com)

**Fireside Festival of New Works** Pay-what-you can (\$10 suggested). Performance Network Theatre, 120 E. Huron St., Ann Arbor. Dec. 5 - 8. 734-663-0681. [www.performancenetwork.org](http://www.performancenetwork.org)

**Fridays and Saturdays at Go Comedy!** \$5-\$15; "Dark Matter" is free. Go Comedy! Improv Theater, 261 E. Nine Mile Rd., Ferndale. 248-327-0575. [www.gocomedy.net](http://www.gocomedy.net)

**Grease** \$30-\$60. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Dec. 3 - 4. 1-800-745-3000. [www.olympiaentertainment.com](http://www.olympiaentertainment.com)

**Greater Tuna** \$18-\$24. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam Rd., Williamston. Through Dec. 19. 517-655-7469. [www.williamstontheatre.org](http://www.williamstontheatre.org)

**Guys On Ice** \$28-\$30; \$75 New Year's Eve. Tipping Point Theatre, 361 E. Cady St., Northville. Through Jan. 15. 248-347-0003. [www.tippingpointtheatre.com](http://www.tippingpointtheatre.com)

**Hay Fever** Plays in rotating repertory. \$20-\$30. Hilberry Theatre, 4743 Cass Ave., Detroit. Through Dec. 4. 313-577-2972. [www.wsushows.com](http://www.wsushows.com)

**I'll Be Home For Christmas** \$25-\$35. Fisher Theatre, 3011 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit. Dec. 9 - 12. 1-800-982-2787. [www.broadwayindetroit.com](http://www.broadwayindetroit.com)

**If Only in My Dreams** \$15-\$25. The Blackbird Theatre, 325 Braun Ct., Ann Arbor. Dec. 9 - 18. 734-332-3848. [www.blackbirdtheatre.org](http://www.blackbirdtheatre.org)

**It's a Wonderful Life** \$28. The Encore Musical Theatre Company, 3126 Broad St., Dexter. Through Dec. 23. 734-268-6200. <http://theencoretheatre.org>

**Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America** A staged reading. \$5. MSU Federal Credit Union Institute for Arts & Creativity at Wharton Center's Pasant Theatre, Michigan State University, East Lansing. Dec. 2 - 3. 1-800-942-7866. [www.whartoncenter.com](http://www.whartoncenter.com)

**Of Mice and Men** Plays in rotating repertory. \$25 - \$30. Hilberry Theatre, 4743 Cass Ave., Detroit. Through Feb. 5. 313-577-2972. [www.wsushows.com](http://www.wsushows.com)

**Plaid Tidings** \$27.50 - \$32.50. The Gem Theatre, 333 Madison St., Detroit. Through Dec. 31. 313-963-9800. [www.gemtheatre.com](http://www.gemtheatre.com)

**Richard III** Plays in rotating repertory. \$25-\$30. Hilberry Theatre, 4743 Cass Ave., Detroit. Through Feb. 25. 313-577-2972. [www.hilberry.com](http://www.hilberry.com)

**Sister's Christmas Catechism** \$27.50-\$32.50. The Century Theatre, 333 Madison St., Detroit. Through Dec. 31. 313-963-9800. [www.gemtheatre.com](http://www.gemtheatre.com)

**Sonia Flew** A co-production with Performance Network Theatre. Previews Dec. 8, 9 & 5 p.m. Dec. 11. Tickets \$32-\$41. Jewish Ensemble Theatre at Aaron DeRoy Theatre, 6600 W. Maple Rd., West Bloomfield. Dec. 8 - Jan. 2. 248-788-2900. [www.jettheatre.org](http://www.jettheatre.org)

**Sundays at Go Comedy!** \$5-\$7. Go Comedy! Improv Theater, 261 E. Nine Mile Rd., Ferndale. 248-327-0575. [www.gocomedy.net](http://www.gocomedy.net)

**The Current** \$18. Magenta Giraffe Theatre Company at 1515 Broadway Theater, 1515 Broadway St., Detroit. Through Dec. 4. 313-408-7269. [www.magentagiraffe.org](http://www.magentagiraffe.org)

**The Drowsy Chaperone** \$30-\$46. Performance Network Theatre, 120 E. Huron St., Ann Arbor. Through Jan. 2. 734-663-0681. [www.performancenetwork.org](http://www.performancenetwork.org)

**The Homecoming** \$12-\$18. Flint Youth Theatre, 1220 E. Kearsley St., Flint. Dec. 3 - 18. 810-237-1530. [www.flintyouththeatre.org](http://www.flintyouththeatre.org)

**The Marvelous Wonderettes** \$29-\$33. Farmers Alley Theatre, 221 Farmers Alley, Kalamazoo. Dec. 3 - 26. 269-343-2727. [www.farmersalleytheatre.com](http://www.farmersalleytheatre.com)

**The Nutcracker's Nuts** \$16. Broadway Onstage Live Theatre, 21517 Kelly Rd., Eastpointe. Dec. 3 - 18. 586-771-6333. [www.broadwayonstage.com](http://www.broadwayonstage.com)

**Thursdays at Go Comedy!** \$5-\$10. Go Comedy! Improv Theater, 261 E. Nine Mile Rd., Ferndale. 248-327-0575. [www.gocomedy.net](http://www.gocomedy.net)

**Two's Company, Four's a Blizzard** Dinner theater performance Dec. 11 (\$36; buffet begins at 6:30). \$19. Van Buren Street Theatre, 701 N. Van Buren St., Bay City. Through Dec. 11. 989-893-9399. [www.vanburenstreettheatre.com](http://www.vanburenstreettheatre.com)

**Wednesdays at Go Comedy!** \$5-\$7. Go Comedy! Improv Theater, 261 E. Nine Mile Rd., Ferndale. 248-327-0575. [www.gocomedy.net](http://www.gocomedy.net)

**What You Won't Do For Love** \$10-\$15. Big Girl Ideas, Inc., Lighthouse Cathedral, 8801 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Dec. 4. 313-727-1011. [www.biggirlideas.webs.com](http://www.biggirlideas.webs.com)

**Wicked** \$40-\$135. Miller Auditorium, 2200 Auditorium Dr., Kalamazoo. Dec. 1 - 12. 269-387-2300. [www.millerauditorium.com](http://www.millerauditorium.com)

### THEATER FOR YOUNG AUDIENCES

**Pippi Longstocking** \$15 adult; \$12 for students, and \$7 for kids ages 6-12. Eastern Michigan University Theatre at Quirk Theatre, 124 Quirk Hall, Ypsilanti. Dec. 3 - 11. 734-487-2282. [www.emich.edu/emutheatre](http://www.emich.edu/emutheatre)

**Puppet Scrooge** \$10, \$8 for students w/ID and seniors, \$5 kids 14 & under. Matrix Theatre Company, 2730 Bagley, Detroit. Dec. 3 - 19. 313-967-0599. [www.matrixtheatre.org](http://www.matrixtheatre.org)

**Puss in Boots** \$7 adults 16+, \$5 for kids. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Dr., Lansing. Through Dec. 5. 517-482-5700. [www.riverwalktheatre.com](http://www.riverwalktheatre.com)

**The Firebird** \$15 adults, \$10 children. Suitable for kids age 4 and up. Wild Swan Theater, Towsley Auditorium,

4800 E. Huron River Dr., Ann Arbor. Dec. 9 - Dec. 12. 734-335-0530. [www.wildswantheater.org](http://www.wildswantheater.org)

### HOW TO CONTACT 'THEATER EVENTS' AND 'CURTAIN CALLS'

Please send all press releases and promotional materials at least three weeks prior to the scheduled event, and your story ideas, comments, brickbats and accolades - preferably via e-mail - to [curtaincalls@pridesource.com](mailto:curtaincalls@pridesource.com) or by snail-mail to Curtain Calls, Between The Lines, 11920 Farmington Road, Livonia, Michigan 48150. Unless otherwise noted, ticket prices shown above are for adult general admission tickets only; please contact the theater for questions regarding the availability of discount tickets for preview performances, advance sales, groups, students, seniors and children. Complete listings can be found online at [www.pridesource.com/happenings.phtml](http://www.pridesource.com/happenings.phtml).

## 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. Charles H. Wright Museum, 315 E. Warren Ave., Detroit. Aug. 27 - Dec. 12. 313-494-5800. [www.charleshwrightmuseum.org](http://www.charleshwrightmuseum.org)

**Detroit Community Acupuncture** "Free First Fridays" Relax and Renew for the Holidays! Detroit Community Acupuncture is offering FREE treatments for patients who are new to our clinic on the First Friday of every month. Schedule an appointment online. Detroit Community Acupuncture, 4100 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 9 a.m. Dec. 3. 313-831-3222.

### EDITOR'S PICK

The rhythmic, thunderous sounds heard outside the walls of the Baldwin Theatre could be one of two things: the 50-plus tap-dancing feet on the stage, or the applause of those attending the Metro Detroit premiere of "Irving Berlin's White Christmas." Stagecrafters is the first community theater in the area to present this live theatrical version based on the classic holiday movie of the same name. "Irving Berlin's White Christmas - The Musical" runs through Dec. 19 at the Baldwin Theatre, 415 S. Lafayette in downtown Royal Oak.

"I truly believe our audiences are in for quite a surprise," said Randy Wrisinger, who began preparing for the production



last December. "Even as the director of the show, I am amazed. When the whole show is put together, it will be something we've never experienced at our theater before - a true holiday extravaganza."

Advance tickets are \$18 and \$20. Tickets may be purchased by phone at 248-541-

[www.detroitcommunityacupuncture.com](http://www.detroitcommunityacupuncture.com)

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

**Fido Personal Dog Training** "Holiday fund raiser for Waggs and Wishes" for

the Animal Shelter in Ferndale. With local photographer, Wayne Maki. 703 Livornois, Ferndale. 2 p.m. Dec. 3. 313-204-6154. [fidodogtraining.com](http://fidodogtraining.com)

**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](http://www.flintarts.org)

**Friends of Renee Harmon** "Comics for Change" A Fundraiser for Legal Fees for Parenting Rights for Renee Harmon. Starring Phenecia Banks, Jeff Dwoskin, Dwayne Gill, Julie Lyons. Hosted by Leslie Thompson Mark Rideleys Comedy Castle, 310 S. Troy, Royal Oak. 6:30 p.m. Dec. 14. 248-542-9900. [harmiesarmy@yahoo.com](mailto:harmiesarmy@yahoo.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. 101 Monroe Center, Grand Rapids. Nov. 9 - Feb. 16. [www.artmuseumgr.org](http://www.artmuseumgr.org)

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

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

**Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum** "Artists Portray Artists" An exhibition of thirty-five portraits and self-portraits. 7400 Bay Road, Saginaw. Oct. 1 - Jan. 29. 989-964-7096. [www.marshallfredericks.org](http://www.marshallfredericks.org)

**Midweek Meditation Group** A group of local folks of all ages, backgrounds and traditions who meet every Wednesday in downtown Ferndale for two sessions: a 1/2 hour guided meditation at 6:00, followed by a short break, and then a 1/2 hour silent, seated meditation at 7:00. All are welcome, whether you are a beginner or advanced practitioner. Some people prefer to attend either the silent or the guided session, and some choose to participate in both sessions. We recommend arriving about 5-10 minutes before the session starts to find a seat and get comfortable. This is a non-religious, non-sectarian group that is purely interested in creating a safe and welcoming space where

meditators can gather. \$3 donation per person is suggested to cover expenses. The Dharma Room, 195 West 9 Mile, Suite 106, Ferndale. Nov. 3 - April 27. 248-547-2987. <http://www.meetup.com/Midweek-Meditation-Group/>

**MSU Museum** "Dear Mr. Mandela, Dear Mrs. Parks" Children's Letters, Global Lessons. Showing in the Main Gallery. Michigan State University, East Lansing. Dec. 20 - Jan. 3. <http://museum.msu.edu>

**Sherry Washington Gallery** "Free Radicals", paintings by Senghor Reid" Sherry Washington Gallery, 1274 Library Street, Detroit. Nov. 20 - Jan. 22. 313-961-4500. <http://www.sherrywashingtongallery.com>

**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. 33 E. Adams, Detroit. Oct. 23 - Dec. 4. 313-963-7575.

**The Art Experience** "Ports O Call" 10th annual fundraiser held from 5-8:30 p.m. at the historical downtown venue. Scheduled events include silent and live auctions, a grand raffle, food, entertainment and cash bar. The Crofoot Ballroom, 1 South Saginaw, Pontiac. 4 p.m. Dec. 5. 248-706-3304. <http://www.theartexperience.org>

**The Henry Ford** "George Washington Carver" An exhibit celebrating the work and life of the extraordinary American. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$14 for seniors, and \$11 for youth. The Henry Ford Museum, 20900 Oakwood, Dearborn. Nov. 1 - Feb. 27. 313-982-6001. [www.thehenryford.org](http://www.thehenryford.org)

**Toledo Museum of Art** "Voices That Taught Me How to Sing" Two- and three-dimensional works by Ohio artist Aminah Robinson. 2445 Monroe Street, Toledo. Nov. 19 - Feb. 27. 419-255-8000. [www.toledomuseum.org](http://www.toledomuseum.org)

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

**West Michigan Gay Mens Chorus** "A Hologay Party" Directed by Co-Artistic Directors - Phillip Pletcher and RT Williams East Congrtational Church, 1005 Giddings Ave, Grand Rapids. 7 p.m. Dec. 17 & Dec. 18 555-555-5555. [www.wmgmc.org](http://www.wmgmc.org)

# Keys, Lady Gaga to sign off Twitter for charity

BY MESFIN FEKADU

(AP) —Alicia Keys and Lady Gaga take charity work seriously, and they're going offline to prove it.

Gaga, Justin Timberlake, Usher and other celebrities have joined a new campaign called Digital Life Sacrifice on behalf of Keys' charity, Keep a Child Alive. The entertainers plan to sign off of social media platforms like Facebook and Twitter on Dec. 1, which is World AIDS Day. The participants will sign back on when the charity raises \$1 million.

"It's really important and super-cool to use mediums that we naturally are on," Keys said in a phone interview from New York last week.

For the campaign - which also includes Jennifer Hudson, Ryan Seacrest, Kim and Khloe Kardashian, Elijah Wood, Serena Williams, Janelle Monae and Keys' husband, Swizz Beatz - celebrities have filmed "last tweet and testament" videos and will appear in ads showing them lying in coffins to represent what the campaign calls their digital deaths.

"It's so important to shock you to the point of waking up," Keys said. "It's not that people don't care or it's not that people don't want to do something, it's that they never thought of it quite like that."

The campaign, she said, puts the disease in perspective.

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Alicia Keys

"It's about love and respect and human dignity," she added.

Keys said recruiting celebrities was difficult because of scheduling, but "once I got people on the phone and I was able to paint the concept for them, everybody was in."

Not one person said no, Keys recalled.

"I have a feeling that Gaga is going to raise it all by herself," Blake said. "She's got a very, very mobilized fan base and that's beautiful to watch I think (and) she's able to draw their attention to these issues that are very important, you know, and that people follow it and act."

Keys is hoping more people - both famous folks and non-celebs - get involved once the new initiative launches: "It just doesn't have to be just because you're a celebrity or something like that. It can be anybody."

Keys, 29, married rapper-producer Swizz Beatz in July. The two had their first son, Egypt, last month. The Grammy winner said that though her life's getting busier, being a mother and wife makes her want to help others even more.

"As a human being, you deserve to have a chance at life," she said.

Learn more: [www.aliciakeys.com](http://www.aliciakeys.com), [www.keepachildalive.org](http://www.keepachildalive.org), <http://www.buylife.org>

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**ann arbor**  
**Sunday, December 5th**  
 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

**Ronni Sanlo**  
 The popular former director of UM's Office of LGBT Affairs returns... and she's written a book!

**The Purple Golf Cart: Stories of an Unconventional Grandma**

**Wednesday, December 8th**  
 7:00 p.m.  
**D.L. Line**  
 Bold Strokes author of **HEAD TRIP**

**Other Upcoming Events**  
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 Thursday, Dec 9 - Sunday Dec 19  
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 Blackbird Theatre

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

**Panic attacks... or temper tantrums?**

**Q.** My partner "Barb" and I have been together for close to nine years. Barb has suffered from panic attacks almost all her life. In fairness to her, she told me about them when we got together - and I had witnessed a few of them. Over the years, Barb has had them probably no more than three or four times a year.

However, I think they are happening more often and getting more severe; this is probably due to the fact that she is under more pressure these days. Her family is driving her nuts. Also, her work is stressful because she now has to do the job that two people used to do. My concern is that she has had two panic attacks in one week.

Barb is a "stuffer." She stuffs her anger and stress, then - it's my belief - she gets her panic attack.

Her panic attacks have always been horrendous, but they seem to be getting worse. I've always worried that she was going to hurt herself or someone else. She has kicked holes in our bedroom doors (we've had to replace two doors in the past two years). She's thrown dishes and broken lamps. She also screams, shouts and gets so red in the face that I think she's going to have a heart attack.

Not only have her attacks come more often, I have felt threatened by them, as she throws things. Last night, she threw a glass pitcher of water. I really don't think she meant for it to hit me, but it did. I ended up in the hospital emergency room with five stitches. I didn't tell the emergency doc exactly what happened because, as I said, I don't believe that Barb meant to hit me. I've never been hit by one of her flying objects until this last time - wrong place at the wrong time.

I've tried to get Barb to see a therapist for her panic attacks; a friend of mine said that you can get help for them. Barb said that she's not crazy and her condition is genetic (her mother had them) and nothing can be done about them.

Is that true?

*Fear of Flying Objects*

**A.** First things first: From your description, Barb has something more resembling temper tantrums than panic attacks. Symptom of panic attacks are a combination of the following, but not necessarily all these signs: rapid breathing, racing heart, dizziness, sweatiness, feelings of dying or losing control of yourself, trouble breathing, chest pains, irregular heart beat. These symptoms come on suddenly and without warning.

I'm not sure how the family temper tantrums got labeled "panic attacks," other than it sounds better to suffer from panic attacks than temper tantrums, especially as one grows older. Temper tantrums are not genetic; they are a learned behavior - and as you mention, most probably from her mother. However, now that Barb is an adult, she needs to own up to her behavior, and not blame her continued dysfunctional behavior on her mother. She has the power to change it.

Barb can learn other ways of dealing with her frustration, anger and stress, but until she does, she'll continue with the temper tantrums. Being around an adult having a temper tantrum isn't fun - or pretty - but it also has to feel horrible to the person who is so out of control.

Barb certainly needs help to learn how to deal with her frustration and anger in a healthy way, for her own good as well as yours. I hope she changes her mind and seeks help with her problem. She'll be glad she did.

**Jody's on Facebook!**

Adult temper tantrums can appear funny and/or scary and can be observed not only in relationships, but at places such as grocery stores, malls or workplaces. To learn more about them, and how to deal with an adult having a tantrum, check out "Dear Jody Valley" on Facebook.

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

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3. Scroll down to the entry form for the fake ad contest and enter your name, etc.
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**Have fun searching, and good luck!**

**FIND THE FAKE AD CONTEST**



by Jack Fertig

# Be sensible, Libra!

*Mars in Sagittarius provokes us to speak and act out in search of new perspectives. He's squared to Uranus, though, provoking accidents, rash statements and decisions we'll regret later. The greatest adventures are deep inside. Meditation and introspection can yield tremendous insights.*

**ARIES** (March 20 – April 19): Your ruler, Mars, is goading you to explore new ideas and places. Even – or especially – in quiet meditation in a dark room you can hardly help but to make important discoveries. Staying true to yourself means accepting growth and change.

**TAURUS** (April 20 – May 20): Finding sexual adventure is easy enough, but it could complicate friendships. The erotic energy that's making you so popular could be harnessed into a more political charisma. What to do? The answer is deep inside you.

**GEMINI** (May 21- June 20): It's harder than usual to stay out of arguments. Your friends could help you if you can keep the signals clear. Thinking ahead is good; intuiting ahead is better. Accept criticism from the boss, even if overly harsh, as a challenge to improve.

**CANCER** (June 21- July 22): Talking with your boss about your goals is sure to highlight existing confusion, but can lead toward resolution. Not talking about the problem will just make it worse. Just complaining about lack of direction will undermine efforts and confidence.

**LEO** (July 23 – August 22): The call to adventure may be irresistible, but it does involve bigger risks than you can anticipate. Look ahead and be careful to cut down on dangers, but you will be surprised – maybe for the better.

**VIRGO** (August 23 – September 22): Domestic squabbles might make for some crazy passion or lead to great makeup sex. That won't eliminate the conflict, but it could reframe it dramatically. That could lead to a helpful breakthrough, but you still have lots of work ahead of you!

**LIBRA** (September 23 – October 22): Worrying about accidents invites them as much as carelessness does. Be sensible, observe standard precautions, but dithering and first-guessing yourself is no good either.

"Helpful" efforts, whichever end you're on, are also likely to make things worse.

**SCORPIO** (October 23 – November 21): Hide the plastic. Any unnecessary shopping can only end badly. Set aside a carefully budgeted amount for entertainment and have some fun. You need to release some energy, but there's no need for it to be expensive.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 22 – December 20): Get out and have a little fun, but even there, think ahead and be careful. Home is a danger zone, and not just for the preponderance of accidents that happen there. Not a good time to call the folks either!

**CAPRICORN** (December 21 – January 19): Digging up family secrets could prove explosive. How much are you ready to learn? Revealing those (or other) secrets could cause a lot of trouble. You need to talk, but select your confidante wisely.

**AQUARIUS** (January 20 – February 18): Going out on a limb for political principle can gain you points for audacity and integrity, but leave you in the lurch. Holding true to core values is most important, but how they work in reality should evolve with the times.

**PISCES** (February 19 – March 19): Daring risks and changes might get you ahead, but the only guarantee is that without taking a chance you'll trip yourself up badly. Meditate on what's important. In the end instinct and intuition will serve better than apparent logic.

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

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**Solution to puzzle from page 42**

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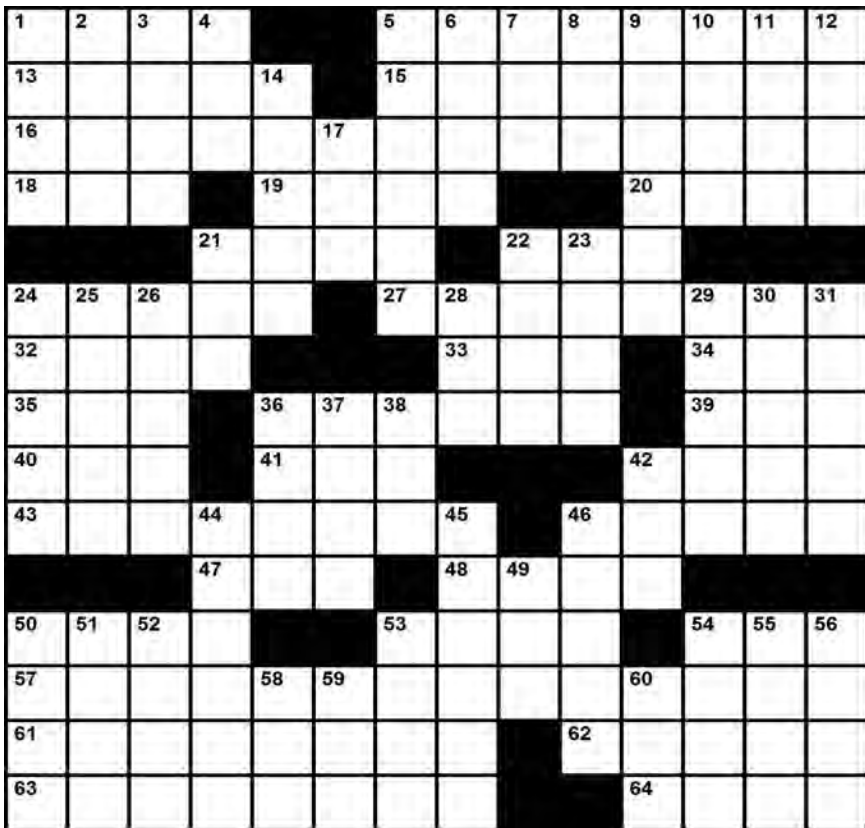
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**Q U I Z** Writers of the Violet Quill

**Across**

- 1 "Look out ..."
- 5 Kisses the ass of
- 13 Robert of the Violet Quill
- 15 Tickled-pink feeling
- 16 The Violet Quill writer
- 18 Pitching stat
- 19 Fishy yarn
- 20 Triple X, for Caesar
- 21 Fireman, at times
- 22 Small team
- 24 Balks, as a horse
- 27 George of the Violet Quill
- 32 Noble title for Chablis
- 33 Motor City org.
- 34 Dancer Reagan
- 35 "We \_\_\_ Family"
- 36 Felice of the Violet Quill
- 39 Scolding syllable
- 40 Site for three men in a tub
- 41 Hospital pros
- 42 Hoover hookup that sucks

- 43 Andrew of the Violet Quill
- 46 Less nuts
- 47 Milk, in a way
- 48 Rainbow shape
- 50 Words before were
- 53 On \_\_\_ with
- 54 Park of NYC
- 57 The Violet Quill writer
- 61 Teri Hatcher, before she was a desperate housewife
- 62 Edmund of the Violet Quill
- 63 Overshadowed, on Broadway
- 64 Tributes in verse

- 6 Zero-wheeled vehicle
- 7 Showery mo.
- 8 Wed. follower
- 9 Beat it
- 10 Mystery writer Gardner
- 11 French goose egg
- 12 Comes out with
- 14 One of the "Maneater" singers
- 17 Stud site
- 21 "Listen up!"
- 22 "Gorillas in the Mist" author Fossey
- 23 Spy plane or rock band
- 24 Cut
- 25 Nonoral Marx
- 26 Rupert Everett's "An \_\_\_ Husband"
- 28 Mao's successor
- 29 Halliwell's partner
- 30 Shake in bed?
- 31 Penetrate

- 36 J. Buchanan, e.g.
- 37 As to
- 38 Land of Stonewall Jackson and R.E. Lee
- 42 Skeptical ejaculation
- 44 Musician of old
- 45 Dropped off
- 46 Stick it to
- 49 Root word
- 50 Sometime defender of gay rights
- 51 Take advantage of International Male
- 52 Bisexual writer Murdoch
- 53 Top drawer
- 54 "Phantom" scar source
- 55 Help re-elect a Log Cabin candidate, e.g.
- 56 Former lovers
- 58 '70s org. of kidnappers
- 59 Touching children's game
- 60 P on Socrates' paper

**Down**

- 1 "All \_\_\_" (1984 Tomlin film)
- 2 Will beneficiary
- 3 Shamu, for one
- 4 Abbr. for a British king
- 5 Academy member

**Solution on 41**

**Pet of the Week:**

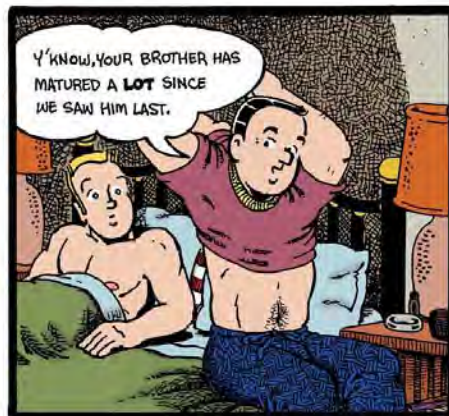
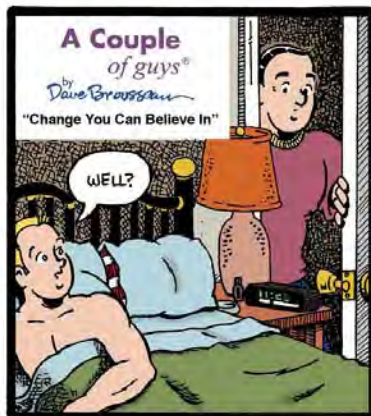


**H**i, I'm Regis! No, not that one – I'm a four-year-old Shih Tzu mix who's fully grown at 11 pounds, just the right size to curl up with in front of the fire this holiday season. Come meet me at the Michigan Humane Society's Detroit Center for Animal Care and see how good of friends we can be! The adoption fee includes sterilization, age-appropriate vaccinations and much more. Visit or call (313) 872-3400 and provide the pet ID number, 11813087.



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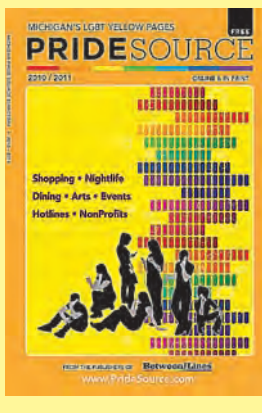


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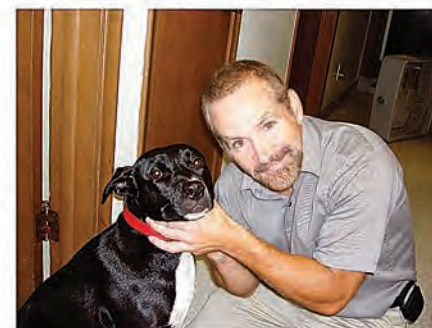
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# A Really Big Surprise

"Who is Lady Gaga?" I asked in imperfect innocence, thus driving the table of six to a jolting silence.

They gaped at me. "What?" I shouted. Heads swiveled around the restaurant. I quickly regretted the stupid (and loud) joke. The maitre d' came over. "I'm not well," I explained, then beelined for the men's room, attempted to take three Advil without water, gagged and threw up, washed out my mouth, sampled the free facial moisturizer (wouldn't you?) and returned.

"Let's change the subject," I said as I plunked myself back into my chair. "We already have, doll," said Craig. "I've invited a guest - lucky number seven." "But there's no room!" I complained. Dan elbowed me so hard in the ribs that I coughed. "Garcon!" Craig shouted, though we were at an Austrian restaurant. The blond youth who sings "Tomorrow Belongs to Me" in *Cabaret* rushed over. "May I help you, sir?" "That's Madame, sonny," Craig replied. "Set another place - for my new boyfriend!"

Craig was now the object of the group gape. "Tell!" Paolo demanded. "Yeah, dude!" Sammy said. "Is he a chub, too?" Jack Fogg shot Sammy a withering look, but Sammy was undeterred. "You're way

fat, dude. That's cool. I just want to know if he's chubby, too."

"Where is that Nazi Breck Girl when you need her?" I snarled. I felt an inexplicable anxiety on top of the residual Gaga humiliation and reverted to my Western Pennsylvania roots: I needed a shot and a beer. Two shots and a beer, actually: a double Absolut Peppar and a Hefeweizen, a yeasty German brew. (That's why I love New York. Order that combo in my embarrassingly named hometown - Beaver Falls - and you might get hurled out of the bar or worse. In Snatchville, a shot and a beer means rotgut whiskey and Pittsburgh's own, terrible Iron City.)

We scooted closer to make room - except for Craig, who sat regally still, smirking. I asked the waiter, "Could I have a..." "I'll take your drink orders in a minute, sir," the Aryan prototype sassed. "My name is Rolf - I'll be your server tonight." "Gevalt," I snorted.

"Hey!" Dan said. "That's Kyle at the front door. What a coincid..." "Ohmygod!" I gasped. "Jesus fucking Christ!" Sammy blurted. Dan, Paolo and Jack Fogg simply stared in wonderment as the adorable puppy Kyle strode to the table and sat down next to Craig. He blushed, shrugged

and then kissed Craig on the lips. The rest of us were too stunned - and in my case, too psychotically jealous - to speak.

"You all know Kyle," Craig pointlessly announced. "Turns out he likes chubby daddies." Kyle demurely looked at his fingernails.

"Who knew?" I said as a montage providing vivid, horrifying answers to the question "who does what to whom?" in various lurid and upsetting ways looped through my brain. The next thing I knew, I was standing up and screaming across the room, "Rolf! Getten zie assen uber hier, schnell! Ich needen ein drink!"

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Channing Tatum.  
Photo: Screen Gems

## Channing Tatum and Jamie Bell play master and servant

Fans of unintentionally homoerotic man-on-man action movies have something new to look forward to in early 2011. It's called "The Eagle" and it's from director Kevin Macdonald, acclaimed filmmaker responsible for the Oscar-winning "The Last King of Scotland." And even putting aside the fact that every major city in the United States features at least one leather bar named "The Eagle," this movie's first impression

— thanks to a stone-faced trailer — is one of taking the sexy warrior vibe of "300" and running with it all the way to kinky territory. Channing plays a Roman Centurion on a mission to restore honor to the memory of his father. And Jamie Bell? He's Tatum's slave, a fact communicated with shirtless wrestling and shouted dialogue like, "You are still my slave!" and "Get down on your knees!" On second thought, that resemblance to similarly named gay bars might not be all that coincidental, after all. See for yourself when it opens in February.

## Tilda Swinton, A-lister

Fans of the groovy, androgynous Tilda Swinton remember a time when she was an arthouse secret and starring in one queer-themed film after another from the late Derek Jarman. Well, two trips to Narnia and one Oscar win is all it took to clue in the rest of the world to the cool kid on the block and now she's the first choice of A-list directors everywhere. Evidence: she's co-starring in "Moon Rise Kingdom," the new film from Wes Anderson ("The Fantastic Mr. Fox"). True to Anderson's vintage aesthetic, the movie — about lovers on the run and the small town that sets out to hunt them down — is set in the 1960s, which means Swinton will no doubt be decked out in extra-mod outfits of the period. And she'll share the screen, and the Anderson-and-Roman-Coppola-penned script, with Bruce Willis, Edward Norton, Bill Murray and Frances McDormand. All of those people are not bad themselves.

## Girls will be girls again

When it came out of nowhere a few years back, the demented drag comedy "Girls Will Be Girls" gave the gay indie film scene the shot of irreverent, incorrect humor it had misplaced on the road to queer rom-com suburbia.

Starring Clinton Leupp (better known as Coco Peru), Jeffery Roberson, Jack Plotnick, Varla Jean Merman and Evie Harris, the raucous, raunchy, day-glo outburst quickly earned rabid fans and a sizeable cult following. So will there be a sequel? Writer-director Richard Day hopes

so, which is why he's currently working the Internet as a way to gather funding (Kickstarter pages, everyone's doing it). With a little money and all three "ladies" on board for more, it's only a matter of time and cruel shoestring budget decisions before gay audiences get what they deserve. Hurry up, "Girls," before you get any older.

## Get out your handkerchiefs: 'Precious' is coming back

If the movie "Precious: Based on the Novel 'Push' by Sapphire" didn't break your heart enough the first time and you were sitting around wondering when — WHEN?! — you'd get a chance to journey back to the slums of New York for another couple of hours of trauma, sexual abuse and tears with the girl everyone wanted to save from the hell of her own mother, then wonder no more. Sapphire's untitled sequel just sold to Penguin Publishing. Set nearly two decades into the future — aka the present, since both "Push" and "Precious" were '80s-bound — the novel will focus on Precious's son. He has somehow grown up (according to the press release) "alone, brutalized and with the soul of an artist." That press release better not have just spoiled the plot and given away the fate of sweet, HIV-positive, teen mom Precious. That would be awful. But expect movie rights to be dealt with in record time, all the same.

Romeo San Vicente is based on the novel "The Stud" by Jackie Collins.

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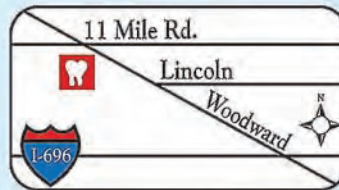


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